

Transcription
"You were suprised to hear of my marriage"

Flower Hill March 14th 1861

Ever dear Cousin

Yours was joyfully received this week for it had been so long since I wrote you, that I thought perhaps you had erased my name from the list of your correspondents but am glad to find such is not the case, for cousin I claim you as one of my warmest and dearest friends, yes you are a long tried and faithful friend, And you were suprised to hear of my marriage well it is even so, and am just as happy as I could desire, but how could I be otherwise when I have one of the nicest and best men for a husband that ever lived. I know my experience in married life is very limited as I have only been married a month yesterday but that length of time is suffiecent for me to know I shall never repent my choice it was kept very secret our nearest neighbors knew nothing of it until it was all over, we were not engaged but a short time. he addressed me last Summer and I discarded him but he was possessed with the gift of continuance and last fall he made the second proposal, I did not give him an answer for more than a month, as I loved another and knew not what to do although I was very partial to him but at last I answered in the affirmative and we just concluded to marry right off and so we did, and I am happy to inform you that I think all who can, ought to marry that is if they are well mated for I well know they can live much more happy married than they can single. I did not have any wedding just a simple marriage, after that was over we ate dinner and left for my new home, when I arrived here I was most affectionately welcomed by dear Pattie and Miss Annie, who is a niece of Mr Atkins, she lives here as she is an orphan and Mr. A. is her guardian we have only five whites in family with the overseer, and twenty servants you wished me to give you a description of my new home, and I will try the house has five rooms on the first floor and four above, a wide hall and two portico's the rooms are neatly furnished. Pattie has a \$3.50 piano and performs very well and so does Mr. Atkins he has the best ear for music of any one I ever saw, and when Pattie gets a new piece he learns it first and then assists her, she is a girl of fine sense and has a splendid education she graduated at Huntsville Ala. she is not pretty but good looking, and then she is such a nice amiable girl that one cant help loving her, she is very kind and affectionate toward me I told he she must not look upon me as a mother, but as a sister but all of her relations who know any thing about me says that she must call me mother. I received a letter from one of her mothers Sisters (who lives in Holly Springs) last she is one of the nicest ladies I ever saw. she wrote me



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very affect and called me Sister said she knew Pattie and I could live happily together as she is so fond of me, and that she knew of no one who she had rather fill her Sisters place than your humble servant. There was no opposition on her side to our marriage, but Mama was not very willing to it she said he was too old for me and then my health is so delicate she was afraid I would not live long if I married, but I was willing to risk that, I have not been well since I was married and this morning I am hardly able to sit up. I have not sat up all day for nearly two months, I suffer a great deal with my left side I keep it blistered most of the time but I hope as he weather gets warm I will feel better, I was up nearly all night as we had a very sick negro and just before day she breathed her last, I dont know what we will do as she was a house girl, she has been sick ever since I came here I have not been home since I was married but will go next week I am getting rather home sick. Mama has been very feeble since I left I heard from there last week Cousin Jane was quite sick with winter fever this is the second spell she has had this winter Sis Sallie has been having chills but I believe she has broken them and her, Brother John left for Texas the week after I was married, I believe he was to marry as soon as he arrived there, Nannie has had a most painful cough all this winter we were very uneasy about her she is a little better now she is more fleshy than you ever saw her but does not look very healthy. Political excitement is still raging but not so much as it was several weeks ago as they think they can get their rights without fighting. If you all move South why not come to Miss as the lands are not so much worn as they are in Ala. we would like so much to see you all once more, but even should you remain in Va. I expect to see you again as Mr. Atkins has a brother living in that state and he says he is going to see him one of these days he spent the summer there about five years ago it is his native state. Cousin you must excuse me for this droll thing as I am half asleep. Give my best love to your dear Papa & Mama the boys and Cous Jennie a dozzen kisses for the little ones. My love to Cousin Emmy's family. ask Emilia why she dont answer my last letter, Pattie says I must present her best love to her Cousin Callie & Mr. Atkins sends his best respect to you all, I wish I had some flower seed to send you but I have none but if you were near I could give you as many cutting as you want if I ever have an opportunity I will send you a box of cuttings. Tell the servants howdy for me. Do write soon and write a long letter, Farewell dear cousin from one who love you most fondly

SUE ATKINS

Citation: Sue Gilmore Atkins to "Ever dear Cousin" (probably Callie Anthony), March 14, 1861, Anthony Family Papers, 1785–1952, Acc. 35647, 35648, Library of Virginia.



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