

April 29, 1893.

My dear mamma,

Your most highly appreciated letter received the early part of this week. I wanted to answer it before now but didn't have the time. Last Saturday evening I went down to Roanoke and spent the night at Mr. Snider's. I had a very pleasant visit down there, met Miss Mary Fambleson a sister of Mrs. Ferguson nee Fambleson, a very pretty and pleasant young lady. I also saw Mrs. Pall and Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Snider said she hoped she would be at home when you come up into Virginia, but she didn't know as Mr. Snider's sister died a short



time ago and the old folks are so  
cut down about it that Mr. Creide  
wants to take his family up and  
spend the summer with them. She said  
she didn't know whether they would leave  
before the 18th of June or not. She said she  
would let me know. She seemed to be very  
anxious to see you. Sunday night I  
took in a little opera down at Ruanoke.  
It was right good. I don't believe I've  
had any examinations since I wrote  
you last tho' I have one for Monday and  
another booked for Friday and prospect  
for another one or so this next  
week. But the fun of it is that this  
next week is the last I am beginning  
to feel good over it - already. I think  
I'll be able to make a first distinc-  
tion without any trouble. as to whether  
I will make the first grade in the  
class, I don't know. I don't reckon  
I'll be left very far behind however.



The commencement exercises have already been published in part in the Luth. Visitor, & in Inquirer. Haven't seen it, however. Dr. Orcher hasn't returned yet from the north. Dr. G. W. Holland Pres. of Newberry College is to preach the commencement sermon, Cleveland's preacher and a crowd of Western men are to be present I'm told. I received an invitation to attend Union College ~~commencement~~ <sup>the other day</sup>, I see Cyp Eflind is to deliver the address before the Society, I don't know yet who we'll get. Dr. Orcher will bring in some one tho', I guess. I think we'll have a right successful commencement this year, hope so at least; but don't



believe it will come up to east geois.  
That cross was an unusually bright-  
one, early year. The new <sup>Luth.</sup> preacher that  
they've got down at Rranoske is driving  
most of the wealthy people out of his  
church, & believe I told you some time  
ago about the Terrys all leaving the  
church and joined the Episcopal, Terry  
is the richest man in Rranoske. They  
say that most of the Trouts are going  
too. They are also quite wealthy. They say  
the preacher is quite personal in his  
sermon - Sam Jones style - and preaches  
against theatre going, dancing &c, and he  
won't wear a robe which they've been  
used to down there. You see the Trouts  
and Terrys are the principal stock  
holders in the new theatre down there,  
and they, of course, don't fancy a  
preacher's running down their business.  
They had a town session here the  
other day on the prohibition case



tion and the town went dry by 17  
o'clock. The burroughs will have to  
close up after to day. There was consid-  
erable interest in the election and it  
was hotly contested. Last night I at-  
tended the Phi Gamma & Delta banquet at  
Hotel Salem as an invited guest. It was  
quite a swell affair as I expected it  
would be. I took a young lady out. The  
Gamma did everything up brown and  
sent coming around for us. There was  
quite a large crowd present and nearly  
all the pretty girls in town. It was a  
banquet gotten up for Dec. 3 of Phi  
Gamma & Delta fraternity. This compris-  
es all the Gamma chapters in Va. &  
N.C., and boys were here from nearly



every college in Va. and also two  
from U.C., one of whom Mr. Sawyer  
& met as I went home Xmas. It was  
a full dress affair. You ought to have  
seen me in full dress, wearing diamond  
 studs. I cut quite a figure you  
can imagine. I sent you enclosed  
the bill of fare. You will see that I  
responded to the toast Phi Delta Theta.  
I acquitted myself much better than  
I expected. Some of the ladies and others  
told me that I made the speech of the  
evening which which no doubt partly  
flattery wasn't displeasing to my ears,  
& tell you I got the cheers tho' - all  
I could wish for. They didn't even  
wait - for me to get done before  
cheering. I think that enthused  
me more. It was a most enjoyable  
evening - about the pleasantest  
I've spent here. I enjoyed it ever  
so much. The banquet broke



up between 2 & 3 o'clock in the morn-  
ing. There was dancing & promenading  
in which latter I engaged somewhat.  
I don't believe I ever saw so many red  
pretty girls together; there are lots of  
them here in Salem, if a fellow only  
knew it. I notice in the paper  
that the P.O. at Hickory will be in  
its present hands till May 1894 if the  
present P.M. is allowed to remain his 4  
years only, which is very silly unless  
it can be shown that he has been fixing  
in politics pretty freely which so far  
as I know he hasn't, I don't reckon  
you are doing anything in that relation  
now, have you the bank building  
renovated at all now? I believe I



saw in the paper a good while  
ago that Denny had moved out  
on & also the Bank. I reckon the  
prospects are not bright for dis-  
posing of it. I guess you did have a  
right nice time in Dallas among  
your old friends, then. Am sorry but  
don't think I'll have time to write to  
aunt Claudia before com. I will send  
her an invitation tho. Hope you remem-  
ber me to my friends in Dallas. I would like  
to see Charley Nisler & wife; guess they are  
a loving couple. I will sign the receipt  
you enclosed and return it as soon as you  
send me the money. I am needing some  
and would like to have a letter at least  
right away if convenient for you to send  
it. I would suggest that you have Johnny  
Coulter to have his life insured for your  
benefit if you loan him money without se-  
curity. I know if he dies he will make  
a nice sum of his trade and



Please preserve the  
enclosed Banquet bill of  
fare

would soon be able to pay all the  
money back which you might loan  
him, but this would provide against  
any accident of fortune which might oc-  
cur to remove him hence, we are having  
some warm weather now but it is  
quite windy. I think summer has  
set in in real earnest now. Tell  
Blanche I'm sure waiting to hear  
from her. Will I must close.  
Hope you'll be able to read  
this letter, I have a very poor  
pen and can't write much any-  
how, I am feeling quite sleepy  
to day, didn't sleep but about  
4 hrs, last night. Love to  
you all, affectionately  
C. W. Allen