

Letter 12

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February 7th 1864

Dear Cousin Sallie

I rec'd a few days since the paper you sent me for which please accept my thanks. I admire the poetry by Bryant, very much and have read it several times & I think I can appreciate it fully. How dear it is to me that my health is again returning to me. I could not help but think when I read it of the time when first we met and the impression that I formed then, & which has been growing Stronger ever since.

You perhaps may wonder when you receive this that I should write so soon, but will trust all too your noble & generous heart. Since we parted at Uncle Dicks, I have had no peace of mind or heart and can keep the Secret no longer. Dear Cousin will you be my Wife. God only knows how dearly I love you & wish you my cup will be full to overflowing. Dear Sallie I can not give you up. I have wept & prayed that you might be mine. Oh, I can not give you up. Say that you will be mine, and may Gods blessing be upon us. You may think it strange that I should not have offered my self while you were here. I should have done so had my health been better. I can not offer you as much of this worlds goods as many but trust I can as true and honest a heart as any.

The change may seem great so you, should you accept my offer but God strengthening me I will do all for you. I can not write more, my thoughts run wild, but will trust all to you, generous heart too decree. Please remember me affectionately to all, and answer me soon. I remain truly your loving and affectionate Cousin Sam

P.S. Please send me you Fotograph. I will send you the one I promised you soon.