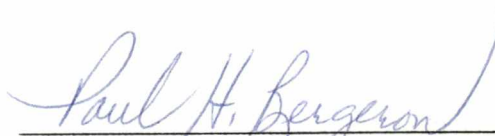


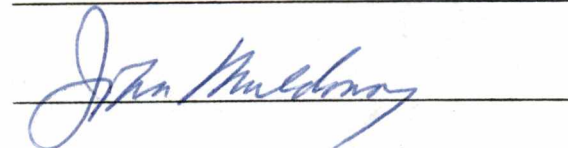
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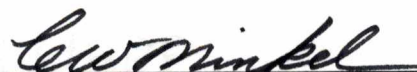


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THE MCCALLIE LETTERS: PORTRAIT OF A CHATTANOOGA
FAMILY IN THE 1880S AND 1890S

A Thesis
Presented for the
Master of Arts
Degree
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Timothy P. Ezzell
December 1988

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In March of 1891, Ellen Jarnagin McCallie, after contemplating recent events in her city of Chattanooga, reverently predicted the end of the world. To her son she wrote, "Do you notice from the list of dreadful casualties how God's judgements are in the land? I would not be surprised if we lived to see the second coming of Christ."¹ This apocalyptic vision was not brought on by plague or war, but by social change which was taking place in the community around her. The closing decades of the nineteenth century represented a period of dramatic growth and unprecedented change in the city of Chattanooga, brought on by the close of the Civil War and the rise of industrial speculation which resulted in the creation of a viable urban environment from what had been a small, but close river community. The letters of Ellen McCallie, and those of her husband and family, document these changes and the subsequent reaction of the community. The correspondence presented here sheds light upon two critical periods of this transformation, the early 1880s and early 1890s and shows not only the changes in the

¹ See Ellen Jarnagin McCallie to Robert Barton McCallie, March 19, 1891.

city, but also what it was like to live in the midst of such change.

In 1880 Chattanooga was, in numerous ways, still a small, rather provincial town. One unimpressed Ohio visitor was left with the memory of a "one mule street car, a wheezy steamboat, and a rather slow set of people."² Market Street, in the heart of downtown, was often a "sea of mud" and "cattle and hogs wandered at will on city streets."³ To cross the river, one had to take a precarious ferry ride, for the bridge built by the Union Army had fallen down.⁴ In addition, the town was still vulnerable to periodic flooding and had as recently as 1878 suffered from a disastrous plague of yellow fever.⁵

The statistics seem to substantiate this view of Chattanooga. In 1880 it had a population of only 12,892, almost half of which was black.⁶ This was significantly smaller than many established Southern communities, such as

² Charles E. McGuffey, Ed. Standard History of Chattanooga, Tennessee (Knoxville: Crew and Dorey, 1911) 101.

³ John Wilson, Chattanooga's Story (Chattanooga: The Chattanooga News-Free Press, 1980) 192.

⁴ Kay Baker Gaston, "Chattanooga's Walnut Street Bridge," Tennessee Historical Quarterly 46 (1987): 110-14.

⁵ Gilbert Govan and James W. Livingood, The Chattanooga Country (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977) 321-24.

⁶ United States, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1880. (Washington: GPO, 1880).

Nashville, which had a population of 43,350,⁷ but slightly larger than other towns, such as Knoxville, which had 9,693 residents.⁸ Economically, Chattanooga remained small as well. It could claim only fifty-eight manufacturing establishments which employed only 2,133 persons. The city's manufacturers held only \$2,045,000 in capital, and the value of goods produced was \$3,230,000.⁹ Though these numbers show Chattanooga as a small manufacturing town, they were the highest in its history, reflecting growth and promise for the community.

Other factors in the town also showed this spirit of growth. Chattanooga High School had its first graduating class in 1879.¹⁰ The town had an imposing new courthouse and a new railroad terminal was in the works.¹¹ The city seemed to be growing almost daily with new arrivals, and these men and women, especially those from the North, brought with them money and ideas to help the growing town. In addition Chattanooga still had its small town social life. The town was still small enough so that people of all social classes

⁷ Don H. Doyle, Nashville in the New South: 1880-1930 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985) 236.

⁸ Michael J. McDonald and William Bruce Wheeler, Knoxville, Tennessee: Continuity and Change in an Appalachian City (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1983) 18.

⁹ United States, Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufacturing, 1880 (Washington: GPO, 1880).

¹⁰ Wilson, Chattanooga 205.

¹¹ Ibid 202, 205.

might know one another on the street. "Hospitality and conservatism" were still "strikingly visible virtues," and church was still a regular ritual for most citizens.¹² The moral and social climate had thus far been preserved in the face of change.

By 1890 much of this had changed. Cities across the South, and throughout Tennessee had grown rapidly during the decade. In Tennessee urban population had increased by a remarkable 105.5 percent.¹³ In the span of ten years, Chattanooga had been transformed into a thriving, expanding city. The town experienced an economic boom during the 1880s which stimulated tremendous growth and change as a consequence. Chattanooga was no longer a provincial river town. Electric streetcars now ran on paved streets. These same cars traveled to new suburbs created on tired old farmland, such as St. Elmo and Ridgedale. Trolleys also went to homes across the river, thanks to a sophisticated new bridge. Smokestacks now vied with steeples for domination of the city's skyline. Progress had come to Chattanooga.¹⁴

Statistics of the time verify this growth. During the decade Chattanooga's population increased 126 percent to

¹² Grace Eliza McCallie, "Past and Present Social Characteristics of Chattanooga," Typed Manuscript, Collection of Eleanor McCallie Cooper, Chattanooga.

¹³ John Ballenger Knox, The People of Tennessee (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1949) 48.

¹⁴ Wilson, Chattanooga 227-37.

29,100.¹⁵ More phenomenal was the economic growth of the city. The number of manufacturing establishments increased by 407 percent to 294 which employed 5,741 persons, up 169 percent since 1880. These businesses operated with \$8,077,000 worth of capital and produced goods worth \$10,216,000, an increase of 216 percent.¹⁶ Chattanoogaans were now engaged in producing everything from textiles to beer, and the prospects for further growth seemed inevitable.

Yet this growth was not achieved without cost. In gaining prosperity and industry, Chattanooga also acquired many undesirable social characteristics. Saloons became more numerous and beer was actually brewed in the city.¹⁷ Arrests for prostitution and raids on brothels were reported almost daily in the newspapers. Private sanitariums were opened to treat opium addiction and alcoholism,¹⁸ and an orphanage had to be opened to deal with abused and abandoned children.¹⁹ Grace McCallie later wrote, "the day has passed with us, when the Sabbath was rigidly observed, when church going was

¹⁵ United States, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, 1890 (Washington: GPO, 1890).

¹⁶ United States, Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufacturing, 1890 (Washington: GPO, 1890).

¹⁷ Wilson, Chattanooga 269-70.

¹⁸ Chattanooga City Directory, 1892 (Chattanooga, 1892) 480.

¹⁹ The Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Tennessee: With a Historical and Biographical Sketch of Hamilton County (Nashville, 1887) 893.

almost a universal habit, and when the theatre didn't pay" and added that Chattanooga "has lost its pristine flavor, it is now in an unsettled, decidedly chaotic state."²⁰

Many members of the old community found themselves facing a peculiar dilemma. On the one hand they welcomed growth, progress and prosperity and expressed pride in their city. Yet on the other hand, these men and women viewed the consequences of these changes with fear and uncertainty. They were greatly disturbed by the materialistic and temporal society which confronted them and seemed to threaten their way of life and erode the moral basis of their families.

One such family in Chattanooga was the Thomas Hooke McCallie family. Through their letters one can witness the effect of the town's growth and change not only on the city as a whole, but on the individual and family as well. One can also sense not only the excitement and hope stirred by Chattanooga's expansion and development, but also the fear and apprehension such changes engendered in the McCallie family, and presumably in other families as well.

Thomas Hooke McCallie was born in Rhea County, Tennessee in 1837 in the community of Washington and moved with his family to Chattanooga in 1841. His father, Thomas McCallie, was a merchant and manufacturer who was a "Whig in his politics, Calvinistic in his interpretation of the scriptures

²⁰ Grace Eliza McCallie, "Past and Present Social Characteristics of Chattanooga."

and thoroughly evangelical in his views."²¹ His mother, Mary Hooke, was also a strong believer in faith. Together they raised young Thomas in a loving Christian environment. Early on the boy accepted the power of the church; and many critical events, especially the death of a beloved older sister, led young Thomas Hooke to a total religious conversion at a young age. It was perhaps the strength of this faith that led him to a career in the pulpit. T.H. attended Burritt College on Cumberland Mountain and upon graduation went on to Union Theological Seminary in New York.²² In 1858 he was licensed to preach the gospel and was ordained a year later as a Presbyterian minister. In 1861, after the death of his father, he returned to Chattanooga to accept the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church and to tend to his mother and family.²³

That same year McCallie married Ellen Douglas Jarnagin, the daughter of former United States Senator Spencer Jarnagin. As McCallie later observed, "If ever two people got married when there was a time of distress it was these two."²⁴ Given the circumstances of the times, even this seems like understatement. Few cities witnessed the Civil War with

²¹ Thomas Hooke McCallie, An Early Family Record: The McCallie Family in Tennessee (Chattanooga: The McCallie School, 1959) 4.

²² Ibid 7-10.

²³ Ibid 14, 18.

²⁴ Ibid 18.

the ferocity and destruction seen by Chattanooga. Yet Ellen McCallie was a strong woman, and together they remained in Chattanooga throughout the war and devastation. While most citizens fled the town, the McCallies felt it was their duty to stay and minister to those who remained. The couple also aided and preached to soldiers of both armies without partiality, at times filling the rooms and floors of their home with the tired and wounded.²⁵

Following the war, both Chattanooga and the T.H. McCallie family grew and prospered. They viewed the rise of their community with both pride and apprehension. In October of 1889 Ellen McCallie wrote, "Chattanooga is booming, I would hope that God's spirit would abound as the city grows."²⁶ She also experienced the rise of the new suburbs. In that same year her family moved from their home in the city to a new one on Missionary Ridge. Some time after the move she remarked, "Our suburbs are building rapidly. It is almost one continuous city from Market Street out to our place"²⁷ T.H. McCallie became a leader in this new city, and as a solid member of the Chattanooga elite he witnessed firsthand the growing pains of the community with special interest. Ellen McCallie also observed these events; but she

²⁵ Ibid 19-23.

²⁶ See Ellen Jarnagin McCallie to Robert Barton McCallie, October 6, 1889.

²⁷ See Ellen Jarnagin McCallie to Robert Barton McCallie, February 7, 1891.

probably had less time to deliberate upon them, because by 1890 she had given birth to a total of sixteen children, six of whom died before reaching the age of four.

Of those children who survived, Mary Jarnagin McCallie and Robert Barton McCallie are of primary concern to this edited study, since they were the recipients of the enclosed letters. Mary, the first of these two children, must have been especially dear to her parents. Born in the midst of war in December of 1862, nearly a year before the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Mary Jarnagin McCallie spent much of her youth in the lean years of war and reconstruction. In spite of these circumstances, Mary seems to have been a bright and attractive young woman. In 1880 Mary attended Bellewood Seminary, a woman's college in Anchorage, Kentucky, just outside of Louisville. While she attended Bellewood, she received many of the following letters. Mary appears to have been very intelligent, perceptive, and obviously quite homesick. The amount of correspondence and the fact that she seems to have kept almost every letter indicate that she missed her family and friends in Chattanooga. In 1881 their separation ended with Mary's graduation from Bellewood, but only briefly. Shortly after Mary returned to Chattanooga she became ill and died on July 13, 1881.²⁸

²⁸ McCallie 43.

Sadly and ironically, the story of Robert Barton McCallie is remarkably similar. He also seems to have been a likable and intelligent young man, but like many members of his family, he too possessed poor health. While attending Southwestern Presbyterian University in Clarksville, Tennessee in 1891, he became ill, but withheld the true extent of his condition from his family so that he could complete his course work. "He looked wretchedly when he returned" T.H. McCallie lamented, "and gradually from week to week went down till on September 29 he went away."²⁹

A few of the other McCallie children are also frequently discussed in the letters and thus require introduction. Grace Eliza McCallie was the second child of T.H. and Ellen McCallie and went on to found the Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga.³⁰ Julia Alexander McCallie was the next child of the couple, born one year after Grace, and is probably best known for her marriage to Sam Divine, a prominent local entrepreneur and a popular columnist and commentator in the Chattanooga press.³¹ Perhaps the three children who had the greatest impact upon the later history of Chattanooga were James Park McCallie and Spencer Jarnagin McCallie, who together founded the McCallie School, and Thomas Spencer

²⁹ Ibid 43.

³⁰ Wilson, Chattanooga 300.

³¹ Sam Divine, The Wit and Wisdom of Sam Divine, ed. Thomas McCallie Divine (Chattanooga: The Chattanooga News-Free Press, 1986) 5-7.

McCallie, who despite the lack of direction seen in the letters, became a Presbyterian minister and a community leader.³² Finally, the most poignantly depicted of the McCallie children would be David Paul McCallie, whose short life and death are movingly portrayed by his family.

When reading the letters certain themes within the family become evident and reveal a great deal about Victorian values and the Victorian family as found in a Southern city. The formal closeness of the family and the attitudes about such diverse subjects as birth, death, money, sin, and education are evident.³³ Much insight can also be gained from the role of domestic servants in the McCallie household and the difficulties they often presented. Also significant is the family's absolute unshakable religious faith. Even under the most difficult circumstances maintained their convictions, for it was such faith that sustained them through these hardships.

This edited collection consists of fifty-six selected letters which have been divided into two chapters, one composed of the letters of Mary Jarnagin McCallie, the other containing letters to Robert Barton McCallie. These letters were drawn from a much larger collection of McCallie family

³² The McCallie School - A Story of Fifty Years (Chattanooga: The McCallie School, 1955) 1-3.

³³ For an excellent account of the Victorian family and Victorian home life see Harvey Green's book The Light of the Home (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983).

papers in the possession of Eleanor McCallie Cooper of Chattanooga. In selecting these letters for this volume, documents were judged on the basis of two criteria. First, they were chosen for their value relative to the history of Chattanooga. A secondary consideration was the relevance of the letters to the history of the McCallie family and of family life in general during this period. In thus choosing the letters, two goals were hoped for: first, to provide a documentary insight into the history of Chattanooga during this period and second to offer a window into the life of a Chattanooga family at this time. By doing so one can see not only the changes taking place within the city, but also what everyday life was like for those who lived amidst this change.

As stated the letters are organized into two chapters, primarily for reasons of clarity. By studying the letters of two particular people at fairly limited periods of time, one can get a better sense of the people and events involved. For the same reason the letters are presented in chronological order within the chapters. This allows for events to fall in proper sequence, so the reader may conveniently follow the family's history with ease and interest.

The letters were also grouped in this manner, because each chapter represents a distinct time period in the history of the growth of Chattanooga. The letters of Mary McCallie, for example, were written in the period from 1876-1881, the

early boom years of the city. Robert McCallie's letters were penned a full decade later, near the end of the boom period, by which time Chattanooga had changed dramatically and permanently. This gives the reader a "before" and "after" picture of the city and provides for some comparison and contrast.

In presenting the letters every effort has been made to preserve the form of the original document; however for convenience and continuity the headings and dates of the individual documents have been standardized.

Effort was also made to identify people, places and events referred to in the correspondence. Unfortunately this was not always possible. One must keep in mind that these documents represent family correspondence and as such many of the references made in them are quite casual. Many times the author of the letter mentions only a person's first name, making accurate identification nearly futile. At other times only a last name is given, and especially in cases of common names, accurate labeling is difficult, if not impossible. One must also keep in mind the age of the writers and recipients of these documents. In most cases the letters were written by young people, often schoolchildren, to their older sister and brother. This presents special problems of identification, since such youth had not yet established any prominence in society and are consequently excluded from many traditional sources, such as city directories.

Identification is also made difficult due to a social characteristic of nineteenth century Chattanooga, hospitality. Several years later Grace McCallie would recall it was one of the city's main virtues. She also recollected that the McCallie home was constantly open to any number of people. "Any preacher or missionary was sure to find a welcome haven there," she claimed, "Then too there was the spare room for the invited guest; for the stranger passing through the gates of our city, for the wanderer sick and without money."³⁴ As the letters will also show, the McCallie family was a willing host to a legion of cousins as well. The problem identifying these guests is obvious. Almost all are from outside Chattanooga and few stayed long enough to provide sufficient clues to their identity. As a result many of these visitors remain unidentified.

Explanatory footnotes have also been omitted for persons sufficiently identified in the text of the individual documents. In such cases notes would provide no significant additional information and would thus be repetitive. As mentioned earlier, these letters are a window for the reader into late nineteenth century Chattanooga. Footnotes have been written with this purpose in mind. Exceptions have been made for Chattanoogaans who were significant in later life or in

³⁴ Grace McCallie. "Past and Present Social Characteristics of Chattanooga."

the case of events or places which warrant further discussion.

Footnotes in this volume are numbered in the accepted style for historical documents. The footnotes for each letter have been numbered separately.

Also included as an appendix at the end of the volume is a genealogy of the T.H. McCallie family.

CHAPTER II

LETTERS OF MARY JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Lookout

August 11, 1876

My Dear Mary,

I promised you a letter in my postal and thought I would have an opportunity to have written before this. Although I am not keeping house you'll find my time fully occupied. I will give you a description of our mode of life, which will probably interest you. On Sunday we read the Bible, study the catechism, commit scripture to memory, and then devote the remaining time to some good books and our religious papers. On Monday, our busy work day, for then we do our washing. You would laugh to see us start out fully panoplied for the contest. Though washing is as unromantic as any work could be, we have one of the most romantic spots to be found in which our ablutions are performed. But first we start from the house, Henrietta leading the vein with a huge bundle of soiled clothes upon her head, then Grace with the washboards and soaps, followed by Julia with bucket and bluing bag,

while I bring up the rear with such odd garments as have been overlooked in the general collection.¹ Then we proceed in Indian file down a slight declivity for about 200 yards when we come to our washing place. Here we have a lovely spot, well shaded, our bench for the support of the tubs resting under a fine specimen of holly while the side is flanked with a beautiful poplar. The rear is well protected from God's fierce rays by several fine oaks, while our ears are filled with the tinkling music of distant coro-bells mingled with the playful gurgling, dashing, splashing of three beautiful little streams which come rushing down the mountain side and unite right at our feet. We have named the little streams after three fanciful, fictitious faries - Molly, Polly and Dolly and call their united waters the Hilly-willy-billy. We have a splendid chalybeate spring in 50 yards of our washing place. It is on Uncle Geo' mountainplace and he has had it nicely walled up. We have such a good boarding place. The people are very kind and give us plenty to eat, and cooked in the nicest manner. Mrs. Gerber makes the nicest light bread, it reminds me of cousin Hannah's. We have had some delightful rambles to the lake and falls. They are a mile and a half from our boarding-place. Little Spencer always goes along. I ride Dolly and carry him. He enjoys it intensely and is getting so rosey and fat. You would laugh to see how rollicking and roundish he is. As we ride along he

¹ Henrietta was probably a servant.

whoops and hollers like a young Indian. Now for a brief description of the lake. We visited it while the creek was full of water. It is called Rock Creek² and is surely well named. The water is clear as crystal and runs very rapidly. The scenery around both lake and falls is truly grand. Spencer was struck with awe and astonishment as he saw the water foaming and roaring with noise over the cataract. The first two visits we made Grace and Julia bathed in the clear warm water just above the lake. It was a fine place for that purpose, the solid rock bed of the creek forming a fine natural basin. I turned young again, doffed my shoes and stockings, and waded around like a child. Grace and Julia were greatly tickled. We had a fine view of the lower falls, which we reached by climbing down a tree about 30 feet. Your father, Grace, Thomas, and myself went down. We left Henrietta, Julia, Robert and Spencer above till we should return. What a time we had clambering over huge boulders. One 8 feet high we had to mount then jump to a flat ledge below. But we were fully repaid for our trouble when we reached the fall. We walked right along the rocky bed of the creek right up to the precipice over which it plunges with deafening roars for 80 or 100 feet. It is much finer when it has a large volume of water as it did upon our last visit. Yesterday morning Mr. McCallie, Miss Gerber, Thomas Spencer

² Rock Creek is a stream on Lookout Mountain which forms Lula Lake and Falls.

and I went to see cousin Loony McCallie.³ He lives near the top of one of those high peaks we see from home, and is farming one that looks like a volcano. We went horseback. I rode behind your father, while miss Sarah carried Spencer. We had one of the wildest, most romantic rides I ever took. We found cousin L. settled in a beautiful nook on the side of the brow with an abundance of fine springs around him quite near his house. One a fine limestone spring with water as cold as ice, the balance, some five or six, good free stone water. He has fine orchards of peach, apples and plums. The soil was so rich the corn was equal to that upon river bottoms, and is estimated at 38 bushels to the acre, and such potatos you seldom see, while from the brow you have as lovely a landscape as eye ever beheld, the valley with cultivated fields and farm houses stretches out before you, and Chattanooga with her noble river is to be plainly seen some 13 miles away, while turning around behind you behold Mc LeMores cove. The wonder and glory of North Georgia, a garden spot where nature lavishes her bounties in fruit and vegetables. Miss Jennie Stiff is teaching school up here, has about 40 pupils, and is much liked. She boards very near us. We see her almost every other evening. I forgot to tell you what a pretty girl Mary McCallie is, Loony's daughter.

³ Loony McCallie, who operated a farm and grist mill on Lookout Mountain, was a second cousin of T.H. McCallie. John Wilson, Scenic, Historic Lookout Mountain (Chattanooga: Chattanooga News Free Press, 1977) 29.

She is fifteen years old and goes to school. There are some very pretty mountain girls up here.

Dear Mary, I trust you are having a fine time. But my daughter, don't let your spirits be so wild that you will forget that gentleness and modesty so becoming to a girl. Every morning read your Bible and kneel in prayer, asking God's blessing upon your head and his guidance through the day. My daughter don't indulge in idle foolish jesting about sweethearts. Remember David's prayer, "Put though a match before my lips that I might not sin against thee, Oh Lord." Don't sit up late at night, but retire promptly with the family. Give my love to all the relatives with whom you meet, and especially to cousin Hannah and family. All were well at town when we last heard. Grandma was better.⁴ Mother Jarnagin is much pleased with the cow and makes more butter than she can use.⁵ Mrs. Love is coming back to live with us this winter. Write at once. Tell me how you spend the time. Mary, God bless you my child and keep you from harm and sin. All join me in love to cousin Mary and yourself. From your Mother,

Ellen McCallie

⁴ This is most likely a reference to Mary Hooke McCallie, the mother of T.H. McCallie. Thomas Hooke McCallie, An Early Family Record: The McCallie Family in Tennessee (Chattanooga: The McCallie School, 1959) 1.

⁵ This is a reference to Mrs. Mary Jarnagin, the widow of Senator Spencer Jarnagin and mother of Ellen Jarnagin McCallie. Chattanooga City Directory, 1880 (Chattanooga, 1880) 163.

P.S. Your father speaks of going to town this evening, and as he goes to Charleston[TN] in the morning he will probably not be back before the middle of next week. He wants to go to the farm before he gets back. How did cousin M. like her visit to Cleveland[TN]? Tell her to write to me and tell me. I forgot to tell you that Myra had been to see us and that we went to see her. We found the family all well but very poor. Myra is very anxious to get back to school that she may get an education and help her mother. Goodbye, E.D.M.

FROM MARY CARGILL¹

Chattanooga

August 20, 1879

My Dear Mary,

I suppose I was the happiest girl the day I received your letter that you ever saw. Mr. Jarnagin brought my letter out at dinner time Monday.² I had hardly commenced reading it

¹ This girl was apparently a Chattanooga schoolmate of Mary's, but she cannot be further identified.

² Gus H. Jarnagin was a partner in the grocery firm of Stiff and Jarnagin, located at 172 Market Street. 1880 Directory 163.

when he called and told me young Mr. Clift was coming out at half past two o'clock if agreeable.³ I was so glad and surprised that I could hardly eat any dinner. I managed to persuade Freddie and Grace to wash the dishes for me while I proceeded to dress. I "spruced" up and looked as well as possible. Freddie and Grace declared that if he did not ask for them that they were coming in and bring the youth in some cold beans and cucumbers. When he knocked at the door I felt like the least breeze would knock me over. When I opened the door I was so weak and excited that I could hardly speak. I managed to say good evening Mr. Clift - I am glad to see you whereupon he said you can not be more so than I am to see you. We enjoyed ourselves finely by ourselves for about an hour without being disturbed, but at the end of that time Freddie began to grow restless and think it was about time we were asking for her. Everything that I would say that she did not like she would holler out something from the other room contradicting it. Still he did not ask for her. He asked what I thought about him not coming sooner. I told him I did not know he had any intention of coming again. He said he told me he was but that I did not care to hear it. I told him then that I supposed that he had never thought of me since the day that he was here. He contradicted the statement and said he

³ This individual is no doubt a member of a very prominent and established family, the Clifts. Since no first name is given however, it is impossible to identify him further. A.D. Smith and Co., East Tennessee (Chattanooga, 1893) 265.

had thought of me night and day since he met me (which you know was not true). He said something about girls being so cruel to the boys. He said that a girl would steal a young man's heart and then go off and laugh at him for being such a goose. I told him that he had it reversed, it was just to the contrary. He said that I ought to know better than that by experience. I told him that I had never had any. He said he knew of one case and that I had stolen his heart long ago. I informed him that I did not like flattery in any form. He looked real serious and said he was sincere in his statement.

After while when we had talked about everything that would interest either of us, I asked him if he would like to play a game of croquet. He said he would, provided I would be his partner. I went then and asked Freddie and Grace if they would play with us, to which they readily assented. They beat [us] of course, for I must confess Mr. Clift is no expert player. Mary, I forgot to tell you that before we went out to play he saw yours and Ella McCorckle's letters lying on the table. He asked to see them, but I told him I did not know if you would like it or not. I let him see the first part of yours and the whole of Ella's. He thought she wrote a beautiful hand and that you wrote a plain one. He saw your picture in the album and he thought you had an intelligent look. He asked me to have some pictures taken and give him one. I told him [I] could not do it. He left yesterday for

Fayetteville[TN] and will not be back until the first of Sept.

Mary if you have added much to your assortment of rocks I should think that you would have to enlarge your shelf.

How I do wish I could be with you when your cousin B.D. comes. Speak a good word for me and ask him if does not want an assistant teacher. I think it must be very trying on you to sit up so late. I would advise you to put a stop to it.

Mary, I could not understand the meaning of that big word you wanted me to show Mr. Clift. Mary, tell Mrs. Jarnagin I want to see her so much and will be so glad when she comes home.

Give my love to all, particularly Spencer. Mary, you must excuse that blot of ink. I dropped it after I had nearly finished.

Write to me soon and tell me all the news.

Your Friend M.C.

Grace said to write and tell her when and by what boat she must come home.

Mary I misspelt masquerade in my other letter through carelessness.

M.C.

FROM NELLIE HOOKE GRIFFIS¹

Chattanooga

September 25, 1879

Dear Mary,

Your letter reached me several days since and was read with much pleasure I assure you. To have shown my appreciation of it I should have replied immediately, but every time I set for writing to you someone came in and interrupted me for the day. Last Friday I said that I will write to Mary McCallie today if I don't do anything else, but alas for the best laid plans. Just as I was ready to take my seat Mrs. Stone drove up and spent the day with me, and then Mary came home that same afternoon. Of course I could not write while she remained for we were on the street both morning and afternoon. I made another attempt yesterday afternoon intending to write both you and Mary - but Miss Lizzie came in and spent the morning and came back immediately after dinner for me to go calling, and as I have not done anything of the type for over a year I went gladly, for I really need someone to take me out. But a truce to apologies, you see that any delay has been unintentional. Now for some news (I presume it will be news). Mrs. Jennie

¹ Nellie Griffis was a cousin of T.H. McCallie and the wife of John C. Griffis. McCallie 12.

Barton² has a new baby boy. Mrs. Bachman came home yesterday.³ Mrs. Vandike⁴ told me last night that Mrs. B's baby boy looked worse than when she left here - he has had a spell of malarial fever. I feel afraid she will lose this one as she has the others.

A number of families have returned to the city and Chattanooga looks natural once more. Both Lovemans and Paynes have brought on new goods and the ladies are returning in full force to examine the latest novelties.⁵ I think the goods are better and richer this season than ever before.

I'm sorry you were so unfortunate as to lose your cook. I don't envy you having to do all the washing and ironing, but then there are so many of you that I don't suppose you mind it very much. I should enjoy gathering grapes and muscadines. I love the latter so much. Do you think you will remain long enough to gather chestnuts and autumn leaves?

² This is probably a reference to the wife of Robert M. Barton, a Chattanooga attorney. John Wilson, Chattanooga's Story (Chattanooga: The Chattanooga News-Free Press, 1980) 184.

³ This is Mrs. Eva Dulaney Bachman, wife of Dr. J.W. Bachman, minister of the First Presbyterian Church. Both were close friends of the McCallie family. Charles A. McMurry, Chattanooga: Its History and Geography (Morristown, Tennessee: The Globe Book Co., 1923) 86.

⁴ This is probably a reference to Anna Deadrick Van Dyke, the wife of William D. Van Dyke, a local attorney. Mrs. Van Dyke was the daughter of Tennessee Chief Justice James William Deadrick. Wilson, Chattanooga 152.

⁵ Loveman's and Payne's were, and remain, Chattanooga stores.

Next month is such a lovely month to be in the country I think.

Mr. Rogers has commenced his school, but I have not heard how many scholars he has.⁶ The public schools commence next Monday. We are having beautiful weather now.

Mary I hope what this letter lacks in quality will be made up by the quantity. So Au Revoir (I believe this is about the extent of my French, of German I know Mein - is that right?)

Sallie joins me in kind remeberences to all.⁷ write soon and believe me, your loving cousin,

Nellie

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

September 25, 1880

Dear Mary,

⁶ This is a reference to the Chattanooga Female Seminary and its principal, William A. Rogers. 1880 Directory 29.

⁷ Sallie Hooke was the sister of Nellie Hooke Griffis and a cousin of T.H. McCallie. McCallie 12.

Your letter of the 14th I received on the 23rd. I would have answered it sooner, but as we left on the 24th I was too busy to take time to answer it. We left the farm at about two o'clock in a pouring rain and got to Chattanooga about 15 minutes after four. Janie Henderson came down with [us]. She is staying at Mrs. Dick Henderson's.¹ She is going to stay till after the show.² Milo is coming down Tuesday for the show which comes off on Wednesday. In your last letter to me you said you had received two of my letters. I have received three from you and have written you four so you see I do not wait every time for you to answer my letter. Now that we are home I think our letters will go so much quicker. Chattanooga seems so lonesome to me. I want to go back. Mother does too. When I ask Paul where Sister Mary is he says up in Bytucky. When I ask him what I should tell you he said write my name on it and tell Sister Mary to write me. He means by that for me to sign this letter with his name so you will think it is from him and write to him. Father left for Concord this morning.³ Your letter to him came after he left. Thomas and

¹ Richard Henderson was the circuit court clerk at the time. East Tennessee 291.

² The "show" refers to a performance of the Sells Brothers Circus on Sept. 28, 1880. Chattanooga Times 29 Sept. 1880.

³ T.H. McCallie resigned as minister of First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga in 1880 due to poor health and instead accepted evangelical work in the East Tennessee towns of Concord, Charleston, and Cedar Springs. McCallie 47.

Robert say they are going to write to you and tell you about Puss and Boots. They begged me to tell it to them, but I had forgotten it, so freshen up your memory. I must tell you how I earned ten cents before I left the farm. One morning father said to me Grace, if you will mend the old carriage cover I will give you a dime. I went and looked at the cover and it had so many holes in it that I thought I would not try to mend it, but father told me I needn't be particular about it, that I could mend it just as I pleased. I did it and earned my dime. I went down in town this evening with Mary Cargil. We met Mr. George Ochs taking notes.⁴ Mary said look in tomorrow morning's personals and see "Yesterday evening I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Mary Cargil and Miss Grace McCallie looking very much renovated and refreshed after their summer in the country. Both of them are now more charming than ever." I tell you this for I fear you may not see it in the paper. In my last letter I told you that Julia sent Milo a gutta percha ring and he sent her back a brass ring. I did not get to finish my letter Saturday and it is now Monday evening. I must hurry and finish it as to mail it this evening. Father is coming home this evening. I saw Miss Mollie Mills this Saturday evening. She is even prettier than

⁴ At the time George Ochs was local editor of the Chattanooga Times. 1880 Directory 165.

she used to be. Mary G. is studying arithmetic under Mrs. Lukens.⁵ She likes her so much.

Truly,

Grace

P.S. Mother is writing to you but didn't [know] when she will get a chance to finish. Robert was two hours writing his letter.

Grace

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 3, 1880

My Dear Mary,

I began a letter to you first one week ago, and laid aside my letter to give Robert some assistance upon his, intending to finish mine just as soon as he would get through, but my child, I will tell you of his faithful perseverance that you may duly appreciate his letter. He was about one and one-half hours writing it, and stuck manfully to it, despite all the fun making that went on over his

⁵ A teacher at the High School, also known as the Third Ward Academy. 1880 Directory 28.

labored effort. I will tell you I was so tired that I could not finish mine. We have nearly all been sick with colds since coming home, all except Thomas, Robert, Paul, and Jamie, mine and Spencer's lasting longest. We are still sick with ours. Since we came home - on Tuesday last - cousin Virey, Kittie, and Sallie Brown came down on the grand boat excursion, the occasion being Sells Brothers' great show, but spent their time looking around the town.¹ Cousin Mary Ellen Hooke is with us now, came in on Tuesday also. She has improved very much, and developed into quite a fine looking lady like woman. She dresses very neatly, has pretty, soft brown eyes, fine complexion, and sweet voice. I have a good deal of company since our return, and that, with my cold, has kept me back in my house keeping. The windows in the sitting room are so fly specked that they look as if frosted, but I intend on making a carpet for that room. I will leave it for the cash to clean. Grace did all the cooking for the first week, then I hired a young girl to stay until Mary Hughes² should come. I look for Mary this week, as she promised to come down after the big meeting the first of October. I also think of getting a white girl from Sequatchie Valley to

¹ The circus reportedly attracted numerous "country people" to Chattanooga, many of whom were subsequently arrested for wearing sidearms. Some were also criticized for "taking on more of the ardent than they could carry." "Chattanooga Times 29 Sept 1880.

² Mary Hughes was a servant with the McCallie family. See T.H. McCallie to M.J. McCallie, December 17, 1880.

assist me with the house cleaning and the children. Miss Lussie came a few days after we returned. She wanted sewing again. Mrs. Corn rents two rooms in the same house with Miss Lussie over near the academy. Jane is hired as cook to Mrs. Alice Hill, but Mrs. Corn says her health is too bad to stand the work, though Jane will weigh at least 140 pounds and can run all over the suburbs without fatigue. And Mary Hooke is adding a new addition to her house, having torn down the old kitchen and adding two new rooms in their place. She is expecting Cousin Jennie and two children home this fall. She has also sold her corner lot, next to Mr. Griffis to Mr. McGuffey.³ A good many new buildings are going up all over town. Mr. Elder⁴ is building a nice large frame house on Oak St., just across the alley from Grandmother's stable on [a] lot bought from Mr. Hare. We have not commenced our "Children's Home" yet, but hope to do so this fall.⁵ Mr. Lowe

³ Charles D. McGuffey, a nephew of William Holmes McGuffey, was a Chattanooga attorney. Wilson, Chattanooga 186.

⁴ Leander Elder, a Chattanooga lawyer, was a neighbor of Mrs. Mary Jarnagin. 1880 Directory 136.

⁵ The Chattanooga Orphan's Home for White Children was established by the Women's Christian Association of Chattanooga, Ellen McCallie President, and was constructed on land donated by T.H. McCallie. Its stated direct object was the "winning of souls." The provision for "temporal needs" was considered of secondary importance. The Goodspeed Publishing Company, History of Tennessee: With a Historical and Biographical Sketch of Hamilton County (Nashville, 1887) 893.

is repairing his house on McCallie Street. Mr. Sevier,⁶ living above Mr. Bachman, is to take charge of the High School, the board not being able to find a satisfactory applicant. He cannot teach German, but an arrangement has been made with one of the lady teachers in the building who does understand German to exchange labor for one hour that she may give to the required instruction. Cousin Will Montgomery is to take charge of the Baptist church here, preaching his first sermon today. He leaves his family at Leadville for the present. Mrs. Ewing thinks she will have to send Molly off soon. She does not like the public schools, but has no choice as there are no others in town. How do you find your training in them to compare with other girls of same age and advantages in private schools? Think well and answer your question fully, as I am anxious to know in view of Grace's and Julia's training. They began music again Friday with Professor Hacker⁷. Mattie E. will take lessons from Mrs. Kate Stewart. Miss Ewing thinks she is a more brilliant performer and newer in style. Mrs. Ewing told me of Mattie's cousin at Bellewood and she herself borrowed your catalogue, but she objects to the lack of instruction in French. I do wish I could send you some flowers. The fall roses are just beautiful, while the geraniums, fuchias, and

⁶ She is probably referring to Theodore Sevier. 1880 Directory 214.

⁷ Professor E.H. Hacker was director of music at the Chattanooga Female Seminary. 1880 Directory 29.

elyseums are unsurpassed. I must tell you that Cousin Hannah has been speaking highly in Miss Anna Henegar's praises, that Dr. Lee⁸ and Mr. White⁹ have both gone to Charleston to see her. Mr. White has been twice. He was delighted with the whole family. He wants me to invite her down here to my house. I have seen Carrie Hooke since I came home. She looks very pretty in her bridal hat. She boards with her mother, a room nicely furnished, all right new. Cousin Glennie has gone to Madisonville to take charge of a music class of mine. She is much pleased thus far. Mannie has been over - spent the day. She has grown astonishingly - is nearly as tall as Julia. Mary and Julia rode horse back out to Mr. Divine's Friday afternoon, did not return till dusk.¹⁰ We were quite uneasy, as neither of them were good riders. We thought they were only taking a short ride. I have so much to tell you that I will have to reserve it for another letter. I hope you have not suffered for your undervests. I will send your cloak and vests in a few days or send the money to get the undervests in Louisville when you go in to the Exposition,¹¹

⁸ Dr. Joseph V. Lee, a dentist. 1880 Directory 172.

⁹ George Thomas White, a native of Chattanooga, was an attorney. Philip May Hamer, Tennessee: A History 4 vols. (New York: American Historical Society, 1933) 3: 113.

¹⁰ John L. Divine was a merchant and owned a local flour mill. East Tennessee 220.

¹¹ This is probably a reference to the Louisville Centennial Exposition. Isabel McLennan McMeekin, Louisville, The Gateway City (New York: Julian Messner Inc., 1946) 175.

as both father and I are willing. I am glad you joined the missionary society and will heartily encourage you in any work for Christ. Father will send you some Lord's money for benevolent purposes. Be of good courage, my child, and esteem your privileges too high to lose one moment in homesickness. I know you love us and home, but you are sensible and know that sacrifices must be made for everything worth having. I will say good night and God bless you, but may add a line or so tomorrow.¹²

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 4, 1880

Dear Mary,

I would have answered your letter sooner, but I wanted to wait till school commenced so that I could tell you who our teacher was. Mr. Sevier is the principal. He is the image of death and talks slower than Mr. Joe Clift.¹ He says he is going to teach history by lecturing. If he gets through one

¹² Ellen McCallie apparently mailed this letter without closing it.

¹ Joe Clift was a clerk on the steamboat "May Bell." 1880 Directory 122.

week he will do well. He talks very low, almost like thunder. This morning he asked me for my Latin grammar so he could assign us a lesson. He asked me which method we studied. I told him the English. He then said which is no method at all. I misunderstood him and thought he said did you say no method at all, so I said it is the English method sir. I told Miss Wagner what he said.² She laughed and said that she expected that she would have to take our Latin class. I told her that I did not think that Mr. Sevier should have but one lesson to hear as it would take him all day to hear that if she did not talk any faster. Miss Clara Stalsmith is our German teacher. She hears nothing but German. I think I shall like her splendid. The high school is so large that is not enough room for them all. Miss Wagner says that if any more come she will have to put them in the room formerly occupied by Miss Munsey last year under Miss Stalsmith. She hears our German on that room. There are no additions to the Ad Sen and the Sen class. Anna Wheeler came to school today. I thought she was in Connecticut. We are all well at home. We have all had very bad colds though. Thomas and Robert have a very high opinion of your good looks. Last night Thomas said he saw the beautiful girls in Charleston and one of them looked just like Mary. Robert said I think Mary is the best looking girl in the world and she ought to be the belle of Chattanooga,

² Miss Wagner was a teacher at the High School. 1880 Directory 28.

and he was in earnest too. Robert is looking for an answer to his letter. Did you get Julia's and Mattie's photograph of Milo and the lock of Julia's hair that I sent you in my first letter. I asked you once before but you never answered me. I would write more but I have no more paper.

Yours truly,

Grace

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 22, 1880

Dear Mary,

I received your letter of the 16th yesterday evening. The first of this letter is simply an appendix to my last letter. I forgot to tell you in my last letter that I was "Thunder struck, horrified, disgusted, amazed and every other big adjective in Webster's Dictionary to find that you, the "flower of the family," was wearing water waves.¹ I am now but the wreck of a once noble and stalwart youth. What has brought me to this? Why the fact that you are wearing water waves. Probably Julia will go on the mountain this evening

¹ A type of hair style.

with Mary and Myra Drake. I stayed all night with them last night. I had a very nice time. Spencer went to Percy's birthday party the other day. They had a splendid supper. I asked Spencer what they played. He said Johnny Brown. I asked him who he kissed. He said Efel Griffis. He thought she was the prettiest girl there. Mary Griffis likes the high school very much. She has struck up a new flirtation with a boy named Judson Buchannon, a fifth ward boy who is as tall as father and who had a mustache the first day he came to school. It is gone though now. He sits opposite Mary and when they are marching out in line Mary will look up at him and smile and then he will look down and smile the sickenest smile you ever did see. If I was a good artist I would draw a picture of them smiling at each other. Mary, Miss Wagner said to send you her love. She asked all about you and how you were getting along.

Friday Night

I did not have time to finish my letter in time to mail it this morning. Alice Watkins went to Lasser College yesterday morning. She was in [the] Junior class. She only went a week. I think she would have done a good deal better if she had finished the high school. Miss Jennie Stiff, I have forgotten her married name, has a little girl. Julia Bostrum Cannon has a little boy. It seems so funny to think

of Julia being a mother. Carrie Hamblen has been to see us since she has been married. I think she is prettier now than she was before she got married. Mamie says that she would like to see you so much. Cousin Mary Ellen is staying at Cousin Mollie Hooke's now. Uncle Gus inquired very kindly about you. We commence our rhetorical exercises next Friday week. Miss Wagner thinks that Mr. Leseire is just the kind of teacher the public school needs. He seems to be very smart and tells so many tales that we all cannot study. He seems to know just everything. He has some very original ideas. In some things he agrees with you. He says that he likes Isaiah better than Jacob and that he thought Joseph was a great storyteller. Julia is going up on the mountain with Mary Drake tomorrow. Thomas and Robert are staying all night tonight with cousin William Wilson, as they are having birthday at their school. The boys went across the river to spend the day and sent mother word back by a colored man that they were going to stay all night with cousin William, and they knew that father was away they told mother nothing about it before they left. Did father tell you about seeing Mrs. Polk, wife of ex president James K. Polk. All of the ministers went to see her, and father was called upon to make a speech.² I guess you know that Mattie Trimble has gone to

² The exact circumstances of this meeting are unknown, but it seems to have been a meeting of ministers, possibly at Synod. Mrs. Sarah Childress Polk lived in Nashville until her death in 1891.

Oxford. That leaves only four girls in the graduating class. There are only six in the Senior class, 19 in my class, and 28 or 30 in the Junior. Now the Junior class is blamed with everything mean that goes on. It seems that the Junior class are always the Principal Transgressors. Give my love to Lillie and answer my letter promptly.³ Your Sister,

Grace E.

I will number the pages as I got them kinder mixed up.

Saturday Night

I would have mailed my letter today, but I kept waiting for mother. She wanted to write you a letter and send it off with mine. Thomas and Paul got their letters tonight. Cousin Mary Ellen and Aunt Loisa were here today. They left tonight at half past seven for Wildwood. I am making me a linen apron and stitching it with red out of your old linen overskirt. I made three ruffles for my neck today. The other day I asked Paul if he wanted to see you. He said yes, but she is a grown lady now. All of the boys seem to believe you will be a grown lady when you come back. If that was so I do not think that I would go off to school. Tonight Thomas said if Mary was not married when she was twenty he wouldn't claim her for his sister I said let me show you two pictures of Mary seven

³ Lillie was apparently a friend of Mary's from Chattanooga who also attended Bellewood.

years from now, one if she gets married, the other if she does not. I. In a nice warm comfortable room sits a nice old maid, everything around her nice and busy, reading a nice, new book. II. In a cold, dreary, topsy-turvey looking room sits a dreary looking woman with her hair hanging and her dress dirty, patching clothes, and around her stands five yelling, howling babies. I am afraid this last picture is a bit overdrawn.

Grace

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 27, 1880

My Dear Mary,

We have just gotten up from the breakfast table. Grace is writing you a postal, Julia is practicing, and the servants are eating. So while waiting for them to get through that we may have prayers, I will drop you a few lines. Father went to Retro [TN] yesterday with the intention of going to the farm and also to Walden's Ridge. The weather is just as lovely as it can be, and I wanted to go with him so much, but

could not leave home. If you had only been here to take charge of things for me, how nice would have been. You don't know how much comfort I expect in your return home, but I don't want to be selfish and impose too much on your kind thoughtfulness. But as Paul quaintly says, you are getting a young lady. You must expect some of the burdens of that honorable position. Cousin Hannah says that she had written to Lillie with reference to the walking coats or saques. I thought you simply wanted some flannel saques for school wear. We have looked at the goods for making the walking jackets and think we can make them ourselves for about three dollars apiece. Do you know how much Dentist work costs? From your letter I inferred that Mrs. Young¹ left you alone in the dentist's office. Was that so? Father was not pleased with it, and though we both have the utmost confidence in you my child, we know the wickedness of the world, and would guard you from its tongue of slander. I would not go by myself here in our own town to an office and remain even an hour. I would rather be called too particular than not particular enough. I will tell you that we are all well, and that little Jamie is fat as a pig, and would astonish and amuse you to hear him come up to me and say "muver, muver, take, take." He has got plenty of temper, but is growing very much like dear John.²

¹ Apparently this person was some sort of matron of Mary's at Bellewood Seminary.

² John Hooke McCallie, Ellen's seventh child, died in 1875. He lived less than four years.

Spencer is still suffering from his moral disease of badness. I told him last night of Elijah's contest with the prophet of Bail. He was much interested, made me tell it twice, was particularly pleased with the prophets cutting themselves, and enjoyed the imaginary flow of blood. And to my intense disgust, after hearing a sigh he said "I wish I was one of them." He enjoyed Elijah's keen irony in telling them to call louder, but the Bowie knife scene captivated him, though I tried to make that part as terrible as possible. Pray for him my child, for unless God's spirit changes him before he is grown, I fear he would be lost. He is so bright, but he hates authority more than any child I ever saw, more than you ever did. But if the Lord blesses him, as he has done you, I will be so grateful. You are a comfort, and I know a great joy to your father. May God make you useful in His service, and may your earnest prayers ascend in behalf of us all. I want to be a wise good mother above everything else, for that is my special mission now. I have promised Paul to write you a letter for him. He is so proud of his. He never forgets to pray for you. Grandmother and family are all well. Uncle Gus always inquires about you. Cousin W. Wilson asks kindly after you, says you are his favorite. Goodbye. Love from all.

Truly,

Mother

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Nov. 4, 1880

Dear Mary,

I guess you think I waited a good while before answering your letter but I have been busy, very busy. At school we are at that part of the algebra and have worked very, very hard. I wrote you a postal card Tuesday night, but lost it. Our examinations are over. I got 100 in Algebra, 98 in Rhetoric, and 92 in Latin. We had an oral examination in German. I do not think Miss Stalsmith is at all competent to teach German. Carrie Simpson¹ pronounces a great deal better than she does. Fannie B. says that she knows more about German than Mrs. Stalsmith does.² We have a great deal of excitement over the election at school, greater than I have ever seen before.³ Annie Wilder is the best Republican in school. She does not

¹ The Simpson family were Jewish immigrants from Germany who settled in Chattanooga in the 1860s where they were engaged in the clothing business. Wilson, Chattanooga 211.

² Fannie Bachman was the daughter of Rev. John Waverly Bachman.

³ The election of 1880 saw James Garfield, the Republican candidate, opposing Winfield Hancock of the Democrats.

say mean harsh or other things about the South like some of the other girls. I have been mad several times at Mattie D., Flora C., and especially at May Baar and Joey Nixon. The other day May Baar said that Southern people were so bitter and mean and that she wished she lived up North. I said I wished so too. Julia and Joey have had a regular quarrel. Sallie Robinson is our strongest Democrat. The blackboards are covered with the names of Hancock and Garfield. Wayne Hendricks has sprained his leg very badly. Robert is ten years old today. No one remembered his birthday and therefore he got no presents. Paul is losing a great deal of his sweetness. Father has gone up to the farm. He will be gone a week or over. I have actually performed the bug bear of my life, written a composition by myself. Don't you think that ought to be counted as one of the seven wonders of the world. It is over four pages of legal cap paper. The subject is economy. I put in that extract from Mark Twain about the man that got shot up so high. Father said he thought it was a very good composition. I have got me a new winter hat. Mother said she thought I had worn that black hat of yours ever since she could remember. Julia says I have worn it ever since I was as big as Spencer. I do not think it is quite that bad. It seems a little over two months since you have gone. Mother says it seems to her more like two years. Spencer said to tell you that he wants to see you, and that he wishes you would come home. Paul says that he is going to

send you some violets. How is Lilly now? I hope she is better. Julia has never got an answer to her letter to Milo. Write soon. Your loving sister,

Grace

P.S. I don't think I ever wrote a letter in my life but what it had 3 or 4 blots in it.

ECONOMY

Is derived from the Greek word for house-wife and house regulation. It means thrifty management, frugality in the use of money, time and labor. This is a virtue that we should all endeavor to cultivate. The great and wealthy men we all read and hear about would never have become so if they had not economized in the use of money and time. A person in saving his money should not deny himself every pleasure, amusement and recreation, nor should he spend his money to alleviate the sufferings of mankind simply in order that he may become wealthy, for money spent for noble and generous purposes brings true happiness. Everyone should try and live within his income if he can lay by a penny at a time should do so remembering that pennies make the pounds. This virtue is not appreciated as much as it should be. If economy was exercised more there would not be as much crime, poverty and degradation in the world as there now is. More debts would be

paid and less acts of injustice and cruelty would be done. But economy, like almost every other virtue can be carried too far. It will then become stenginess. Mark Twain tells the story of a company of men who I think carried it too far.⁴ John James Geofry was the son of poor but honest parents and was working for this company of men who were called the Incorporated Company of Mean Men. One day he drilled a hole about four feet deep and placed a large quantity of powder in it. He was ramming it with his crowbar when it suddenly struck a spark and fired the powder and away he went, crowbar with him, up in the air like a skyrocket. He kept on going up in the air higher and higher till he didn't look any higher than a boy and he kept on going up higher and higher till he didn't look any bigger than a small bee and then he went out of sight. Presumably he came in sight again looking like a small bee, and he came along further till he looked as big as a doll again, and down further and further till he looked as big as a boy again, and further and further until he was a full sized man once more, and then he and his crowbar came down again in the same old place and commenced to ramming again as if nothing had happened and though he was gone only sixteen minutes yet, the Incorporated Company of Mean Men docked him for lost time.

⁴ The Twain story is "Markiss, King of Liars," from Roughing It.

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Nov. 20, 1880

Dear Mary,

I did not get to answer your letter last night as we had no paper, but Mother and Robert just returned from town with some (half past seven PM). Cousin Montgomery, Jack, and Wallace were here yesterday. They came up to bring some cattle and they went right back. I never saw them but mother says Wallace is nearly as big as father and has [a] mustache coming. Julia says she wants to see him very much. She cannot imagine him as big as herself. Cousin Betsy and Lucy are probably coming up Christmas. Miss Annie Henegar left Thursday. Dr. Lee and Mr. White escorted her to the train. Annie Wilder came over to see me this evening. Miss Nellie Carlisle is to be married the second of next month. I hear she is to have ten bridesmaids. Miss Agnes Putnam and Mittie Morrison are to be bridesmaids. They say she is going to have a grand wedding. Uncle Gus was elected for alderman with only 9 majority. He pretended not to be a bit excited, but Grandmother says he did not come home to dinner but at night

when he did come home he said I am nearly starved but I am elected. We have a Republican mayor, Mr. Hart.¹ Mr. O'Brian² ran against him. There was not much excitement about the election. You asked how we are all off for winter. I guess you will see we are well off when I tell you mother bought fifty yards of canton flannel and that Miss Corn has made 21 pairs of drawers for us children. Oh dear here goes a blot. I never wrote a letter in my life without a blot. Father came home today. We were all eating dinner and never heard him until we saw him walk in the dining room. The other day Julia picked up a letter from you to father and commenced reading it aloud. Presently she came to that part where you said ask Grace how she spelt yesterday. I said let me see it and then took the letter and read it through. If I had picked up the letter once I have picked it up twenty times, but looking at the date said I have read this before and threw it down. Before that when father asked me how to spell yesterday I thought probably he had forgotten how, so I said "yestarday" of course, why do you want to know. Father laughed and told me that was wrong. I have not looked in Webster's Dictionary, but it seems to me he spelt it that way. Anyway he ought to,

¹ John A. Hart was mayor of Chattanooga from November of 1880 until November of 1881. Zella Armstrong, History of Hamilton County and Chattanooga Tennessee (Chattanooga: Lookout Publishing Co., 1931-1940) 207.

² Michael J. O'Brian, a native of Ireland, operated a successful grocery business on lower Market Street. Wilson, Chattanooga 154.

and as to getting me mad because you said that, the only thing is that I came near getting mad because you would think that I was so silly to get mad so easily. I have been thinking a good deal about Christmas lately. I wish you would think [of a gift] for us to get for Father and Mother. I want to know who told you that Fannie Bachman went to the opera³ with Bob Henderson. Fannie says she cannot imagine who told you. We had a splendid time at the opera. We all teased Fannie a good deal about going with Bob. Mother says she don't see how the girls like him so well. He is too much like his father to suit her. She thinks Fritz Knodler is far superior to Bob. Who directs your letter for you. Whoever does has a lovely hand. Miss Annie Wingfield is going to be married soon. Jamie is not very well this morning. Jamie came very near [having] one of his teeth knocked out yesterday. It is loose. This is examination week.

Your Loving Sister,

Grace

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

³ Chattanooga's first opera house was the Lyric Theatre located at Sixth and Market. Wilson, Chattanooga 317.

Chattanooga

Dec. 17, 1880

My Dear Daughter,

Your letter received, one to mother has just come this morning. All tolerably well. Julia was sick with cold night before last, and also all day yesterday. She remained at home, but has gone to school this morning. Mother is not very well. Her house woman has gotten sick and left, but she has a new one this morning and of course is in trouble. Changing servants is a fruitful source of trial to house holders. Mary Hughes is to leave 1rst of Jan. She has been a good servant and her place will be hard to fill. Mary Drake stayed with the girls all night last night. The Drakes go to Washington D.C. shortly. James Park is as cross as a bear. He creates a deal of trouble. He wakes up in the night, and neither sleeps himself, nor lets others sleep. He is of a nervous-saguine temperament and wonderfully full of energy. Awake he is perpetually in mischief, breaking anything, and everything, and needing constant care. Mother has a hard time. Her boys take up a great deal of time and attention. She longs for the time to come when you can be with her more and help with these little fellows.

I am pleased with the progress you have made in

penmanship. Your last letter to me was a great improvement on anything I ever saw come from your pen.

I rather agree with Prof. Morrison¹ on the impropriety of your having studies too many. Better have just enough than too few or too many. It is a matter of no great difference if you finish, or graduate, but it seems strange to me that if you finish the course creditably, you will not be allowed to graduate. I do not think there is a college in the U.S. where a young man finishing the senior course would not receive a diploma. A few minor studies, in the first years of the course, studied or neglected, would, it seems to me, matter but little. If the great learning studies, where a young woman or young man, acquired fine mental discipline had been mastered, I would give the diploma, if I was the teacher, or the board of directors. But, after all, a diploma is a small affair. The leading and chief consideration is to secure a good education. This no diploma can give, and no lack of diploma can take away. Do not, therefore take on more work than you can accomplish. Strive to stand well in what you are now studying, and if you do not graduate, it may be, and certainly will be better than to burden yourself.

The children are beginning to make a flutter about Christmas. They are preparing for it.

All send love.

Truly,

¹ Probably a teacher at Bellewood Seminary.

T.H. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Dec. 22, 1880

My Dear Mary,

I hope that you will wonder why I have not written to you in a long time. I will tell you truly that it was not because I did not think of you or feel so inclined, but Spencer, Paul and Jamie have had bad colds. The weather has been very cold, damp, and trying and I have tried to keep the little ones indoors, but on Thursday morning, my nurse, who had been suffering for a week or more with a violent cough and cold took so sick that she had to leave and go home. While I was cleaning the house and watching Jamie, Spencer and Paul slipped out into the yard and garden where the ground was both very damp and very cold. That night Paul coughed badly. Next morning he had something like a chill followed by a high fever which has continued without much abatement up to this time. Friday night he suffered greatly. Saturday was worse. Sunday still worse. When we called in Dr. Curtis Sunday night we felt certain it had developed into

Pneumonia. Monday - still worse and distressing to hear the little fellow breathe. Tuesday (yesterday) we felt very doubtful whether he could recover or not, and we felt too distressed to write. Last night he was very restless, but not suffering near so much. About 2 o'clock in the morning he began to breathe a little easier, and today, I am thankful to say, he seems decidedly better, but still very sick and not out of danger. Pray for him, my child, that he may be spared if God wills. He would say his prayers every night, even when in much distress and hardly able to talk, and always prayed specially for you. He sent you the little stockings and paper bag. It was his own idea, and he tried with his own little hands to fill the stockings for you, but was not able. I did it, by his direction. He also wanted me to write a letter to you for him, but I could not find the time. He became so restless and wanted to be nursed so much. But he still insists upon it, and says I have not kept my promise, so I will devote the next page to him. I wish you a happy Christmas and would have been glad if I could have sent you more. I hope you girls will enjoy the box, and miss you so much, and find the Christmas coming robbed of pleasure by your absence.

My Dear Sister Mary,¹

¹ The remainder of this letter was also in the handwriting of Ellen McCallie.

Mother has been promising me for some time to write me a letter, and I am glad she finds time to write before Christmas, so that I can wish you a happy time, a pleasant visit from "Santa Claus" and send you plenty of love from us all. I don't forget you dear sister, and always pray for you. I hope you always remember to pray for me, that God may give me his good spirit always to live in my heart. Last night I was so sick and was in pain, but I said "Oh God, please make me better" and he heard me, and he took away my pain. I thank him, and hope he will make me get well. I expect you will think "Santa Claus" wears very small stockings when you see the pair I loaned him, but he is such a kind hearted old man that he will do any thing to please the children. Aunt Lill is knitting me a new red pair to hang up for Christmas. I hope he will fill them up to the top. I wish you could be with us, but as you cannot I will send you a "merry Christmas" and a whole lot of love from your brother,

Paul McCallie

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Jan 10, 1881

My Dear Daughter,

Your letter to your mother came to hand today and we were all pleased to get it, for we had been considerably troubled lest you were suffering from a lack of sufficient bed-clothes. We came very near starting off a box of bed-clothes last week, without waiting further to hear from you. We are glad to hear your suffering was only temporary. You can rest assured that we do think of you at home and miss you every day, and long for the time when you will return to us. You are remembered at family worship and commended to our Heavenly Father's protection every day, and there is nothing we can do that we are not willing to do for your comfort and welfare.

Grace is some better. I am afraid she has chills. She was worse Friday and not so well yesterday. She is taking a preparation of iron and quinine that I hope, with the blessing of God, help her. David Paul lingers, but is better. He has now been sick 25 days, and I expect we will have to keep him indoors all winter. The baby is tolerably well. He is still suffering a little from the cold. The balance are all well. The girls have just got their reports from school. Julia's is a very good one, but she is not satisfied. Thomas has a real good report. He stands up well and his deportment is 95. Mrs. Lukens told me last week that he was doing well, and that he was very polite and thoughtful for a child. For instance she told him last Monday "Well Thomas I hope you

enjoyed the hollidays." He replied "Yes, Mrs. Lukens I did, and I hope you enjoyed yourself." It pleased Mrs. L. very much that Thomas should think of her and so promptly make such a reply. He does not lack in politeness, though he is not as kind to his sisters as he ought to be, and when you write to him, I hope you will encourage him in this regard.

Robert has improved and advanced some at school, but not as rapidly as he should have done. We have had meetings in the chs.[churches] all last week and they are still to go on this week. Last week the weather was very bad. It was raining nearly all the time. We had only one day of sunshine (Saturday), but notwithstanding we have had very good meetings. No awakening among the impenitent so far. Christian people seem to enjoy the meetings, but there are no conversions. I want you to join me in praying earnestly for the conversion of Thomas and Robert. They are old enough now to be true disciples of our Lord, and if not converted when young, they are in danger of being led into many a sin, and falling into vices from which they may never recover. Pray also for Julia, for I do not know if she is a child of God or not. Grace gives evidence of being a child of God. She is indeed a good girl. Everybody loves her. Her schoolmates inquire constantly after her and some of them are coming to see her.

You will see an account in the paper of Dr. Wright's

funeral.² It was as large an assemblage as I ever saw here. Poor Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Burns.³ The world soon moves on as though no one had died, but the widow and orphan children are bereaved. You never acknowledged the \$10.00 I sent you by postal order.

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Feb. 11, 1881

My Dear Mary,

We received your letter this morning, that is Mother, Julia, and I. I think you must have a telephone or something else to tell you when I am going to write to you, for our last three letters were written on the same day, and we had

² Dr. E.M. Wright was a prominent citizen and physician. His funeral, held January 7, was a major event, causing the cancellation of public meetings and the closing of schools and businesses in the city. Rev. McCallie assisted with the services, delivering an "eloquent prayer." Chattanooga Times, January 8, 1891.

³ This is probably a reference to Ellen Bell Burns, the widow of Allen C. Burns, who was involved in early Chattanooga Banking. Wilson, Chattanooga 132.

the same thing in our letter of Feb 2nd vis. that Mr. White and Miss Annie Henegar were going to be married. I do not know if it is so or not, but I suppose it is. I think she is far, far superior to him, if however she would only take Fritz Hardy, Esq., she would do splendid. I guess though that he is waiting for either you or Mary Cargil. I hope both of you will not disappoint him. Think how much it would gratify mother to see you all married so well. Julia says she has already set her cap for Charlie. Poor Mary Cargil has the mumps very badly. She is sick in bed. I guess you can sympathize with her. Grandmother is better. Paul I think is also better. Mother says he slept better last night than for several nights previous. He has brightened up considerably the last two or three days. He has taken a great deal fancy to me lately and calls for me, even in the night. I nurse him a great deal, so you see I am a help instead of a trouble. I tell him a great many tales, all of my own make up, and so, of course, draw on my own imagination extensively. He has such strange tastes. The other day I was telling him how we would go and see Queen Victoria and she would take us in the dining room and give us bananas and oranges. Paul says "and would she have hash gravy." He thinks that far superior to anything else. I was telling him how we would go down in the carriage after you when you came home and I said that when you got off the cars you would not see Mother and me, but you would only see him and you would take him up in your arms and

kiss and hug him. He jumped up and said I would say to sister Mary "It is dinner time." This morning I was showing Spencer a picture of a butterfly in the First Reader. He looked up and said "Does it give much butter?" I told him no and he said "What did they name it that for?" Then as if a sudden thought had struck him he said "I guess all the other names were gone and they had to name it that." Spencer is awful bad, but Jamie is just as sweet as sweet can make him. He fights, however, like everything and remembers every bad word he hears the boys say. I heard him call Spencer a "nigger" this morning. He takes care of himself a good deal, as we....[The remainder of this letter is missing]

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 4, 1881

My Dear Sister,

Father has written and told you how Paul died. I was at school when he died. He had been so very much better the day or two before he died that our hopes were very high, but Wednesday evening he commenced to get worse, but we all thought it was because of the change in the weather. He had a

very bad night indeed. He was very restless and kept jumping up and down in the bed. The next morning I asked Father if I had better not stay at home. He said he did not think it necessary since he would be at home all day. Afterwards I regretted so much that I did not stay. I felt so strange Wednesday morning. I cried several times in school, yet did not know what I was crying about. About 11:30 I heard someone knock at the door, then I heard Mr. Sevier say Miss Grace McCallie, someone wants to see you at the door. Oh Mary, you don't know how strange I felt, especially as I had been thinking about Paul. When I got to the door, Thomas said Grace, Paul is dead. I felt so stunned that I could neither do or say anything. After a while I told him to go and tell Julia, as she was in the recreation room. Then I went in and said Mr. Sevier, I must go home. He said very well. Then I went in the cloakroom. Very soon afterwards Miss Stalsmith came in and put her arms around me and said she was so sorry for me. Then I could stand it no longer, but sat down and cried. Julia came in soon after and we then went home. Paul's death was a great surprise to nearly everyone. Cousin Joe and Cousin Lillie stayed all night with us last night. Paul was buried this evening at three o'clock. Mr. Bachman preached the funeral service, in his prayer he asked that God would comfort and sustain us in this time of affliction. As it was snowing very hard weather, Mother and I got out at the grave yard. Mother said it was such a comfort to her that Paul died

so peacefully and so sweetly. Oh! Mary, he was such a dear sweet patient sufferer. Though death was a release to him we will all miss him so very, very much. Paul never forgot you and when I would show him the picture of the group of girls you sent me and would say which is Mary, he would point to you instantly, and when I would say which is the prettiest, he would say sister Mary and then laugh. The night before he died mother asked him if he wanted to say his prayers and he said yes. He was so weak all he could say was "God bless, make me a good boy." He often prayed for the Good Spirit to dwell in him. It seems that God always takes the sweetest and the best. Paul looked very natural, but oh so white. Mrs. Nealy brought him a beautiful bouquet which mother will send to you. They sang two songs, first "One Sweetly, Solemn Thought" and "Christian Home in Glory." I am sorry to say that cousin Nellie Griffis is dangerously ill. Cousin John told Mary this morning that he did not think she would live. Mary seems much distressed about her mother. Jamie is just as sweet and pretty as he can be. He is very fat, but he is a good deal like Spencer. I never saw such a strange child as Spencer is. Last night he told mother he did not believe there is any God, that he had prayed and it didn't do any good. Father says we all need to pray for Spencer. Dear Paul we will miss so very much. Every time [I] go into the front room it seems so strange not to see Paul there. I cannot

realize that he is dead. It seems that he has just gone on a journey and that he will soon come back.

Ever your loving Sister,

Grace

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 11, 1881

My Dear Mary,

As I am not going to school today I wanted to write you a good long letter. My cold is better, but as today is the last day of the week mother thought I had better stay at home till Monday. I received your letter this morning. I think the picture of Ettie Millaine in the group is the best of all. School will close in April. Fannie Bachman is to write the valedictory and Nick Van Dyke the salutary.¹ Guess what an incompatable, incomparable voluptuous thing I have got to do. It is to write an essay for the last day of school. What shall I do, What shall I say. I am going to try to get

¹ This is a reference to T. Nixon Van Dyke. Tennessee: A History 3: 283.

excused to tell Miss Wagner that I have been absent so much and will have to study so hard for the final examination that I will not have time to write an essay. Miss Wagner came Monday, when she entered the school room she made a low bow to the school, for a while all was quiet. Then the boys commenced to clap like everything. Mr. Sevier told us to stop (I think it was so mean of him), but they just kept on. Father said it must have been very gratifying to Miss Wagner. We all thought it was very nice of the boys to clap. Everyone seemed so glad to see her back, it makes it seem like a different school. All of us except Julia and Jamie went to cousin Nellie's funeral.² Mr. Bachman and father preached the funeral services. The parlor, sitting room, dining room, hall, porch and yard were full. Mother, myself, and others had to sit upstairs. We could however hear every word that was said. The singing was beautiful. The first song was Asleep in Jesus, the last was a chant and was beautiful. Father made a splendid prayer and told some incidents from cousin Nellie's life. He said he had never heard her utter an angry remark or say anything evil of anyone. Surely that is a virtue we should all pray for. Mary Griffis has the mumps. Eva's grandmother is dead. She died last night. Eva however is better now, but not out of danger yet.³ I hope that she

² She refers to Nellie Hooke Griffis.

³ Eva was the daughter of Frank H. Woodworth, a successful hardware merchant. She went on to work as a music teacher. Chattanooga City Directory, 1892 (Chattanooga, 1892)

will get well. It will be sad for them if she dies too. Kate has left us.⁴ She went with a lady to Uttica, Ohio. She said she would write soon and tell us how she was getting along. She does not expect to stay more than a year. We got another girl staying with us. She seems to get along very well. Did I ever tell you Mary Hughes was married and that was the reason she left our house. We suspected it and asked her about it, but she just laughed and would not tell us. Yesterday was Mamie Hooke's birthday. Frank gave her a beautiful pair of cuff buttons and cuffs. Saturday two weeks ago Jenny Hixon and I had a splendid horseback ride out to the foot of Lookout Mountain. I enjoyed it ever so much. I got a letter from Mamie Hooke not very long ago. She enjoys Washington near as much as she does Chattanooga. Mother got a very nice letter from Miss Annie Henegar sympathizing with her in the death of Paul. Oh Mary, you don't know how much we all miss him. I can never think of the Jams without thinking of dear little Paul. Mary Griffis says before her mother died her father never had family prayers, but the night after she died he had them for the first time. Annie Wheeler met Julia in the street the other day and asked very kindly about you. Do you still correspond with her? You remember Tom about whom we used to tease Kate. He died not very long ago. Cousin Add and

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⁴ Kate was probably a servant.

little John Whitesides are spending Thursday with us. Give my love to Lillie.

Ever your loving sister,

Grace

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 12, 1881

My Dear Daughter,

We are all tolerably well except Park. He has been suffering from a cold for two days, but is better. I do not think any of us feel strong this spring weather. I do not, though I cannot complain of being sick.

Your letter to Grace was rather gloomy. You must try and preserve your cheerfulness, for it is an essential element in the struggle of life. I would have been glad if you could have been at home with us; for the simple reason if there had been no other, that you would not have felt so lonely. But that could not be, so let us trust God and bear our burdens bravely. We must school ourselves never to be unduly cast down by trials. We must always remember that there is no furnace in which Jesus is not with his people. He orders all our trials and he will sustain us in them.

We hardly had time to think of our loss. We were so much concerned for cousin John C. Griffis. He seems so much broken in spirit by his affliction. But he acknowledges God's hand in it and seems humble. I hope it will help him in his journey to the better land. He talks much like a Christian. I hope and believe God meant it for good.

Grace has not been quite well and we have kept her home. Julia is in fine health, is studying well, and is improving in music. The boys seem to be much taken up with play and it is a little hard to get steady work out of them, but I think they have both improved.

Eva Woodworth is much improved and is in a fair way to recover. Cousin Press Gamble was here today. They have eleven children at their house - a goodly number. He reports all our relatives are well.

We have had a more unhealthy winter here than you have had in Ky. It has been so changeable that it has been a good deal of sickness. There has been a good deal of pneumonia. I find it the case in Concord as well as here in C.. Rev. Mr. Bags is sick. I preach for him tomorrow morning. All send love.

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

FROM THOMAS SPENCER MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 20, 1881

Dear Sister Mary,

I hope you will forgive me for not writing to you. My time is pretty much occupied playing ball and attending to school matters. Our baseball club, of which Will Thomasson is capt. played Robert's club, of which Will Darnell was Capt. They beat us only because they had an umpire that cheated for their side. Robert had it put in the paper in the Odds and Ends column of March 20th, 81. Benjamin is growing sweeter every day. He says sister Mary as sweet as anybody. Julia asked him where was Mary. She said Tucky as sweet as sugar. I let the cow get to the calf this evening. She got all the milk. I have been trying to wean him for the past week or so. We had a sudden change in the weather. Saturday was very warm. Sunday is very cold. Mother has just given Spencer a dressing for saying bad words. Henry Warner¹ was sitting on a seat in Sunday school this morning and a pocketful of matches took fire in his pocket and burnt a hole in his pocket. The school board has been thinking for a while that we could have

¹ Possibly a child of J.C. Warner, president of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. Gilbert Govan and James W. Livingood, The Chattanooga Country (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977) 354.

but 7 months of school, but now they think we can have 8 months of school. Robert is at the head of his class in everything. He is improving rapidly. Father is a great deal better, also Jamie. Jamie calls everybody but the members of the family Aunie. He calls Dr. Gibbs,² who has been waiting over here Aunie too. Mr. Dave McMillian got married the other day to Miss Stewart of Meridian Miss. I suppose Grace told you about her birthday and of her present a necklace of gold. I bought a robin the other day for five cents and turned it loose after I bought it. The black birds have come again with their foolish chattering. They are now sitting in the great oak. Mother got a letter from cousin Betsy. I wrote a letter to Wallace the other day.

It is time I am going to bed to my night's work. I must bid you a goodbye.

Your Loving Brother,

Thomas McCallie

P.S. Please write to me soon.

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 30, 1881

² Vaulx Gibbs, a physician.

My Dear Daughter,

We were all gladdened yesterday with letters from you, as we are always delighted to hear from you. When we don't hear we all commence imagining something is wrong. We are having some sharp winter here now. We had hoped that winter weather was over, but it is on us again. Our pear trees and peach trees are in bloom, but this severe cold may kill the fruit. I was at Concord last Sunday, had scarcely gotten over my cold sufficiently to go, but got along tolerably well. Am still suffering from cold. Would have gone to the farm, if I had been quite well. Cousin Josephine, we heard yesterday, is down sick.¹ She had been very attentive to a sick and dying child in her neighborhood and overtaxed her strength. Cousin Ad has been here nearly two weeks. She has gone now to see cousin Josephine. Cousin Rejin's family get along poorly. Aunt Louisa says she has had a hard time this winter. Mary Ellen is now going to school.

I read your request from Grace to give you some points for an essay on the Evidences of Christianity. I will try and draw off a few heads, but as you yourself are fresh off the study of the subject I expect you could help me instead of my helping you. Mr. Bachman commences a sacramental mtg. tonight, services every night this week. You will see in this

¹ Josephine Hooke was a cousin of T.H. McCallie. McCallie 18.

weeks Christian Observer² an obituary of Cousin Nellie, written by myself. Cousin Sallie seems to be getting along well with the children. Mary G. has started again to school.

Do not overdo matters toward the close of the term. Take exercise whenever you have time. Be careful also of your diet. Do not eat too much, not too fast. Try and preserve your health, for without health, we cannot accomplish much in this world. It is better for you to leave Bellewood with health than to graduate with high honors, good health is worth more than a diploma.

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

Evidences of Christianity

I. It throws light on the dark problems of life, whence came I, whither I am going. When the wise men of Northumbria gathered to deliberate on the question whether they should reject idols and accept +ianity,³ an aged Elderman said "So seems the life of man, and king, as a sparrow's flight through a hall when you are sitting at meal at winter-tide, with the warm fire lighted on the hearth, but the icy rain

² The Christian Observer was a popular Protestant religious periodical published in Louisville, Kentucky.

³ Throughout this portion of the original letter, Rev. McCallie used the sign of the cross as an abbreviation for the word "Christ."

storm without. The sparrow flies in at one door and tarries for a moment in the light and heat of the hearth fire, and then, flying forth from the other, vanishes into the country darkness whence it came. So tarries for a moment the life of man in our sight: but what is before it; what after it, we know not. If this new teaching tells us most certainly of these, let us follow it." His argument was so simple and so true, that it prevailed with our Saxon ancestors and led Eadwine and his counselors to accept the new religion.

You can show that Deism, or infidelity settles nothing - the wisest of the ancients did not know whether we lived again after death. Cicero said "If man lives again." He did not know of man's immortality, but how clear +ianity.

II. The fruits of +ianity. We judge men by this standard. We judge a tree by it. It is fair to judge a government by it, or a religion. Show the fruits of +ianity as contrasted with the revenge, jealousy, murder, and lust of the heathen gods. Contrast it with Moslemism. Mohammedans shudder to kill a snake, a tiger, or the vermin that preys on the person, yet they rejoice in the wholesale destruction of their enemies. +ianity inculcates kindness towards enemies, forgiveness too.

+ianity produces holy men and women, the only religion on earth which does.

III. Argument from the prophecies. When Frederick the great was one day riding with his chaplain and wishing to test him, said "Chaplain give me the shortest argument you have in favor of +ianity." The chaplain replied "Sire, the Jews." These prophecies were proved to be ancient 1800 years ago, translated in Alexandria 300 B.C., guarded jealously by the Jews.

O.T. proposed of a Messiah to come. (a) Time foretold, Gen 49:10. This p. shows that the messiah would come while the Jews were yet a united people, that a king should reign among them, Mat. 3:1, mark the time he comes to the "temple."

Dan 9:24.25 shows that 490 years after the rebuilding of the temple M. would come. The Jews own to this day that the day their prophet ought to have appeared has long since passed

(b) The family out of which it is to appear and the place where he is to be born, see Isa: 11:1, Micah 1:2. Show that their prophecies are fulfilled in the person of +.

(c) The facts of his life, his character, the meanness of his life also clearly foretold, Isa:53:2, 49:7. Jews looking for a temporal king disregarded all these prophecies, and helped to fulfill them, "Is this not the carpenter's son."

His riding into humble triumph into Jerusalem, his being betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, and scourged, and rejected. The last draught of vinegar, the parting of the raiment were all foretold.

Zechariah says "They weighed for my price 30 pcs. of silver." See ful in Mat.

Z says they took 30 pcs. of S. and cast them to potter - see ful in Mat.

Z they shall look at him whom they have pierced. David they pierced my hands and my feet." - so it was.

The 3 chap of Isa. alone would prove the truth of +ianity, study that chapter and you can present it in your essay.

(d) Prophecies relating to Babylon - Isa 13:19.20, 21, 22, exactly fulfilled.

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

April 13, 1881

My dear child,

I will take advantage of Thomas' vacant sheet, and ask you some questions with reference to the white dress about which we are now so much exercised. First, I have Allmans new catalogue for spring and summer . He has some beautiful suits of white organdie, French laun and Linen de Inde (which is a laun with a fine linen finish) illustrated. They are

handsomely trimmed with Hamburg or laces. Two of them especially struck me. They are of Linen de Inde, trimmed with elegant Hamburg - one with basque, the other round waist, both finished with satin ribbons, and both walking length. They are worth \$19.50. Now you let me know what style of dress, trimmings, and materials Mrs. Watkins proposes to make for you girls for \$16.00, then you send me your bust measure, outside length of sleeve, waist measure, and measure of your skirt in front - I mean length. I will order either from New York, or send you word at once to get Mrs. Watkins to make a dress for you, if I am pleased with her material and trimming. If you want white kids, let me know the number of buttons required. I expect I can get them cheaper in New York, if I order the dress from there. Father just returned from the farm since dinner - went up on Tuesday. He reports everything doing well. He brought down some fine hogs, for which we received a good price. Mrs. Stutles was so grieved over Paul's death. She told Father it hurt her almost as if it had been one of her own children. I cannot mention the dear child's name without my heart swelling up. I miss him so much, for he was always with me. Before his sickness I took him everyplace I went. He seemed so grieved to be separated from me. I thought of what you used to tell me about how you used to feel, so I rarely ever refused him. I am so glad now that I gratified him. I think he was the loveliest corpse I ever saw - and so everybody said. He looked angelic, with his

pure complexion and golden hair. I felt that I would love to keep him with me, but God's will be done. The precious child was ready for heaven. I am sorry that I mentioned his name, for it opens the floodgate of feeling. Poor Mrs. Hodge, whose son was working upon the streets with ball and chain the day our little one was buried, would gladly have lain hers in the tomb, pure and innocent as ours. Cousin Josephine was over this evening. She says she is looking for Cousin Aurilia and Josie down next week. Cousin Sallie was over this afternoon. She has been quite unwell since Nellie's death, but is now better. John has the measles, the baby is doing finely. Mollie Campbell was married Tuesday to Captain Beall, a conductor on the W.A. Road. They will live in Atlanta. Cousin Eva has gone to Capt. Peaks to make a visit there. The girls, Grace and Julia, miss her so much. The children and servants all liked her very much. She is a nice girl, good looking and sprightly. They, Cousin Eva, Willie, Grace, and Julia took tea at Cousin Roberts yesterday evening - had a splendid time and of course a good supper. The schoolgirls are wild after Willie. He is such a nice boy, good, good looking, smart, and polite. He has a situation at Nelson's bookstore, commenced today. Mr. Nelson will have to get a new supply of stationery. Every girl is out and will have to get it from there. I am going to have Prof. Hacker take a crayon portrait of my father, and probably mother's. He made a splendid one of Dr. Wright. Cousin William Wilson says he is

proud of you. We were much pleased with your report. I have kept praying for you, my dear child, that God will bless you with an abundant outpouring of the spirit, and make you greatly useful with your schoolmates. Preserve your cheerfulness, for thereby you can glorify your Saviour. All join me in much love. Let me hear from you at once. Did you get cousin Nellie's picture? God bless you and keep you safe is the prayer of

Mother

FROM THOMAS SPENCER MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

April 19, 1881

Dear Sister,

I will write and tell you that you have another little brother.¹ It was born Friday night at 3 am. Mother says that it is the smallest baby that she ever had. It is about 3 or 4 lb. and is about one and one-half foot long. It is very pretty. I suppose you have not heard of the death of Henry Warner. He died of meningitis Saturday morning. He was thirteen years old. Our Sunday school class all went to the

¹ Henry Douglas McCallie was born April 16, 1881.

funeral in the morning. Porter and Thomas Ewing took it harder than anybody else. The grave was draped with cedar branches all the way down. Cousin Eva Montgomery says she is coming over and nurse the baby soon. She is at Capt. Peaks. It was very hot this morning till about 1 o'clock PM, [then] it began to rain. It rained all evening and it is raining now (8 o'clock). The baby is very pretty to be only three days old. Jamie catches it by the toe and kisses its foot, but all the rest do not. We are all well except slight colds. I hope you are well. How is Lillie getting along. We are making big preparations for a big fourth of July. Mayor Hart has already appointed a committee to begin work. Robert Morrison² is going to give a "Tea Party" to the fishing party of Chattanooga.³ I cannot think of anything to say except that Spencer is telling mother some big tales. Goodbye, from your brother

T.S.M.

FROM MR. AND MRS. THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

² Robert Morrison was a druggist in Chattanooga. Wilson, Chattanooga 157.

³ This is a reference to the Macrae club. Named for General William Macrae, the club was devoted exclusively to fishing and its membership was limited to twelve of Chattanooga's wealthiest and most respected citizens. Wilson, Chattanooga 204.

Chattanooga

April 19, 1881

My Own Dear Child,

I know that you will be surprised at the intelligence contained in Thomas' letter, and as I feel pretty well this afternoon, I will write you a few lines and tell you the particulars. God has indeed given to our care and love another dear little boy. He came last Saturday morning about four o'clock. And though he was an unexpected guest - for at least a month yet, I cannot say he was an unwelcome one, for we all love the dear little treasure, and when we thought, Saturday afternoon, that he could not live, we were very sorry. He is a delicate little fellow, but perfectly formed, and now seems to be getting along very nicely. I am doing very well, and trust that God will be so gracious as to spare me to you all for many years yet. I want to know that I have an interest in your prayers. Your allusions to the dear mothers who have been taken from their families touched my heart. I received your letters today and your postal two days ago. I will send an order to New York for the dress, if you prefer it. Let [me know] at once. You did not tell me the material Mrs Watkins was to use in the dress. I did not want Tarlton or any material that would not suit for a church or street dress. You can get a summer hat in Louisville, and I

should think ought to get a real nice one for \$6.00. Cousin Eva purchased a lovely one for that price. You will need some kind of gloves, how would you like nice white lace mitts, some real nice ones. I think them quite stylish, and they would not look badly upon your left hand. Father is about to ride the girls out, and I want to mail my letter, so will hurry through. I must tell you how kind and attentive the children have all been since I was taken sick. Grace and Julia behave real nicely, and think the baby is great, and though he is small yet he has such perfect features that he is pretty. I know you will open the heart to the little fellow. I would love to be with you my child at Commencement and visit mamouth cave, but will have to forgo that pleasure. I do hope though, that I can induce father to take Grace. I will try my best. Grace has finished my essay and handed it in. I think it right good. Cousin Eva goes home this Thursday. I won't get tired of your "dress letters" for I feel an interest in whatever interests you. Just tell me freely and tell me what you want and would like. Write to me at once and I will order what you want. Don't you need some real cloth boots or slippurs, and what number? How much did you borrow from Lillie? Enclosed you will find a P.O. for your hat, and to pay Lillie.¹

¹ The remainder of this letter was written by T.H. McCallie.

Mother wrote thus far. I called at the P.O. at 5 o'clock for a postal order, but the office was closed. I will send it tomorrow. Four dollars is the proceeds of the sale of your heifer. I realized that much above what I had already paid you. The baby sends his love to his Kentucky sister, Jamie likewise. He talks about his "tuckie" sister.

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

TO ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Bellewood Seminary

April 19, 1881

My Dearest Mother,

Well I suppose by this time you have received my blue letter and are thinking it is time I repented having written such a thing and that it is about time I am revoking that doleful epistle.

It was truthful though if it was doleful. For the first time since I have been here I have cried for pure homesickness or perhaps it was more mother-sickness, for I feel if I could just see you I would be so happy.

All day yesterday and most of this morning I had one of the worst headaches I have ever endured.

While it was in the zenith I had to go to the regular Friday evening lecture. It was on the "microscope" and was by Prof. Weeds of Louisville and was about the most interesting we have ever had here. In spite of my headache I enjoyed it very much indeed.

I received your's and Thomas' letter this morning with Spencer's picture. They drove away at the same time the "blues" and headache and tonight I feel decidedly more cheerful, though every now and then I feel that I am on the outside of Giant Despair's castle. Your letters hauled me out of the "Slough of Despond" and I hope, thoughts of you will keep me from being dragged "will I, will I" into the "castle."

I never had the fortune, or rather the misfortune to see such a place as this before. This morning, fully a week and more into April, we had a slight snowfall. I expect you had better send me a bearskin and blanket to graduate in.

Lillie is better this evening. The girls, Lillie, Kittie, and Ettie, are all downstairs waiting for the prayer bell to ring while I am taking the moment to pen these sublime and thrilling lines.

I feel very happy this evening, like laughing and hopping. It is always my fate to be at extremes. I am either at the very bottom of the valley or on top of the mountains.

This morning it was the bottomest bottom of the valley, this evening it is the top bluff of the mountain.

I have been writing by too little light, because I was too lazy to get up and close the blinds and light the lamp, but at last darkness overcame laziness. Thomas wrote me a very nice letter this morning, it had more news in it than any letter I had received in a long time. I will answer both his and Julia's letters as soon as possible.

I am so sorry I am not at home now while Eva is there. I think I remember her, but I remember Jamie best of all. I liked her so much while I was there.

Spencer's picture was so "cute." I did not recognize him until Lillie said, "Why that's Spencer." He seemed to have grown so much. I wish Grace would send me one of her pictures anyway. I would not let anyone else see it but myself. I want to see one even if it is not good.

Mrs. Scott, Ettie, Miss Sue, and Ruth Shreve all think Spencer looks like me, but I don't see it.

I have at last finished one of my essays, but I feel perfectly disgusted with it. It is exceedingly short, but fearfully short for so horrid an affair. My other one has to be nine or ten pages. It is supremely dreadful.

I have examinations enough to kill a girl who did not have a constitution of cast-iron.

I will have to stop for prayers and I do not know if I will get to finish this tonight or not.

9:30 P.M., Kittie's great friend Cora Conner has been making candy in her room tonight and she's brought some in to Kittie and of course we all got some. I never hear of a single [thing] that happens in Chattanooga, for we have not received a paper in over 7 weeks and when I received Mary Cargil's letter I was astonished to hear of some of the changes which had taken place i the neighborhood. I fear that I shall not know my own native place when I get home.

Mother don't you all look forward to June with a great deal of pleasure. If you do then we there is at least one point on which we heartily sympathize.

You asked in your last letter about what Maria said. She is with Mrs. Marye at last. Mrs. M. is teaching and the schoolhouse is more than a half a mile from her house. The weather has been very bad, but she has only been kept away from school 2 or 3 days by a threatened attack of diptheria. She also had a hard time with the neuralgia. Maria, of course, is housekeeper. She does not like Lynchburg. Her sister Anna has a little girl and Maria wants very much to go through Atlanta on a trip home.

As you saw, by the direction of the letter, Maria does not know that I am away from home, so I will have to ask some of you to deliver the messages. She wants her love to be given to the Bachmans, one and all, and asked if I ever saw old Aunt Dinah now.

She wants one of my pictures, but I haven't any to send her. Annie Wheeler asked me for one too, but my supply was not entirely inexhaustible.

I wrote to Mary Griffis some time ago, but as I have never received any reply, I do not know if she ever got it or not.

I hope Grace will succeed in getting off her essay on "slang." I would like to see a copy of it, when it is through. Please tell Grace to send me that first picture of Ettie M's. She has asked me for it 2 or 3 times.

As the time for going to bed has at length arrived and tomorrow is Sunday when we are not allowed to write, I will close.

Please give my love to all the kin and to my friends also.

Please write to me as often as you can. You have been writing to me so much more than usual lately and I appreciate it so much.

Your Loving Daughter,

Mary

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

May 11, 1881

My dear child,

Your letter, containing the letter from Altmans, was received this morning. Julia wrote you a postal yesterday morning about sending her the silk skirt. For fear you might not receive her card, I will tell you again. If you can get a paste board box, or a strong wrapper of brown paper, you could send it by mail at a very slight expense. Cousin Mollie says she will make Julia a real pretty dress for the close of school. She has the white overdress already, so that you do not need the skirt. It will save me buying, and utilize what we already have. I am glad you got your hat, and think you got it low as you could for a real nice one. I hope your dress will be very nice. The balance of the money you can expend as much as you need in getting your gloves, tuttle, and c., as Altmans wrote me that he could not find them, as I had not specified the size. You may doubtless use some for washing, and if any of the servants have been especially faithful, I always like to give them some token of my appreciation. Be saving though, my dear, as you can, for we have been to a good deal of expense this winter. While I was sick, I had to hire a regular nurse. Which, though it made an unusual outlay of money, yet I feel it was paid in the good care I received. Cousin Dock Hooke is lying very low at Cousin Josephines with pneumonia. The children are nearly

wild over their final examinations and the near prospect of vacation. I want you to keep real cheerful, and cast all your care upon the Lord who careth for you. I feel so thankful that we can call upon him in every time of need, and that our highest trials are of [concern] to him. Seek to do your very best, and leave the issue with him. Don't disturb yourself, or worry about one single thing. I am not saying much about father going after you and taking Grace. He says he will not, but I will quietly get her ready, and whatever is the best will be. But don't you expect her, just "take the good the gods provide," and drive dull care away. Let me know at once if you can send the skirt without too much worry. If not, I will have to make some other arrangements for Julia. All join me in love. Truly your mother,

E.D. McCallie

FROM JULIA ALEXANDER MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

May 28, 1881

My Dear Mary,

I suppose Mrs. Bellewood has prohibited you from writing to your humble sister, Julia. I have not received a letter

from you for about two solid months. I am writing a journal now, and maybe you can see it when you get home. Do you think, judging from his letter, that you will like cousin Willie? I like him splendidly. He is so smart.

The 1rst and the 2nd the Baptist and the Presbyterian Sunday schools unite in a picnic at Lookout station, 15 miles off. Willie gave me a ticket, not knowing that I could go free. He paid fifty cents for it, and of course, I have to go with him. I gave my ticket to Mamie Hooke, as she does not go to Sunday School.

Annie Wheeler says she is coming over to see you the day you get home, says she can hardly wait for the 1rst of June. Grace is over at Grace Divine's for supper. She has so many nice, large strawberries. Tell Lillie Grace was over at her house all evening nearly this evening, and had a very nice time.

I got his paper at Winter's and Nelson's from Willie.

I have received two letters from cousin Eva since she left for home. She, cousin Will, Willie, and all just beg Grace and I to come and see them this summer. I do hope we will get to go. It is just about ten days until we expect to see you home. Won't we be glad.

Oh, Jamie is so sweet and cunning. He talks tolerably well. We say "Jamie, where is sister Mary?" and he'll say "titter Mary in Tucky" just as sweet as sugar

I passed my grade creditably. We got a letter from Mrs. Young today and she just praised you up to the highest pitch. She says she hopes father will come up to see you graduate and asks that he will send Grace and myself up to Bellewood to school. Who is to read the valedictory? I have never written to Ignoramus since you asked me not to do so. Thomas spilt milk all over this.

Julia McCallie

CHAPTER III

LETTERS OF ROBERT BARTON MCCALLIE

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Sept. 10, 1889

Dear Robert,

If you can not read my letter, send it back for interpretation. To redeem his promise, Douglas ought to write to you, for he has already received one whipping. He said the teacher raised his switch way up in the air just like she was going to strike hard just to frighten him and then came down so easy that she did not even make him cry. He has been so used to hard whippings at home that he has an utter contempt for any other kind. He told Miss Todd that he was going home and that he wasn't coming back any more. She said all right, it would just make room for one more boy. He didn't like this way of looking at it, so [he] decided to go back. Poor Edward is lost without the other boys. He spends his time now in paying his devotions to Bill Lilliard. Spencer started to school yesterday morning. He reports Prof. Collins to have a

full school. Spencer thinks he lost a full year by going to Prof. Bachman, but I don't agree with him. I see by the papers that John L. Sullivan¹ is going to run for Congress. He says if anyone doubts his popularity let him travel through the United States with him and watch his great popularity with the crowds that greet him. Mr. Martin has been removed from the Post Office and Mr. John Stone appointed in his stead.² I was in town Thursday evening and met Fannie Bachman. She said you promised to come and tell her goodbye, but failed to come. She wants you to write to her. If you have time I would do so. You will enjoy her letters, and the writing will do you good. Fannie says she thinks so much of you. Cliff Gregg asked me if I didn't miss you. I told Prof. Gregg he ought to send you a board bill. He said they all enjoyed having you come. Mr. Hunter³ has been very sick in Ireland and came near dying - is now at some watering place in Southern England for his health. I can not write any more, as Julia is in the room talking.

¹ John L. Sullivan was a heavyweight boxing champion who expressed his desire at one point to enter politics and represent Boston in Congress. Chattanooga Times, September 8, 1889.

² George W. Martin, postmaster of Chattanooga and a Democrat, was removed from office by President Benjamin Harrison and replaced by John W. Stone, a Republican, as a matter of political patronage. Chattanooga Times, September 7, 1889.

³ Robert Hunter, an Indiana native, owned a strawberry farm on Missionary Ridge. Sam Divine, The Wit and Wisdom of Sam Divine, ed. Thomas McCallie Divine (Chattanooga: The Chattanooga News-Free Press, 1986) 220.

With Love,

Grace

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Sept. 13, 1889

My Dear Robert,

I have been anxious to write you a letter ever since you left us, for I have thought of you every day. It's now Sunday afternoon. We have had the Sunday School lesson. Julia and John have gone back home.¹ Park [is] going in with her to take care of John till she reached home. Minnie is sick and could not come back. Spencer has returned to the privacy of his own room on account of antagonism between himself and the little boys. Grace is preparing the evening lunch. Thomas has gone to his usual resort. Your father is resting in the big rocking chair, while Clara, Park, Douglas, and Edward are watching the milking and making merry on the back porch.

¹ John McCallie Divine, born May 5, 1888, was the first child of Julia and Sam Divine. Thomas Hooke McCallie, An Early Family Record: The McCallie Family in Tennessee (Chattanooga: The McCallie School, 1959) 2.

Little Ellen is trotting around all of them. Mrs. DeGrummond² went into town last night, to the orphan's home, to stay over Sunday. Her time is out and she is going back home some time this week. I have given you a picture of our home. Our old home will be ready for us to move into about the middle of this week. It looks very nice, and the yard is being graded so as to improve the surroundings. Our new home is progressing rapidly. It looks enormous. The upstairs commands a matchless view. The lake is quite full, the grounds around nicely cleaned up, and everything in trim for the "Reunion."³ The electric cars began running to Ridgedale this morning. It takes off a good deal of the travel for Sunday over our line, and leaves us in comparative quiet, which we have enjoyed. There have been a number of robberies in Ridgedale, Sherman Heights, and other suburbs. Arthur Cary⁴ lost his Sunday suit one night while he was staying

² This is possibly Mrs. Belle DeGrummond, matron at the Mission Home for Fallen Women. Chattanooga City Directory, 1892 (Chattanooga, 1892) 307.

³ This is a reference to the annual reunion of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War, which met in Chattanooga in 1881 and later in 1889. Gilbert Govan and James W. Livingood, The Chattanooga Country (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1977) 365-67.

⁴ Arthur Cary was assistant to the superintendent of the Mutual Real Estate and Home Building Association. 1892 Directory 255.

with Mrs. Trimble, during Mr. Trimble's absence,⁵ and last night Mr. Cary said someone was prowling around his house. He got up and scared him off. Old troop lies at our front door. You know his valor - but he does chime in with other dogs around and having a deep growl may fill with terror the heart of any would be thief - at any rate the negroes stand at a respectable distance, keeping the fence between them. Grand preparations are being made to give our city a boost during the Reunion. Market street is being handsomely decorated besides other buildings off at that stretch. It is thought that there will be 25,000 guests. Many private families are entertaining them. Mr. John L. Divine takes thirteen. Major Marshalt expects to feed about 50 and has tents erected on University grounds.⁶ Cliff Gregg told father about your letter to him. Douglas says that he is going to write to you, that I must do all the writing, but he will think of what to say. Ed says that he is glad that these soldiers "that are coming down didn't have any chance to fight him, for he was dust then, but he expects they walked over him lots, and swept him out." Douglas has arranged unique plans for a holiday. He is going to tell his teacher he has "peritive" business in town, just obliged to see the sites, cause she'll

⁵ This is probably a reference to Mr. and Mrs. William J. Trimble, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church. 1892 Directory 684.

⁶ U.S. Grant University, later renamed The University of Chattanooga.

"scuse" him. I have told you the home news because I thought it would help keep up a home feeling. We are so glad that you are pleased and look for you to accomplish much in your studies. Oh! how I enjoyed my school days. They only passed off too quickly, for I began life's duties when younger than you by nearly a year - just eighteen! But I had been working with a set purpose in view for nine years - my age when father died. My days of teaching were short but successful. I think I can truly commend to you, from my own experience, to ask the Lord to guide you in your life's work. If he directs your steps they will not, cannot, go astray. Julia says she would like a letter from you and Douglas will expect one as also Grace and myself, and as you are deficient in capitals I will send you a supply that you can put in at discretion. Please find below. We sent you daily papers that will give you the local news. With kind regards to John and James and much love to you, I am,

Mother

Capitals

A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Sept. 29, 1889

Dear Robert,

I was very glad to hear from you although your letter was very short. You surely have not given up Greek. I hope not. I should never give it up for French. You can never be a thorough scholar without a thorough knowledge of Greek. It is a great regret that I have never had an opportunity to study it. Give up almost everything before you do your Greek. You can learn more of elegant composition from the old Greek masters than from all The Rhetorics in existence. As a parting advice from an older sister, and one competent to judge, I say "Don't give up Greek." Now in this day and time of women's rights, if you don't want the women to govern you, for they are all studying Greek, don't give it up. We have at last moved into our old home. We are having a little kitchen built on our back porch. The home has been all newly painted and papered and looks very nice. Father said if I would get married he would give it to me. He doesn't dare make Thomas the same offer. In fact, Thomas actually asked for it. Father wanted to know who would pay the taxes on the place. Thomas said "you would," meaning Father. Thomas is running in town, while Gottard runs the ridge car. Both he

and Mr. Hearn board at Salliards.¹ All the conductors and motormen wear a dark blue uniform trimmed with brass buttons. All of the persons injured in the electric railroad are getting well.² General Wilder³ told Mr. Divine he would use all his influence with his men not to sue the railroad. It is not known what they will do. Father has sold the old homestead to Mr. Anderson for \$20,000. Mr. Anderson, the railroad man, intends to build a handsome residence. Our new home is progressing very rapidly. They are sealing it and putting on the bricks. I do not intend to let you get ahead of me this winter, for I am going to take the Chautauqua course. It begins Oct. 9. My books and papers are here. This year relates mostly to Roman History. While last years was Grecian. We read Livy, Horace, Tacitus. Piny, etc., all in English. The course embraces a work in political economy. I don't think I shall relish that much. This winter Lizzie

¹ Salliards was a boarding house popular with men working on the city's streetcar lines. 1892 Directory 613.

² On September 21, 1889 a heavily loaded streetcar lost traction on a damp incline on Missionary Ridge. Drivers lost control of the car, and fearing it would go off an embankment, ordered everyone to jump from the car. As a result, one person was killed and several others were injured. Ironically, the electric railroad had already ordered a special car for the ridge route with special brakes and sand bins, but was late in receiving it. Chattanooga Times, September 22, 1889.

³ John T. Wilder was a Federal officer in the battle of Chattanooga who settled in the city after the war and engaged in a multitude of business ventures and civic promotions. At the time he was probably among the wealthiest and most influential persons in the city. Govan and Livingood 286, 295-96.

Lattimore, Laura Seeman and myself want to study German together. Mr. Lattimore⁴ recently received, through the influence of Judge Snoddgrass, a position as clerk of the Supreme Court.⁵ It pays a salary of \$4,000 per year. Did you see in the paper that Milo Henderson came very near being nominated as Democratic candidate for mayor.⁶ He declined, preferring no doubt to run for some higher office. Our lake is full now and adds very much to the scenery, but has its drawbacks for it has brought with it mosquitos by the hundreds.⁷ Some writer in one of the last Independents⁸ suggests the cultivating of dragonflys as they are known to devour mosquitos. He offers a reward of \$100.00 for the best essay on the subject. Noticing this, another paper, the Morristown Herald, says that tarantulas could be brought in to destroy the dragonflys, rattlesnakes to devour the tarantulas and then the occupants could get up and move. A

⁴ Thomas C. Latimore was a local lawyer and was later appointed city attorney. 1892 Directory 468.

⁵ Judge David L. Snoddgrass was a Judge on the Tennessee Supreme Court. Charles E. McGuffey, Ed. Standard History of Chattanooga, Tennessee (Knoxville: Crew and Dorey, 1911) 645.

⁶ Milo M. Henderson, "a staunch and true Democrat" removed his name from nomination for mayor in favor of Richard C. Watkins. Watkins later lost to the Republican candidate, John A. Hart. Chattanooga Times, September 26, 1889.

⁷ The lake in question is probably McCallie Lake, a spring fed pond on the McCallie property in Chattanooga.

⁸ The Independent was a liberal Congregationalist paper published in New York. Donald Paneth, The Encyclopedia of American Journalism (New York: Facts on File, 1983) 226.

most reasonable suggestion, especially the last. The Independent once again waxes wrathly on the Negro Question. It says if there were a race war, it will be a war of wolves and lambs. The gentle negro will finally be drawn to defend its rights.⁹ Mr. Divine comes out and reads the Independent every Sunday. He gets so mad he can hardly sit still. I guess he reads it so as to keep even with folks during the coming week. It does not even take this much to stir Douglas' trials of wrath. He came downstairs the other morning breathing indignation against Clara, said he was tired of wearing her legs every night for a tie, and moaned for a new bedfellow. Mrs. DeGrummond has gone back north, but her son Gus is here, and is running in the electric railroad. I suppose you know that [the] Smiths have moved into town, Smith did not wish to bury his talents in some country village. Mr. Divine, through Chapman, bought the house for \$15.00. He intends tearing it down. Please write and tell me more about your school. What boys do you like best? Who is best teacher, who is best student? Remember my boy, that if

⁹ During the last months of 1889 race relations in Tennessee, already strained, grew especially tense due to the state's adoption of voting reform acts which served to effectively disenfranchise blacks. In that year the state's legislature implemented the secret ballot and comprehensive voter registration which intimidated and restricted black voters. The first test of these new laws occurred in Chattanooga in early October of 1889, where they were unsuccessfully challenged in the courts, setting a precedent across the state. Joseph H. Cartwright, The Triumph of Jim Crow: Tennessee Race Relations in the 1880s (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1976) 223-53.

four centuries are not looking down upon you, at least three times four persons are anxiously looking and expecting much from you.

Lovingly,

Grace

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

Oct. 6, 1889

Dear Robert,

Your last letter to Grace makes an irresistible appeal for more home news, though you have not answered my letter. It is Sunday afternoon. Grace is entertaining the children with reading and talking, while cousin Mary Bradford, on a short visit to us, is enjoying it with them. Father has been lying down mostly since dinner, not well. He returned from Synod last night at 9 o'clock, took cold, but preached this morning and of course is used up. We had a good congregation, though it was announced last Sunday that we probably would not have services today. Mr. Cary, Thomas, and Miss Kate sang as a voluntary the trio "Nearer My God to Thee." It was beautiful. The whole Cary family were at church except the

old gentleman. Will Hunter says his father and mother expect to reach home this coming week. Thomas is out spending the afternoon at Mr. Cranes - after a long abstinence, since last night.¹ Julia, Mr. Divine, and John were out to church, and took dinner with us. John liked to have upset the meeting by marching into the infant classroom and coming marching out with a great big lamp in his arms, as much as he could carry. Your father preached a great sermon on the parable of the "great supper" from Luke 14, but John wanted to throw more light on it. We are now quite comfortable in our old home in its new dress of paint and paper. The situation is superb, and we are almost fixed up. We have had a new kitchen built, will move into it this week, which will add greatly to our comfort. We now have a nice colored girl (Millie) as cook. Spencer, Clara, Park, and Douglas are going to school. Eddie is so lonesome that I think I will send him. Ellen is very sweet and troublesome. Mr. Divine is now worried about the suit that has been brought against the road by everyone who received even a scratch, after he had already been to the expense of several hundred dollars in taking care of the wounded, paying all their expenses while here. Cousin Sallie Hooke and Mrs. Caldwell were out to see us yesterday afternoon. Our new house is progressing right well. Julia expects to move into hers in three weeks. She will have a

¹ This is probably a reference to Charles S. Crane, a Ridgedale jeweler. Thomas was courting, his daughter, Kate Crane, whom he later married. 1892 Directory 291.

beautiful home. Gus DeGrummond is on the electric road. His mother has returned to Symmes. Percy Wilson² is running on the ridge route. He is getting very tired of the business. He is delighted to have a home once more, so glad to have his sister with him again. Mrs. Read says that Elsie is much pleased with Oxford, Ohio. Fannie Bachman says that the young Japanese girl that came over with Mittie Wilson³ is attending the University, is in one of her classes, and is quite smart. She reads English perfectly, but with a slight accent. Did you get your clothes boy? You never acknowledged it. We remember you constantly, my boy, in our family prayers, and I especially pray for you in that you may be wise in your choice of companions. Ask constantly for guidance in your daily life. Acknowledge God in all your daily ways and He will direct your steps. Chattanooga is booming, [I] would hope that God's spirit would abound, as the city grows. Will mail you papers. All send you much love, especially Edward. Write soon to Mother,

E.D. McCallie

² Percy Wilson was the son of Prof. Percival Wilson, a Chattanooga businessman and an active supporter of the University of Chattanooga. McGuffey 480.

³ A daughter of Percival Wilson who served as a missionary in Japan. McGuffey 480.

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 12, 1889

Dear Robert,

We are all well except Grace. She was taken with a pain in the forefinger of her right hand Thursday before daylight and has been prostrate with pain ever since. She is having a sore time of it. She has no ease, day nor night. She has had it lanced, but still gets no relief. Her hand is badly swollen. The strange thing about [it] is that she does not know how to account for it. The doctor says he can do nothing for her. She will have to wait till it comes to a head. Mother has her hands over full. We fortunately have a cook, and a pretty good one. We are still at work on the old house. We have built a kitchen, a cistern, and a fence, and have this morning sown the yard in blue-grass. It has cost me \$1200 to move the old house and fix it up, but it is better than it was at the start. It has been a hard and a tedious job.

The new house is progressing as rapidly as possible. The roof will be covered in today. The brick work will be finished by the middle or close of next week. The plasterers are at work and things are moving. Julia's house will be

ready for her to occupy in a few days, at least the upstairs. It looks very handsome.

Thomas is on the road still. We do not see him. He sleeps in town. We send him 2 meals a day. The third he picks up where he can get it. I have been trying to get him a place in the bank and also in Carter, Magil, and Ewing,¹ but have not succeeded. Spencer is doing a little better at school, but does not like to work or study. Park and Douglas continue at school. Mother sent Ed one day, but they sent him back as too young.

I was at Synod last week, saw Drs. Lyon and Hersman². They both give a good report of you and John.³

We send you the papers occasionally. Guess you get them. The lake is nearly full. It looks very fine from the house. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are expected home next week.

Love from all,

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

¹ Carter, Magill, and Ewing was a Chattanooga Hardware firm. 1892 Directory 253.

² Dr. C.C. Hersman was appointed Chancellor of Southwestern Presbyterian University in 1888, a position he held for only three years. Dr. James A. Lyon served as professor of natural sciences at the college. Waller R. Cooper, Southwestern at Memphis, 1848-1948 (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1949) 75, 83.

³ John Griffis was a fellow Chattanooga who attended college with Robert. See T.H. McCallie to R.B. McCallie, November 18, 1889.

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Oct. 29, 1889

My Dear Son,

Your report came duly to hand, marked "very good" in Latin and good in everything else. That was a good report and made us all glad to know that you are doing so well. Hope you will behave well, and have a good report from your Heavenly Father.

Mr. Griffis said that John had also a good report, and thinks that John is at a much better place than he was last year.

We are all well except myself. I have been suffering with neuralgia of the stomach, which has given me a good deal of trouble. Mother stayed with Julia last night. She is not well, and John brought John out here, and kept him last night. Mr. Divine is absent in Chicago and will be gone some days yet. His house is still unfinished and it will be some time yet before they can move into it.¹ They are getting very anxious to get into it. It is costing Mr. D. a good deal of

¹ The Divine house was located in Highland Park, on McCallie Avenue near Wilson Street. 1892 Directory 311.

money. Our house is moving along as fast as we could expect. The brick work is done and looks very well. The verandas are being built and will soon be done. The roof is on and finished. The plastering will be done in a few days. The lake looks beautiful from our house. It is now full, lacking only about 6 inches running over.

I have no objection to your changing your boarding place, if you can get into a good home. You need not stick right close to the college, for a good walk of $\frac{1}{2}$ would be no hurt to you.

Enclosed I send you check for \$50.00. This ought to pay your expenses till Christmas. Make no debts and do not waste your money.

We all send well wishes for your prosperity. Do not fail to read a portion of God's word every day, and ask his blessing on your studies. I am sorry you are not continuing your Greek.

Yours Truly,

T.H. McCallie

P.S. I would prefer that you would not join a boat club. The exercise is poor, and irregular and dangerous. Get your exercise in a Gymnasium. It beats boating all to pieces.

Your mother says the less you have to do with banquets, the better. Beware of excess in eating and drinking. During

my six years in school I never spent \$5 on a banquet and I think my boy had better imitate me or spend his own money.

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Nov. 18, 1889

My Dear Son,

Your letter received. I gave in the first letter I wrote you after receiving your request for you to change your boarding house. I may not have been as clear as I ought to have been, but that was my intention. Enclosed I send you your report. We are all well. Ellen had a nine days attack of pneumonia and was quite sick. She is still pale, and hard to take care of. John stays out here now, and the two babies take up Grace and your mother's time. Thomas is on the electric railroad as conductor. He has to be up every morning at 5:40 and often at night till 11 o'clock. He was suspended for going off to Macon, Ga. without permission and had to stay off two weeks. He came near getting suspended again last week for going into a saloon and taking whiskey just before he got on his car. It was a violation of orders. Thomas is still Thomas. He is not what he ought to be. He will soon be

21, without much education, with no business, and no fondness for work. He attends church regularly, sings in the choir, and sings well, goes to Crane's whenever he is off his car, and spends but little time at home. He still makes debts and is not good at paying, though he is improving in this particular, and I hope will learn to do right, but it is hard for him to do just as he ought.

Spencer is studying fairly well. He is growing, and lazy, fond of fun, and hates work awfully. Park and Douglas are at school. Edward is lonesome at home, and would like to go with the boys.

Our house is moving on slowly. We will hardly get into it before Jan. The plastering is finished, and they are at work on the inside, door carvings, floors, etc. Our house will be warmed with hot air. Mr. Divine's with hot water. Mr. Divine is having his house frescoed, and it is going to be very beautiful. They expect to commence moving next week. Julia is up and getting along very well. Her babe is growing. John calls him "Pete."

We send you the paper every few days, also an occasional N.Y. Observer². Shall we continue sending the observer? Do you or John read them? Give our regards to John. Remember Thomas and Spencer in your prayers. I want so much to see the boys true Christians.

² The New York Observer was a Presbyterian weekly. N.W. Ayer and Sons, American Newspaper Annual (Philadelphia, 1881) 64.

T.H. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

Dec. 2, 1889

My dear Robert,

Monday night - 9 o'clock finds all the little ones just quieted down in the arms of Morpheus¹ and Spencer just en route to the same sweet place of repose, but he is such an ant that he protests against the embrace of the sleepy god, and father is about to use some vigorous measures to lead to the desired result. Grace still has John Divine, as he has grown so fond of her that he will not stay with his father and mother without producing a great rumpus in the family circle. They expect to get into their new house next week. The frescoeing is beautiful, and their whole home, grounds, house, buildings, painting, etc. are very pretty indeed. The house is much admired. Our's is progressing, and makes a fine appearance. I somewhat tremble at the prospect of the labor, skill, and tact required to keep it in good style without

¹ This is an allusion to the classical god Morpheus, the deity responsible for dreams.

being extravagant. Our supply of servants gets poorer every year in quantity and quality. I sent to Spencer, Tenn. for a white woman highly recommended as a housekeeper and cleaner. She came Friday at noon, and left Monday at near the same hour. She chewed tobacco, spit upon my hearths, or any other convenient place, was too delicate to dust, could not be exposed to the cold in sweeping the halls, must have a fire in her room and a feather bed. Of course I was magnanimous enough to let her go. I didn't want my house turned into a spittoon or a hospital. We had a good Thanksgiving dinner, and thought of you while picking the turkey. We had a sermon in our church from 10 to 11, dinner from 1 to 2:30, and the whole congregation invited to our home from 7 to 10 that night. We had a house full. Grace had baked five or six nice cakes - white coconut, chocolate, jelly, marble, or spice, so we had coffee, her cake, and fruit. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. The Donaldsons thought Thomas was to be married that night, so they came in force. Thomas has been sick for a week or more, strained himself in jumping off the car, and has been laid up. Julia was pleased with her letter. She has her hands full with her babies. The little one does finely, looks like Spencer did as a baby. We tried to send you the papers containing the account of the University muddle.² A

² This is a reference to a controversy which arose between students and administrators of U.S. Grant University surrounding a small fire which occurred in the University building. The administration blamed the fire on student pranksters, and claimed the building narrowly escaped a

young Mr. Davis came from Virginia, just out of the Theological Seminary. Father sent for him to see if he could not be worked into our church and the new one to be established in Highland Park. He preached for us Sunday morning, at night for his old chum, Mr. Carter,³ at St. Elmo. We had a good congregation. Father asked Mr. Cary how they liked the sermon (it was very good for a novice). They thought our church needed a more able man. Thomas says they want a \$2000 man for \$500. I was much pleased with the young man. He is sensible, modest and humble. Read [the] article in young people's weekly marked Take good care of your health. Keep your bowels regular. Be true and faithful. Love from all, Mother,

E.D.J. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

Jan. 31, 1890

serious fire. In response, a student writing under the pseudonym "Veritas," claimed in a letter to the Times that the administration was deliberately exaggerating a harmless prank. A series of hostile published letters followed between the administration and Veritas before the "muddle" died down. Chattanooga Times, November 26, 1889.

³ Mr. Carter probably serving as pastor of St. Elmo Presbyterian at the time.

My Dear Robert,

I am going to take up the cudgel in dead earnest if you do not come up to the performance of your duties. Now old fellow, I want you to write every week if you only have these two lines - "I am well and trying to do right." Your father received your letter and account today. Grace mailed you the paper containing the account of Mr. Crutchfield's funeral, as you requested¹. Your father and I visited Mr. C. just before his death. It was an affecting sight to see his earnest prayers and his pleadings for God's forgiveness and his bitter mourning that "he had slept on his duties." We had reason to hope that he had obtained mercy. His funeral was largely attended by old and representative citizens, also quite a large number of Jews, on account of his son Tom, whose wife is a Jewess, and his partner in business a Jew. The pall bearers were another affecting sight. They were all old men, grey haired and feeble, so that they tottered as they bore the coffin from the church. There is a great deal of sickness in town, measles and influenza. Clara is just getting over the measles. She had a well developed case - looked almost like confluent small-pox. She did very well and is now up and about the house. We now look for Spencer,

¹ William Crutchfield worked as a storekeeper in his native Chattanooga. He is most remembered for his Unionist sympathies during the Civil War. McGuffey 117, Govan and Livingood 295.

Edward, and Ellen to have them. We hope to move into the new house next week if health and weather permit. Millie and Sallie are still with us. Thomas is down from the farm on a furlough. He says he sees the sun every morning while on duty. Grace told you of Douglas' delight at having the letter mailed at himself. He insisted upon opening it and looking at it all over before he would let anyone read it for him. Saw Percy Wilson yesterday, asked about you. He is still on the E. road but says he is going to school next year. Do you hear from Cliff Gregg? The electric road is now running beautifully since they have their own plant. The cars make regular trips up the ridge from the city in an hour and ten minutes, which is good time. Spencer has two fevers, gardening and camping out. I have been honored with a consultation about camping and fish. I enjoy it: in fact would like to go with the boys myself. They hope to go to the farm if Thomas is still there, hunt and fish in Sale Creek. Your father has not been well. I think he worries about his debts, the new house and taxes, which are awful this year. I would rather live in a tent than to see him worried. I hope it will soon be over, and the new home a comfort to him. I intend to fix his study the first room in the house, make it snug, convenient, comfortable, and elegant. Something he has never had before. Mr. Hunter looks dreadfully. Last Sunday we elected two new elders, old Mr. Cary and Mr. Crane, and three deacons, Mr. Hill,² Divine, and Montgomery. I will have

² Probably Jesse T. Hill.

Spencer write to you. Our kind regards to John and James Wallace with much love to yourself. I am truly and affectionately your mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Feb. 3, 1890

My Dear Son,

Your letter received. Enclosed find N.Y. exchange for \$25.00. I had intended in sending it in mother's letter Saturday, but did not get in town till her letter was gone. We all keep well, though there is a good deal of sickness in the neighborhood and in town. Mr. Hill, of our church, is down with the pneumonia, and quite a sick man. The Sallard boys and Hearse have all been down. At a church meeting about a Sunday week we elected Mr. Crane and old Mr. Cary elders and Mr.s Trimble, Hill, and Divine deacons.¹ We will doubtless ordain next Sunday unless Mr. Hill's sickness interferes. We will get our home finished this week and will

¹ There is a discrepancy concerning the elected deacons between this letter and the preceding one by Ellen McCallie.

be ready to move in providence permitting. It may be that Measles may interfere. Clara has just gotten over them and we are looking for Ed and Ellen to take them and if they do it may be that we will be hindered in moving. The house has cost me more than I expected and has been a burden on me, but it looks as if it will be a comfortable home when once we get in and get it paid for. We received your December report. It was good. It is a pleasure to your parents to know that you are trying to do well and will be a credit to them. I hope you will continue in the same course. Be sure and read a portion of God's word every day and think about what you read. Do not neglect prayer, and try and keep your prayer sincere and earnest even though it may be short. James says the effectual fervant prayer, or as it is in Greek, the energizing prayer, the prayer that has life, soul, fervancy in it, that is the prayer that accomplishes much. So when you kneel down, think what you are doing, and put your heart into it, even if you utter but one sentence. I suppose you heard of the death of Esq. Bill Rogers, your friend Grant is running for his place, so also are Dr. Johnson, Judge Sherman, Merrill, Tom Rawlston, and A.J. Cox. They are soliciting Thomas' vote, and this will be Thomas' maiden vote, helping elect the high and noble magistrate of the fifth Civil District. Thomas is looking after the farm and assisting me at home. Love from all.

Your Father,

T.H. McCallie

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Feb. 13, 1890

My Dear Son,

I read your report a day or two ago. It is a good one, with one or two exceptions. You have four unexcused absences from Chapel Exercises, and I think one from Bible. I have not the report before me now, and do not remember about the Bible class. I hope you do not let this occur again. If you should be sick, or unavoidably detained from the Chapel, go to the proper Professor and present your reasonable excuse. To stay away from Chapel four times in one month and without any reason for it looks a little bit insubordinate, or as if you were trying to avoid being present, where some one person, against whom you had some objection, was officiating. At least it has a bad look, and is a bad example. If one can stay away, another can, and soon it destroys all discipline. If you have any good reason for your absences, you owe it to your professors, and you owe it to yourself, to go to them and explain the matter. I hope you will not resist contact

under this charge of seeming insubordination. I think during the three years I went to Burritt College I never missed but one Chapel exercise, and that was owing to the length of time I thought it would take me to get back to college from a visit to some falls. I remember even yet the alarm I felt at my failure and the I had of receiving an absent mark. If Thomas had felt such wholesome fear, he would not have been today where he is. I hope you, my son, will not let this happen again, but will study promptness and be in your place every time on time.

Your report in all your studies is excellent and this is to your credit, and it is a pleasure to your parents and your sisters.

We begin moving into the new house Tuesday after dinner. We have the carpets all on the floors, and are getting things in shape. The furnace keeps the whole house comfortable.

Thomas and Spencer sleep in the room over the bathroom, Cousin Betsy, Clara, and Douglas in the extreme N.E. room. Every room but two is occupied. The house looks very pretty on the inside and I think is going to be very pleasant. Kind regards from all.

Your Father,

T.H. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

Feb. 20, 1890

My Dear Son,

You have been generally neglected by the whole family in the hubub of morning. Of course, at such a time, all hands would naturally be busy, and then in addition, Millie was taken sick, your father was not well, and Ellen quite crass and troublesome so that we had more than our share of work. But fortunately, the weather was fine, Mr. Gibbs and Jessie sufficient, and Mr. Loveman¹ sent me out a man to put down my carpets who was a jewel. I never had a more satisfactory job in my life. We find the new home exceedingly comfortable, convenient, and elegant. I have nice new carpets on front and back parlors and dining room, for the other rooms we have utilized old carpets and pretty new matting, and here is where Mr. Loveman's man showed his skill. They were so nicely cut and put down as to look almost new. I have a nice, large room carpeted for you, no one in it, and already dubbed Robert's room. Thomas chose the room over the bathroom. He and Spencer are together, Park and Edward in the room adjoining Grace's, Cousin Betsy, Clara, and Douglas in the

¹ David B. Loveman ran D.B. Loveman and Co., a dry goods and carpet store. 1892 Directory 485.

large room over the dining room, Sallie² in the room between your's and cousin B's. The furnace is a perfect success. The whole house is comfortable from cellar to attic. Thomas has just gone back to the farm tonight. He has been home several days - no, just came down yesterday with the corn, has been busy all day trying to sell it, works right faithfully, and, your father says, with good judgement. The corn was sacked too damp, hard to find any sale for it. Our renters have had their own way so long that they have grown very careless. Mr. Hunter continues quite feeble, and Mr. Hill, though quite better, improves very slowly. Your father has not been right well all winter, has had a sharp little attack of influenza and night before last chilled and had pleurisy, tonight he chilled again. He has a hacking cough, not very much, but it troubles me, for I have several times seen it the forerunner of something much worse. He has had a fearful weight of care and responsibility in our recent moves and building I am so glad we all enjoy the new house so much - it pleases and gratifies him to know his labor of love is appreciated. He looks forward to you, my son, as being a comfort to him, and I hope you are earnestly asking the guidance of Divine Wisdom in your whole life plans and work. Take as your motto "Faithfulness." We always remember you at family prayers, so that at about 7 o'clock in the morning and 7 at night we are

² Mrs. Sallie Curley was a servant with the McCallie family at this time. 1892 Directory 297.

praying for you, but many times a day, aside from this regular period we raise our hearts in praying for you. Spencer had a real good report this last month, but he does give us so much trouble, the poor fellow is so contentious with little boys rude to all. Mr Davis will be down Thursday. George Kennan, the traveller in Russia, lectures Saturday night.³ He is so famous as a traveller and lecturer that large parties are coming from adjoining towns. He visits only two Southern cities, Nashville and Chattanooga. Clara has had the measles, and now Ellen is sick, began breaking out Sunday. For two days she was terribly crass, is now better. Spencer and Edward come next. John Stitle⁴ is doing good work as a church deacon. Our new officers to be ordained and installed Sunday next. Kind regards to John and James. Take good care of your health. Remember my few plain rules - head cool, feet warm, and bowels open. All join us in love to you. From your mother,

Ellen McCallie

³ George Kennan was a popular author, lecturer, and correspondent in the late nineteenth century, speaking and writing mainly on his experiences travelling in Russia. He was a distant relative of George F. Kenan, the American diplomat. Dumas Malone, Ed. The Dictionary of American Biography, 21 vols. (New York: Scribners, 1933) 10: 331-32.

⁴ Possibly John Stites, a dentist. 1892 Directory 658.

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

March 7, 1890

My Dear Son,

I have not much that may be new or interesting to you, but know you will be pleased to have a few lines from home. I have not been very well this week, and as the weather is quite cold, changeable, and disagreeable, I have been rather closely confined to home. Grace has a friend visiting her, an old Kentucky schoolmate, Mrs. Dodd, formerly Miss Annie Young. She came last Sunday morning, just in time for church. She was returning from a trip from Mississippi, and was delayed in reaching here by the floods. We had quite high water, and were afraid that much water damage might be done. While the river was rising quite rapidly, it suddenly turned quite cold, freezing the small streams and surface water, thus checking the rise. South Chattanooga and Stanly town were practically overflowed. A portion of the Dunning line and the street car line to St. Elmo were cut off for a short time. Mr. Divine was delighted that his line to Ridgedale was not at all affected. Quite a number of Northern men have been in the city looking out for investments. The McGuire property was sold yesterday to a Syndicate, represented by Len

Sheperd,¹ for \$100,000.00. A nice sum was it not. Mr. Boyle has moved his family here from Macon, Miss. He was Uncle Hamp Jarnagin's law partner, and married his daughter, Mary. They have five children. Cousin Mary is anxious to rent our old home. We would be glad to have them. Mr. Boyle had rented in the city, before he knew our place was for rent. He is now trying to reread the place he was. Thomas has been shut off from us by the high water, just got home the day before yesterday, after a two weeks absence. He was so glad to get back to civilization and Kate that he was as merry as a lark, and sang about the house at a great rate. Edward has a cold, and we think may be taking measles. He has been in the house all day, as it is cold rain and snowing, and now he is so restless, noisy and teasing, that we can hardly put up with him. We were pleased to meet your friend, Harry Bunting,² wanted him to eat dinner with us, but he plead a previous engagement. I have been thinking about the question you several times asked me before leaving home as to what pursuit you should follow in life. Are you still troubled to know what would be wisest and best. I am so grateful that God does not leave us to our own judgement, unguided, but promises to

¹ This is probably a reference to Lewis Shepherd, an attorney who represented five railroads in Chattanooga. 1892 Directory 628.

² Bunting was Robert's friend at Southwestern University. Harry Bunting, letter to Grace McCallie, 8 Oct. 1891, McCallie Letters, Collection of Eleanor McCallie Cooper, Chattanooga.

give us wisdom if we seek it. I think I realize what a serious and solemn choice rests [with] you in your choice and decision, and do truly sympathize with you, but all I can still do is point to the promise "If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God." Remember that "you are bought with a price, you are not your own." I do most sincerely desire that my boys may be upright God-fearing men above all things else. Spencer has been troubling me. I feel distressed by his rude, disobedient, and disrespectful manner, especially to me. Write to him, if you have time, and pray for him. We all remember you, my son, and be sure of the love of your mother,

E.D. McCallie

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 12, 1890

Dear Robert,

Your report came yesterday and was, as usual, excellent almost all the way through. I cannot help feeling sorry that you gave up your Greek for French. I hope though that you will take it up again next year. The Greek language is too

rich in choice literature not to be read in the original if you but have the opportunity. I have just been enjoying a visit from Annie Young Dodd, one of my Bellewood schoolmates. She was on her way home on a visit to Miss. to Ky. She stayed with me nearly a week. She expected to come Sat. morning, but the high water delayed her till Sunday morning. I was at church and was very much surprised to see her husband come walking in. He left early Monday morning. They thought our home, especially Julia's, just beautiful. While Annie was here we had several Bellewood reunions. Tuesday morning Lizzie and Helen Latimore, Laura Leman, Miss Stone, and Julia and her family took tea with us. We had early tea so they could all get home before dark. Monday night Annie, Laura, and myself took supper with Julia. Thursday we all took supper with Lizzie. This time we, instead of the table, groaned beneath the weight of good things. I need not describe the feeling to you, as your experience on the subject has been very exhaustive. Suffice to say, it was several days before we recovered our appetites. Our conversation dwelt mainly on Bellewood days, and a most enjoyable time we had. As Friday was Annie's last day with me, we went to the mountain, notwithstanding the coolness and the cloudiness of the weather. At St. Elmo Mr. Carter joined us. Most of the way we rode shiveringly on the

platform. We went up on the Broad Gauge to the new hotel.¹ It is a stupendous structure. We couldn't begin to go through it all, but climbed to the topmost tower, up nearly a dozen flight of steps, the elevator not yet running, and enjoyed as much of the view as could be seen through the clouds. From the hotel we walked to Natural Bridge² and then boarded the narrow gauge and then down the Incline.³ Annie drew a sigh of relief when we reached the bottom. Sat. morning Annie left for home. Sat. evening Mr. Carter came out and stayed all night. We went down on the lake and took a boat ride on a boat Spencer borrowed from some boys in town. Mr. Carter preached for father Sunday, and father for him. He has resigned his position in St. Elmo, and wants to go to Brazil at once as a missionary. I think he would go if only Mr. Davis would go with him. But as Mr. Davis marries in May, there is not much prospect of his going. Speaking of marrying reminds me of something funny. I will tell you if you will say nothing about it. Old Mr. Gregg,⁴ Clifford's father,

¹ The Broad gauge was a steam driven railroad that went from downtown Chattanooga to the Lookout Inn on Lookout Mountain. Both the Inn and the railroad were owned by the same company and were attempts to capitalize on a growing tourism industry on the mountain. Wilson 75-77.

² Natural Bridge was a popular rock formation. At the time it was owned by a religious cult known as the "Spiritualists." This sect used the bridge as a site for strange religious services which included seances and backward messages from the "Celestial Realm." Wilson 55-56.

³ The Incline Railroad, still a popular site in Chattanooga, was constructed in the 1880s. Wilson 70-75.

⁴ Possibly William Gregg. 1892 Directory 372.

asked Mr. Divine's permission to court Stella, said if she would marry him, he would take her to Colorado. Don't you think he must be crazy? Last night mother had all the teachers at Ridgedale with Misses Nellie and Kate Crane up for tea. Miss Nellie Gamble told me that Nellie Weir was coming out to visit her this week. I told her if only you were home she would have you also to entertain. She laughed and said that Nellie thought so much of you. Don't forget to send your little English friend an Easter card. Perhaps she never received your letter. It is just about time to send an easter card. Julia has at last named her baby - "Robert Alexander." I suppose he will be baptized by that name Sunday. So you have finally a namesake. I was sorry not to see more of Mr. Bunting when he was here. We invited him to take dinner with us, but he could not accept the invitation. Thomas has at last returned from the farm, where he was kept for two weeks on account of high water, and not a letter did he receive all that time, so of course as soon as possible he hastened down to Mr. Crane's. He goes back next week. Edward and Belle Lilliard have renewed their devotions. For a while there was a coolness but it has passed away. Cousin Mary Boyle and her family will move into our old house as soon as the weather will permit. I suppose you remember her. She visited us when Spencer was a baby. They have just moved to Chattanooga from Miss. They will be such pleasant neighbors. With much love, your sister,

Grace

P.S. Next Tuesday I shall be twenty-five, so don't forget to write congratulations and good wishes.

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

April 1, 1890

My Dear Son,

It is Tuesday night. I have had a busy day, and am somewhat nervous, having been from 9 to 10 o'clock at the dentist, then from there to the Orphan's Home where I was engaged in the home business until 5 o'clock, and then started for home, getting there a little before supper. We have had an unusual and disagreeable March, while April is ushered in with a cold, gloomy form. We have all had pretty good health however. Your father is better, and the children keep free from colds. Our Ridgedale school closes in two weeks, when the "Goths and Vandals" will descend upon us. I think after two weeks vacation we will try and engage a private teacher. Cousin Mary has two boys the size of Park and Douglas, Mr. Wright has two and Lilliards two - this

makes a team, and with Spencer and Hugh is a stronger one than I can drive. Did you see the account of the destructive storm at Louisville? The wind blew most furiously here, and sounded alarming, but no damage. Mr. Carter, the young minister at St. Elmo, has resigned his charge and applied to the board of missions to be sent as a missionary to Brazil, but the board refused his application on the grounds he lacked a classical education, that he could not stand to study for a pain in the head, that he was now 31 years old, and they feared he would not be able to acquire a new language and cope intellectually with the educated Portuguese. A reasonable refusal, I think. I am sorry for him. He is now out of employment, has his board to pay and nothing to go upon. Make good use of your time, my boy, that you may be able to enter into some useful pursuit when your school days are over. You state in your letter that you were not well. Guard your appetite as the Spring comes on, eat little meat, pastries, or rich desserts, but choose soups, vegetables, and canned fruits: Keep your skin clean, your bowels regular by a pint of hot water drank about $\frac{1}{2}$ to an hour before breakfast. The juice of a lemon improves it, no sugar. My word for it that your clear head, robust strength and body and spirits will amply repay the self denial. You are of a bilious temperament, your skin inactive and bowels torpid would quickly produce some bad fever. My dear son, I have said so much about the care of your body, but above all things keep it pure as a

temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Flee youthful lusts! - for the punishment is sure, swift, and sore. You are always remembered at family prayers at 7 in the morning and at 7 at night. Thomas has planned for a fishing trip tomorrow. Would like to go with him, but our missionary society meets here. I have set out some nice roses, and we hope to have a pretty yard. Julia has a beautiful place. She looks very thin. Mr. Divine has had a big sale of 46 lots of his bought from your father. They sold well, bringing about \$23,000. He was pleased with his success. I go to Cleveland Thursday, to Presbytery. We like the Boyles very much. Our regards to John and James Wallace. With love from all to yourself,

I am mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

May 1, 1890

My Dear Son,

You are doubtless wondering what is the matter with your mother that you have not received a letter lately. Well, just

this - I have been trying to get some spring sewing done, the children's summer clothes in wearing order, as well as to carry on the regular house keeping and let Clara go to school. I have found it pretty busy work. Clara is now out of school. Their term ended a week ago. I hope now to be able to keep up with my work better, and also to secure the service of a competent seamstress in the house for a couple of weeks. Really, there is so much to occupy the time and attention that one hardly has the time to breathe freely. If to live in such a flurry that you have no time for quick enjoyment and I feel concerned to know if God is glorified by all this work, Missionary Societies, Temperance Societies, Humane Societies, Christian Associations, Social and Literary clubs. Then you know I inherited (whether fortunately or not) a Dutch love of order and neatness. This, with my patrimony of boys, of course makes no light for me. I have not written to you since we entertained your friends, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks. I wish they could see our city now. It is beautiful, and the hills and dales around radiantly lovely in their setting of tender green. Our hill is being clothed in verdure, our roses bursting into bloom, while the trees are so soft, feathery, light, and graceful in their spring attire, that words fail to describe their exquisite beauty. Today we entertained Cousin Mollie Hooke, Robbie Hooke, Cousin Glennie Baker, three children, Cousin Clara Hamblin and baby for dinner. They were charmed by our house and surroundings. Tomorrow we

have promised to entertain delegates to the county Sunday School convention meeting at Ridgedale. Convention to last three days, then next week, Mr. Davis and bride to be with us two days, on their return to Soddy. Next Monday afternoon the Dodds give a grand reception or "high tea" in honor of Mrs. Beaman, the wife of the son of the new church minister. Mrs. G.B. Woodworth, Miss Eva and Miss Kate Hart assist them. Grace, Julia, and myself are invited. Mr. Divine is fencing in the lake and adjoining grove, building a boat house, and seating the grove with setties (numerously). He has had quite a number of trees planted out around the lake and its borders set with golden willows, which will be beautiful when they grow larger. Julia is setting goose eggs, so as to have swans for the water. The fish are growing finely, and make quite a show in the clear water near the edge. I think they are also arranging to have electric lights, as they are laying wires today from the road to the lake. Our ridge strawberries are coming into market. One week ago they were 30 cents per quart, today 15, and we still have none of our own this summer to speak of, but the crop on the ridge promises to be plentiful. Yesterday Cousin Mary and myself went with your father to the North side land sale. It was the worn out old Black farm, about two or three miles from the city, by land, nearer by river. Lots went from \$200.00 to 6 or \$700.00. I thought a high price for land way back from the city, and a river to cross. It has, however, been well advertised. Many

strangers are here from the North, and the company makes grand promises of what they will do in the way of improvements. The piers of the bridge¹ are nearly completed, and a street railway is projected to run through this body of land. I have not forgotten you, my boy, though I have not written. We always remember you at prayers, night and morning, 7 at night and 7 in the morning. Try and join us. All are tolerably well. Your father complains some. Kind regards to John, James, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks. With much love from all, and the most earnest prayers for your welfare, I am truly your mother.

Ellen D. McCallie

P.S. Take good care of your health, your teeth, your temper, and your choice of companions.

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

May 19, 1890

¹ She is referring to the Walnut Street Bridge, then under construction. Kay Baker Gaston, "Chattanooga's Walnut Street Bridge," Tennessee Historical Quarterly 46 (1987): 110-19.

My Dear Boy,

Your letter duly received, and I hasten to reply on Monday morning again, but not in time for the mail. Thomas went to work this morning, early and promptly, like a man of business. I think he has done fairly well this past week, the first of his business experience, though he has got very tired. One night he remained in town at the Read House¹ with Henry McFarland,² who he said was drinking. It was not wise or safe for Thomas. He looked like he had joined Henry in his carousal. Cousin Robert, cousin Hannah, and Melville came up Florida a few days ago. They are all in improved health. McKinney, Jennie, and Mel came out yesterday in their carriage, though it was Sunday. Melville has to return today or tomorrow and wanted to see me before going back. I had gone into the Y.M.C.A. rooms to attend a long service, taking Park, cousin Mary Boyle, and Sallie - the first time I have ever gone into the city for that purpose, and the first time we have had Sunday guests to call. Of course I appreciated the reason for their call. We returned just as they were leaving. Your father was taken sick Saturday night with something like Cholera Morbus and was not able to preach Sunday. A young preacher, Mr. Duncan, from Ky. and canvassing for the "Christian Observer" preached for us. He was a

¹ The Read House was, and remains, an established Chattanooga hotel owned and operated by the John T. Read family. 1892 Directory 587.

² Probably H.B. McFarland, an attorney. 1892 Directory 443.

classmate of Mr. Davis. While he had far more assurance than Mr. D., I don't think he was nearly his equal in sermonizing, nor near as modest - a quality I think as becoming in men as in women. He, Duncan, preached an extemporaneous sermon, after the Methodist fashion, and pleased some of people very much better than Mr. Davis did. Mr. Davis brought his wife down and spent Thursday and Friday with us. We were very much pleased with her. She has a sweet face and voice, very pleasant unaffected manners, and plenty of good sense and tact. Just the kind of woman to make a good wife. Mr. Davis is evidently well pleased and happy in his marriage. We gave them a welcome, took them on the mountain, up Cameron Hill and the ridge road down to Dunlaps and back through Ridgedale. Julia went into the city to meet them when they came down, with her elegant new carriage, brought them out here and up on the ridge for a drive. Mrs. Davis has her photograph taken by Judd, in her bridal dress, with Mr. Davis. Grace, who went in with them, said she looked lovely. Mr. Divine has had the grounds around the lake, from Kyle St. to Williams St. enclosed as a park. The grove nicely cleaned out and seated with benches, a music stand, and a boat house built, also a refreshment stand. He has engaged the best band in the city and will have a formal opening sometime this week, with an address and a regular program of music. He is a worker, and astonishes me by his quick ability. He has planted trees and grass around the lake with his own hands.

It is a very pretty place of resort now. We - your father, Julia, and myself, have been invited specially to attend the closing exercises of Rogersville Female College,³ and to be the guests of Miss Mary McKinney - the nicest home in the town. It is the last year of Mrs. H.R. Ross' charge. All arrangements have been made to turn everything over to her successor, Mrs. Grayhill. We intended on going, but were shocked to receive a telegram telling of the sudden death of his mother from heart disease, at 5:30 the evening before. Mrs. Ross was to spend the month of August as the guest of Julia and myself. We had promised ourselves much pleasure in entertaining one whom we both loved and esteemed so highly. Grace has gone into the city to take a drawing lesson from Miss Willard. She wants to try for 10 lessons to see if she has any ability in that line, if so to take up painting. Cousin Sallie Hooke was out one afternoon last week. She leaves soon for Salem, to see Nellie graduate, and to bring her home. Your last report arrived a few days ago. Father thinks it is very good. I have all the little boys on hands now. Their school closed last Friday. Your father is better today, but still weak. I must stop to see some work. Give our kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Kendricks and to James and John.

³ Rogersville Female College was a Presbyterian academy for women in Rogersville, Tennessee. The school enrolled as many as 300 students around this time, but was closed a few years later. Ernest Trice Thompson, Presbyterians in the South, 3 vols. (Richmond: John Knox Press, 1963-73) 2: 350-51.

For yourself the love of all your family, especially your mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Mission Ridge

May 26, 1890

My Dear Son,

Again Monday finds me dropping a line or two, but not in time for the morning mail. The wash had to be gotten ready to send out, Spencer was sick, requiring some special attention, a message and boy from the Orphan's Home requiring a note in response, and the home to be cleaned in time for morning lessons from Park, Douglas, and Edward kept me from being in time for the 9 o'clock mail. I try to hear lessons from the boys for 1½ to 2 hours in the morning. Douglas and Edward are learning to read, while Douglas shows considerable taste for figures. Grace is taking lessons in drawing, going into the city three times a week. Park, who shows some skill and taste for drawing is also going to take lessons. The children have been very well this Spring, till Spencer took dinner in town last week at a restaurant. He complains of feeling badly at

night and is now threatened with bilious fever from eating stale vegetables. I think your father is in better health, but still not right well. All the balance well. John is a beautiful boy, while Robert is fine looking and good as gold. The lake and park were formally opened last Thursday afternoon. A good band of music was provided and nice refreshments served at reasonable prices, ice-cream, lemonade, bananas, and cigars. A pretty good attendance on hand, though not well advertised. A music stand and boat house had been erected, and 6 nice boats provided. Warner McCall¹ had charge of the boats, which rent for 25 cents per hour. Canlkin school closes Thursday. Last exercises will be [held in] the opera house at 8 o'clock p.m. Frank Gardenhire graduates. A contest for the gold medal in oratory [is] between three girls and three boys. Thomas is working away at the store. He looks a little pale and gets awful tired, but I do hope he will persevere and make a success of it. Our congregation and Sabbath School are growing. Mr. Younger lost his wife last Tuesday, and last night his twin babies, two weeks old. He is broken up completely. Mrs. Ross' death changes our plans about Rogersville. The term will close quietly without any exercises. We will gladly welcome you home. Kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Kendricks, John, and

¹ Warner McCall was an assistant bookkeeper with the Chattanooga Electric Railroad Company. 1892 Directory, 490.

James. With much love from all the family and earnest prayers for your welfare, I am truly mother,

E.D. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Feb. 2, 1891

Dear Robert,

I just recieved your letter today at noon. We were so glad to hear from you, because it had been so long since you had written. Your nose was troubling you when we heard last, and so much sickness prevailing through the country that we felt uneasy. We have had some very sudden deaths, at least after a very short illness, in the city and suburbs. Old Mr. Gregg, Mr. Burris of Highland Park and Mrs. Ed Richardson of the city, while many are sick with the influenza. Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Gill of our church. The weather has not been cold, but very damp and chilly. I have not been well, having been confined for two weeks, and now still have a sore throat, though up and about. Sallie was sick for a week or more. Your father keeps unusually well, and all of the children except Spencer, who is now quite hoarse and complaining though he

still goes to school. Mary Cargill, cousin Mary Bradford, cousin Sallie Gennae and cousin Fannie Johnston have all been sick but are now convalescing. Julia, Mr. Divine and children are well. Thomas and Kate also, though both have a little spell. Notwithstanding the rain, general sickness etc., building seems to go on unabated. I think you can count at least one dozen houses to be seen from the electric car line. Frank Council has built a beautiful new home for his mother on Holly and Chamberlin Ave. Our young preacher, Mr. Crane, wants to locate in Highland Park. I forgot to mention that Mrs. Smiley died last Wednesday, her death being expected for some time. You are always interested in the Electric Road. Mr. Divine seems to be having some rest now, and the service is very good, the road also pushing on Dodds Ave. to Harrison Ave. Sam Read is getting things ready for his new line across the river.² Soon, no city North or South will be better equipped. Young Bennett took Lola and Rebecca Jarnagin to a party at Mr. Dodds last Friday night. The rain poured, but they went in a buggy. Percy Wilson is with a surveying party in North Carolina. Mr. John Steele³ has just returned from Columbia, South Carolina, where he was for a month or more. He was very much pleased with the people, thinks them

² This is a reference to Sam R. Read, president of the Chattanooga and Northside Street Railway Company, which ran the first rail line across the river on the new Walnut Street Bridge. Gaston 114-15.

³ John Steele was coproprietor of Steele and Co., a general store in the city. 1892 Directory 654.

superior to our country folks. He was there helping to sell apples with Arthur from near Asheville, N.C. Your last report troubled me my boy. I did not like the unsatisfactory attendance at Chapel and church. Now God's blessing comes in the way of his ordinances - if you neglect them, you cut off the blessing. I do hope you are not thinking more highly of yourself, your own wisdom, than you ought, but with that humble and contrite spirit, which God declares he loves, seeking for the wisdom which comes from above. We always remember you in our prayers, and especially did I ask that you may choose godly companions. Last week we saw at family prayers we saw how Jehosiphath was led astray by the association with wicked Ahab. We rejoice that you are through with your examination, and feel that you have had a great strain upon you. I am glad that you enjoy your school and studies, but hope you will look to the Lord even in this matter, and not worry, but cast all your care upon Him who careth for you. We had a little social gathering Friday night a week ago, at our house. Present was our family, cousin Mary, The Gamber girls, Ed and Alve Wright. All had a recitation, speech, or piece to read. It was amusing. Lola and Rebecca equalled Rachel or Sarah Bernhardt.⁴ All join in love. Write soon to your mother,

⁴ Sarah Bernhardt was a well known French actress who toured extensively in Europe and the United States in the late nineteenth century. For an excellent account of her life see Cornelia Otis Skinner, Madame Sarah (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1967).

Ellen McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

Feb. 7, 1891

My Dear Robert,

It is Sunday night, the children have just gone to bed, giving us the only quiet moments which we have had today. Your father preached at Highland Park this morning and at St. Elmo this afternoon, Mr. Crane, our elder, conducting the service. Our young pastor, Mr. A. F. Crane has a sick wife at Knoxville and has not been able to do us much good for about three weeks, has not been able to fill his appointments. He wants to move down here as soon as his wife is able, to live either at Ridgedale or Highland Park. Thomas and Kate took Dinner with us. I wanted Thomas to take your father's place in hearing the Sunday School lesson, but the poor fellow got so sleepy, that I let him go home early. He is always late getting home Saturday night. Julia, Mr. Divine and John came in after dinner. They are all well. Little Robert is growing in intelligence and ability to take care of himself. We are all well except Park and myself. I have a sore throat and

Park nasal cataracts. We are to consult Dr. Barkley tomorrow or Tuesday. You see from the papers I suppose, what a warm greeting home M. and Mrs. Bachman received from their friends.¹ The church gave a reception and the Sabbath School was filled. The Chamber of Commerce, which met that night, called in a body and tendered their greeting. Your father gave a nice little address of welcome, then Mr. Bachman made an appropriate response, after which elegant refreshments were served. Nick Van Dyke's wedding passed off with eclat, but a lady who was present at both Nick's and Dr. Manker's,² told me the last was one of the prettiest she ever saw. Bishop Joyce³ officiated for both, but in the last had a number of Methodist clergy assist. Miss Ida Kirk, the bride, is quite popular. Your father thought it funny that Dr. Manker should take a bridal tour like a young groom, but he did, going to New Orleans. Young Manker⁴ forgot about his father's wedding, made an engagement to call on Lola and Rebecca Jarnagin that night - of course couldn't fill it, but came after 10 o'clock and serenaded them and made another

¹ Dr. Bachman and his wife traveled to Europe and the Holy Land in 1890-91. Charles A. McMurry, Chattanooga: Its History and Geography (Morristown, Tennessee: The Globe Book Co., 1923) 94-95.

² Rev. J.J. Manker was pastor of the Chattanooga Methodist Episcopal church. McGuffey 227.

³ Bishop I.W. Joyce was chancellor of U.S. Grant University. 1892 Directory 449.

⁴ Presumably one of the sons of Rev. J.J. Manker, William or Paul Manker.

engagement for the next night. He came at 9:00 and found the girls had already gone to bed, after waiting two hours. Cousin Mary had a little entertainment at her house last night. Percy Wilson has come back from North Carolina. His father wants him to go to school, but Percy does not want to go, says his health fails from confinement. Mr. Wilson is now living in Delaware, Ohio. Notwithstanding the stringency in money, our suburbs are building rapidly. It is almost one continuous city from Market St. out to our place. Were you benefitted by the treatment which you underwent for your nose? Are you keeping a watch on your health? Now don't neglect the condition of you stomach and bowels - for they are the great laboratory for the whole body. Don't let stress of study make you neglect regularity of habits, don't try and stimulate yourself with tea and coffee for extra work. You have to pay too high interest for your borrowed capital. I hope you are also careful, my boy, to render unto God your heart, for all the benefits you have received from Him. We have had a good many sad and uncertain deaths in our midst, admonishing us of the uncertainty of life. Mrs. Hunter is sick. Write to us as often as you can, and don't grow out of sympathy with us. I feel I have so little to tell you that will be of interest. All the family join me in love. Sallie still reigns in the kitchen, but has improved since her visit to Nashville. Write soon, and believe me,

Your affectionate mother,

Ellen D. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 19, 1891

Dear Robert,

I would have written to you on Monday, but your father was quite sick in bed, demanding all of my time. He is now some better and is able to be up and walk around a little after being confined to bed for three or four days suffering from hemmorhoids, or piles, which it only gave him relief by bursting. Now this morning we are quite afflicted. Cousin Betsy is quite unwell, but not in bed. Douglas was sick all night, not able to go to school, and Ellen, who has been right well for several weeks, was worse last night - high fever - and this morning we had to work vigorously to keep her from having a spasm. She has a very high fever, but is now resting somewhat easier. With all, we have some reason to be thankful, God has blessed the remedies used in all the cases and they are all better. We are truly sorry to learn that you are so unwell. We have been praying earnestly that you might be kept in good health, that you would have wisdom

given to you to so govern yourself in every respect that your strength might be preserved. If I had time, I would like to write you a good long letter, but I am writing while waiting for the ridge car to come in sight. See if you can't get your landlady to give you cracked wheat alternating with oak flake occasionally for your breakfast. The wheat needs to be well cooked. We cook ours all day before we eat it, and warm it up the next morning. Don't touch bacon in any form, or pie crust. See that your bowels are well moved every day. Your father says tell Robert that if he is suffering much from indigestion, to make arrangements to come home, give up all hope of graduating this year. Grace sends you your book "Evidences of Christianity" by the same mail as this letter. I am finishing my letter at Thomas' store,¹ having come in for the Dr. I left Ellen sleeping quietly, but with considerable fever, while your father is suffering more than this morning. I hope, my boy, that you may, by careful living, be able to complete your course, but don't strain your health. Remember "a sound mind in a sound body" gives you power alone. We are now having some fine gardening weather. Do you notice from the list of dreadful casualties how God's judgements are in the land? I would not be surprised if we lived to see the Second Coming of Christ. I am too much excited by my nursing for the last three or four

¹ T.S. McCallie and Co., Wholesale and Retail Grocers. 1892 Directory 415.

days to write you a news letter. We all send you our love and best wishes for your health and safekeeping. Write again soon. Truly your mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

March 31, 1891

My Dear Robert,

My regular time for writing was yesterday, but I was kept so busy that I did not find an opportunity all day. Cousin Betsy is quite unwell. She has had unusual good health all winter until March came in, when she took a slight cold, that has just kept on and on and now she is quite feeble.. Yesterday and today she has been lying down in my room almost constantly. The balance of the family are in better health than a week ago. Your father, Ellen and myself are improving. We are having a lovely day, and March goes out like a lamb. Yesterday it rained all day, but was not cold. In fact, we have not had much cold or very high winds during the month, and it has gone by so rapidly I think it must have wings. We

had quite a distressing accident in the shooting death of Miss Jennie Staley¹ by her own hands. It was rumored that it was suicidal as she has been in bad health and depressed spirits for some little time. She was a classmate of Grace's in public schools. We had quite a nice little sociable at the church last Tuesday evening given by the Ladies Missionary Society. We had made a quilt which we wanted to sell. We had music by the choir, a short address by your father, and nice refreshments by the ladies. Then we sold the quilt. We organized a syndicate, with a capital of \$15.25, this money to go towards furnishing Mr. Cranes house, as he comes down next week. The quilt was given back to the ladies who voted it to me. Our Mission Society sent \$50.00 to the board of foreign missions at Nashville, then \$15.00 to Mr. Crane, and we hope to send \$15.00 to the Alabama Indians in Texas, making \$70.00, not a poor showing for a very small organization. The young ladies have a separate society. Mr. M. Cary and family have moved to Ringgold [Ga.]. We miss them in our church work. Mr. Louis Cary² has been elected superintendent in his brother's place, and Miss Lizzie Hunter as secretary. Percy Wilson is concerned for his sister Mary,

¹ Jennie Staley was the sister-in-law of Hugh Whitesides Hamilton County Court judge and President of the Lookout Mountain Hotel. On the evening of March 26th she shot herself in the heart with Judge Whitesides' revolver. The shooting was officially ruled an accident, but rumors of suicide were apparently common. Chattanooga Times, March 27, 1891.

² Louis Cary was a realtor in Ridgedale. 1892 Directory 255.

still in Japan.³ Much bad feeling has been shown lately, having the windows broken in twice in their church and school room. Mrs. DeGrummond, who has been ill at the Orphan's Home, is now improving much to our surprise and gratification. Grace met John Dodds yesterday - just returned home from Ohio. He has visited Elsie Reed and Jessie Trimble. Lola McIntosh and Rebecca Jarnagin have quite a number of beaux on Sunday. The Tabernacle⁴ meetings have begun on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock and at night. It is estimated that at least 3,000 people were present. The building cost \$2,000, and then the electric lights, the coal for four or five large stoves and care of the building adds something to that amount. They hope to defray expenses by collections taken at each meeting, in the morning at 10:00, in the evening at 7:30. On Sunday the collection amounted to \$260.00, but on Monday fell to \$9.00. It was asked that each one present would give at least 5 cents at least at each meeting, but the people do not respond heartily. The choir, numbering 150 under Prof. Wyatt's⁵ training, makes fine music. I saw Hewitt Hood in it. I expect we will lose cousin Mary's family soon.

³ Mary Wilson, a daughter of Prof. Percival Wilson, was a missionary in Japan. McGuffey 480.

⁴ The Tabernacle was a multidenominational church established by the city's religious community to help combat moral decline by evangelizing to large audiences. Chattanooga Times March 29, 1891.

⁵ Henry D. Wyatt was principal of the Normal Department at U.S. Grant University. 1892 Directory 736.

Mr. Boyle has rented the fine house on East Terrace St. formerly belonging to Mr. Strang. The rent is \$60.00 per month. I think he makes a good deal of money by his Mississippi practice which he still retains. He don't go to church, but goes in his office every Sunday and spends the morning. Cousin Mary has such good children. Park and Maxwell are much attached to each other and both are doing well at school. They have many tastes in common, enjoying their studies together. We shall hate to give them up. Mr. Trimble and family expect to leave in May for the summer, going to some little mining town near Rome, Ga. where Mr. T has interests. Mr. Divine, Julia, and children are all well. Robbie grows in intelligence and is a great little talker, saying almost everything in comical earnestness. Thomas and Kate both well. Thomas seems to take to merchandising like a duck to water. I think that Kate hopes that he will yet make a preacher. She is very fond of him, and he of her. Mr. Crane's family have thoroughly adopted him. Walter Kuns thinks Bessie very nice. The Gambee⁶ girls are just as true as steel. Mr. John Steele says they are the choice girls of our neighborhood. Buildings going up all over Highland Park and some on the Ridge. Cousin B. is some better today. I do hope, my boy, that you are feeling better. We always remember you in family prayers, at 7:00 in the morning and near 7:00

⁶ Helen Gambee worked as a teacher in the suburbs. No information is available on any sister(s) she may have had. 1892 Directory 354.

at night. Write soon. I have been too busy to think of the poetry, but try to stir Grace and father. With best love from all of the family to you, and kindest wishes for your welfare, I am truly your mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

April 18, 1891

My Dear Robert,

I feel ashamed that I have not written to you before now, but I have been trying to get some Spring sewing and house-cleaning done under very trying circumstances. Cousin Betsy was quite sick, confined to her bed. Sallie [Curley] was complaining so much that she could do no extra work, so the burden fell on Grace, Clara, and myself. We are now all improving. Cousin B. is able to be up and down stairs, but so feeble that she can hardly read even the paper. I have persevered, got some sewing and some cleaning done. Sallie has struck for a smaller family and less work. She expects to leave the last of this month. I am negotiating with one or two parties for a successor, hope I will be so fortunate and

so blessed as to get a real good servant. We do have a good deal of work to do - our washings are so large and I have a rather indifferent sort of woman. We have to do the ironing ourselves. Your father complains that I work too hard, but I don't see how I can help it. In addition to my work just enumerated, I have had to set out my flowers. I had a man to help me, but I had to do all the planning and particular part of the work. The Tabernacle meetings still go on with interest, but no great manifestation of power. Christian people seem stirred, but our city is much given to gaity and frivolity off all sorts. While all religious denominations are uniting in an earnest effort for the moral and spiritual improvement of the city, the Episcopal church under Dr. Dumbell¹ are getting up a dance, "the Kiwaness," in which strenuous effort has been made to invite, in the most flattering manner, all the prominent young people of other denominations, thereby withdrawing them from the influence of the Tabernacle meetings, filling their minds with gay, worldly thoughts and plunging them into dissipation of time and extravagance of dress, for the costumes, in order to attract, are to be very elegant. We have had a great shock in the sudden and horrible death of Miss Blanche Dodds,² our old

¹ Dr. Dumbell was a dreogatory name applied by Ellen McCallie to Rev. W.M. Pettis, who was rector at St. Paul's church at the time. 1892 Directory 19.

² Blanche Dodds, age 26, was the daughter of Col. D.T. Dodds. Her death was officially ruled as accidental, but rumors of suicide were apparently present. Chattanooga Times,

neighbor. She retired last Thursday night, feeling unwell and having about two ounces of chloroform, which she had been in the habit of inhaling for severe headaches. The family were requested not to wake her the next morning, but while sitting on the veranda after breakfast, they heard violent and peculiar coughing in her room. Finding her door locked and no response to their calls, they got in through the window and found her writhing in the agony of death, the chloroform having all been swallowed, her mouth, face, throat, and stomach seared by the deadly drug. No effort of medical skill gave relief, she was never conscious, and died at 6:30 Friday evening and was buried at 2:00 Saturday. On Wednesday night before, a young man was dressing to go to an entertainment at Mr. Dodds, the carriage being at the door. He was taken violently ill and died in one hour. Mr. Strother,³ a good man, and Mrs. Jessie Allison,⁴ another old citizen and a good woman, were both buried this afternoon. I have known them both for years. In view of these providences, showing so plainly the shortness of life, the necessity of a preparation to meet God, and the powerful seductions of the world with the active, unceasing, and malicious temptations of Satan, I feel that all earthly ambitions are vain - that as for me and

April 18, 1891.

³ William Strother was a partner in the grocery firm of H. Clay Powell and Co. Chattanooga Times, April 18 1891.

⁴ Mrs. J.B. Allison Died in Rome, Georgia of pneumonia at the age of 57. Chattanooga Times, April 19, 1891.

my household, I want to fear God and keep his commandments. I think the highest duty and honor is to be useful in influencing others to glorify God and advance his kingdom. We are glad to hear of your improvement in health, and trust you may be entirely relieved of your trouble. Your father goes to Knoxville this week to Presbytery. I have two very cordial invitations from friends there to accompany him. I expect and hope to do so. The family are all well now and I would like the chance to rest. I am finishing my letter Sunday night. Mrs. Curley, Grace, Clara, Park and Douglas have gone to Ridgedale to attend a meeting in the interest of temperance. Mrs. Wells is to be the chief speaker. Kate has not been at all well, but Thomas seems lively and happy. I never saw such a changed boy in my life. Truly wonderful is the converting power of God's Holy Spirit! Help me to pray, my boy, that it may rest upon our whole household. I think S. is striving to do better. You will be astonished to see the growth of our suburbs. Spring has put on her garments of living green and blooms in beauty upon us. The woods are full of flowers - and picnickers. Write as often as you can. Seek to live a consecrated life, my son, that you glorify God in your body as well as spirit. Uncle Gus and family well. Sister Lizzie much pleased with her home in Rogersville - children well.

Eula⁵ does finely in school. All join me in love to you.

Truly, your mother,

Ellen McCallie

FROM GRACE ELIZA MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

April 26, 1891

Dear Robert,

I have just sent the last child to bed, and will have a few minutes in which to write. Father and mother are in Knoxville, have gone to attend Presbytery. They left Thursday and I suppose will be gone a week as they will go to Maryville before returning. Your letter to mother was received yesterday. I opened it and read it but will not send it as I do not know exactly where she will be. Mother was not well at all when she left, but I hope the change will be good for her. Mr. Divine was in St. Louis just a week before you went there. He has been there three times this Spring.

⁵ Most likely a reference to Eula Jarnagin who was later an important figure in the early years of the Girl's Preparatory School [GPS] in Chattanooga. Eleanor McCallie Cooper, Don't Say "You", Say "We": The Founding of Girl's Preparatory School (Chattanooga: The Bruiser Press, 1982) 62.

Miss Blanche Dodds' death cast a gloom over the entire community. I do not think she could have taken the chloroform on purpose. Only a week before she died she told mother she was perfectly happy, that her religion made her very happy, and that she was trusting alone in Christ for salvation. She had a friend visiting her at the time from Con. and they were having such a merry time. Mrs. Dodds, I know, is heart broken, but it is contrary to their religion to show any signs of grief. There have been so many deaths in Chattanooga lately. Jennie Staley's was as bad as Blanche's. Thomas, Kate and Miss Bessie were up a few hours ago. Kate has been quite sick for over two weeks and is looking miserable. She and Thomas have about decided to build in town. I took the children all on a walk on the ridge this morning. The wild flowers all are beautiful and so are the roses at home. Next week they will all be in full bloom. Spencer is not at home. He said he was going to town with Charlie Sullivan and to church, but I am uneasy all the time he is away, for he does not always tell me the truth. The meetings are still going on at the Tabernacle and the congregations, especially at night, continue large. Mr. Stuart,¹ the Methodist minister, is now the most popular preacher in town. Bishop Joyce dedicates the Methodist church at Ridgedale the third Sunday in May. I am so anxious to hear him, but as it is in the morning I can not

¹ George R. Stuart was a popular Chattanooga evangelist who frequently spoke at the Tabernacle. Chattanooga Times, April 19, 1891.

leave my little class. I suppose you have seen that Dr. Franks has sued the Belt Road for \$28,000 in damages. There is something horrible in the thought to me. The [incident] has injured both men badly. Did mother tell you of father's present to me? He has given me the deed to the house and lot on Oak Street occupied by the Ragsdales. Cousin Mary Boyle has a beautiful home now, but Dr. Gibbs says she has moved into a freezing neighborhood.² They are all Northern people. Lila has become quite popular, has a great deal of company. Rebecca is still here. Have you begun to count the days yet?

Lovingly,

Grace McCallie

FROM THOMAS HOOKE MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

May 8, 1891

My Dear Son,

Enclosed I send you a check for \$30.00. You were slow in acknowledging the receipt of the \$50.00 check I sent to you

² The Boyles resided at 220 Houston Street. 1892 Directory 227.

at St. Louis, and you have sent me no account of your receipt and expenditures. Please do so promptly.

We are sorry to hear of your poor health. I am afraid you undertook too much in trying to take a degree. It would have been better for you to have gone another year.

We are all fairly well. Mother has been suffering from a cold, but is better. Mother and I had a very pleasant trip to Knoxville, where we stayed nearly a week. I went up for Presbytery and remained up a few days after the meeting adjourned. I go to Concord today to hold a meeting of a few days.

Grace and mother gave a nice entertainment to about 20 young ladies of the city last night. They all seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

Spencer is still at Prof. Caulkins,¹ but not studying. He is behaving better than he was for awhile. Spencer has no bad habits that I know of, but is lazy. He loves neither work or study.

Park and Douglas are doing well at school, but Ed is making no progress. He is a baby still. Margaret² is as bright as a bird. Mrs. Curley still stands by us, and is doing better. Mr. Tibbs is gardening for us. Everything looks

¹ Wilford Caulkins operated a private school on Georgia Avenue. 1892 Directory 292.

² This is a reference to Margaret Ellen McCallie.

very beautiful now, yard full of roses, and a fine garden. Some fruit, but not as much as might be.

Thomas and Uncle Gus are off up the river at the farm on a fishing trip. Kate has been sick, but is bright and well again.

Love from all. Be faithful in all your Christian duties. Life is short and God's claim on us is supreme. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" is the summons of our Lord. There is nothing that will delight me more than to see my children walking in the faith. All this world is nothing compared to Christ and his riches. Let us choose the good part and cleave to it.

Truly,

T.H. McCallie

FROM ELLEN DOUGLAS JARNAGIN MCCALLIE

Chattanooga

May 25, 1891

Dear Robert,

I have had but little opportunity to write to you while the Tabernacle meetings were in progress, and now that they are over, I find myself much behind in sewing, so will still

have to give you "only a few remarks." Yesterday the new Methodist church was dedicated at Ridgedale, Bishop Joyce preaching the morning sermon. Our church and the Southern Methodist were invited to be present, both accepted, so they had a crowd. As children were excluded, I took the boys to Highland Park Presbyterian Church, while your father, Grace and cousin Betsy went to hear the Bishop. They thought he preached a good sermon, but not comparable to Spurgeon¹ or Sam Jones². Mr. Jones has improved much since you heard him. I sent you G. Ochs review of his work here, published in Sunday's Times³. It is fair and remarkably so, coming from a Jew. Father and I took dinner at Mr. Crane's yesterday with Thomas and Kate. We had a nice dinner. They make much of Thomas, and he enjoys the petting. Friday 29th - Had written thus far when I was interrupted and just now have a small chance to finish my letter. Grace says that she told you that I had begun to write, but did not know when I would get through. Well my boy, I have had you in my heart, if not on my pen. We look forward with pleasure to your coming home,

¹ Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892) was a well known British Baptist evangelist. Robert G. Torbett, A History of the Baptists (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1973) 113-15.

² The Rev. Sam P. Jones was a popular evangelist and temperance lecturer. Don H. Doyle, Nasville in the New South: 1880-1930 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985) 125.

³ Mr. Ochs referred to Sam Jones as "a genius" with a rare "gift of oratory." Ochs also praised Jones' "Charity, earnestness, and sincerity." Chattanooga Times, May 24, 1891.

and will gladly entertain to the best of our abilities your friends. Your father has been helping Mr. Latimer⁴ at St. Elmo with a meeting. I went out with him one night, and remained till morning with my old friends, and Sabbath School pupil, Miss Nannie Thomasson. Mrs. Mary Thomasson Neighbors came to see me, bringing with her a sweet little baby girl. She married a Methodist preacher. Miss Mary Baily, an old teacher, is to be married soon, leaving Miss Wagner alone in single blessedness. Miss Munsen's wedding was an ovation. Lola and Rebecca came out this morning to bid us goodbye, they go to Macon tomorrow, Rebecca going home and Lola going for a visit till September. Cousin Mary does not like her new home because her neighbors are unsocial. Cousin Betsy thinks of going home next week. She is in good health now. I am to go into the city with her this afternoon, therefore cannot write long, but must show you that you are not forgotten. Grace wants to go over to your commencement, but it depends on getting a dress made. We are well. All join me in love. The Lord bless and keep you.

Truly, mother

E.D. McCallie

⁴ Thomas C. Latimer was an attorney in the city. 1892 Directory 468.

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APPENDIX
GENEALOGY OF THE T.H. MCCALLIE FAMILY

GENEALOGY OF THE T.H. MCCALLIE FAMILY

Thomas McCallie = Mary Alexander Hooke
(1795-1859) (1799-1878)

Spencer Jarnagin = Mary Ann Kinder
(1794-1851) (1817-1883)

Thomas Hooke McCallie = Ellen Douglas Jarnagin
(1837-1912) (1841-1915)

1. Mary Jarnagin
(1862-1881)

2. Grace Eliza
(1865-1918)

3. Julia Alexander = Samuel Williams Divine
(1866-1954) (1849-1915)

4. Thomas Spencer = Kate Osborn Crane — 1. Thomas Crane (1892-1959)
(1869-1936) (1869-1892)
= Bessie Dean Crane
(1872-1942)

5. Robert Barton
(1870-1891)

6. Albert
(Died in infancy, 1872)

7. John Hooke
(1873-1875)

8. George Caldwell
(1874-1875)

9. Spencer Jarnagin = Alice Bradford Fletcher
(1875-1949) (1880-1918)

= Katherine Pierce — 1. David Park (1921-)
(1894-1966)

1. John McCallie (1888-1967)
2. Robert Jarnagin (1889-1945)
3. Samuel Williams (1891-1976)
4. Grace McCallie (1900-1979)
5. Thomas McCallie (1902-)
6. Edward McCallie (1904-)

1. Mary Fairfax (1907-)
2. Spencer Jarnagin (1909-)
3. Thomas Hooke (1912-)
4. Alice Fletcher (1914-)
5. Ellen Douglas (1916-)

10. David Paul
(1877-1881)
11. James Park = Harriet Pendleton Bibb — 1. James Park (1905-1911)
(1879-1971) (1879-1962) 2. Anne Elizabeth (1909-)
3. Robert Lewis (1911-1965)
12. Henry Douglas = Emily Cordell — 1. Alice Cordell Sledge (1909-1970)
(1881-1945) (1873-1931)
13. Nellie
(Died in infancy, 1883)
14. Edward Lee = Lillian Eyre Griffis — 1. Katherine Griffis (1908-)
(1884-1960) (1883-1934) 2. William Elliot (1911-)
= Gwendoline Wells Andrew — 1. Barbara Wells (1920-)
(1884-1959)
15. Earnest
(Died in infancy, 1886)
16. Margaret Ellen
(1888-1976)

VITA

Timothy Paul Ezzell was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on July 17, 1963. He attended public schools in East Ridge, Tennessee and graduated from East Ridge High School in June 1981. He entered Auburn University the following September, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from that institution in June 1985. He entered the Master's program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in January 1986 and was granted a graduate assistantship in August 1987. He received the Master of Arts degree with a major in History in December 1988.