

St. Louis Mo. Dec. 14th 1863

My Dear Eugenia

I have both expected to write to you, and was looking for a letter from you, before this time. Yet you like myself, I have no doubt, have not the opportunity when you feel like writing and when you have engagements or from other causes do not feel like it you still procrastinate. I sent you quite a number of papers with the Dec. & Jan. Nos. of Goddard's ~~Series~~ Book with the long wished for picture of ~~him~~ by Mr. H. W. Buckley, who I hope has before this arrived safely at home, and has delivered them. The picture will be a nice Christmas gift from me - So permit me to offer it as such it will be a relic of the times as well as a representation of a pure good man - a favorite Editor, and expounder of Christian principles and of the faithful delineator of his race in its purity and in its degradation. He has not thought fit to answer my note to him, I may drop him another note telling him that I have accomplished the object of my first note to him. Yet I suppose he has been informed of this. I received letters from Mr. Ragan and others at Calhoun, all of which were satisfactory. I have not received a letter from Brother Emanuel

since he got back to Henry - except one he wrote
soon after he got there - Mary the children and Brother
was in town the day Mr Ragan wrote - (8 Dec^r) Mr
R said you & Carrie had gone to Dupont, I hope
you have had a good time, and have been recruited
and refreshed, I after get dull and feel like
I was almost sick of reading writing and talk
when I go (not often) among the business men and
look about ~~where~~^{but} I can see the business of
the city and am quite refreshed - I have
not procured business yet, in fact have not
tried, have kept myself so close that my
friends who were looking about for me at first
had not used an effort, I would rather go
back now to Henry if I could do business &
be safe, if I cannot I had better stay here
which is the next best thing - so far as I can see
the Blacks want to go back, they are kind out-
near a mile from my rooms and I do not get
to see them often, both have been sick & so far
have not paid their expenses, I will try soon
if I cannot go home - to rent a house for
them and let them work and see what you
- down is, just to try it - The old one did try
it at first - but because she had no such
house as she had at home, and had to look

out for herself she soon was willing to him. She
now thinks if could get her a cheap house and
let her do my making and mending and to make
for me what she could it would be better for her &
the little girl - the little girl has been quite sick
for near a month - she was sent to the house where
Edy was & I have paid board for ^{her} ever since
Edy was also sick a week. They do not find ^{mother}
John's home now - and while with all the information
^{could give them,} which was very plain, they could not find my
room, until Sunday (yesterday) I come with Edy
to my room, so she could find it when they
wanted anything. I still feel it my duty to take
care of them although they are no profit nor have
I property in them, according to the accepted idea
of many, yet as I have been raised, so I act and feel

I have not been to my boarding house for a week
saw John Barth on the street yesterday, but he had
just returned to the City and knew nothing of the
rest of the boarders, all board together now, I did
not go because I could get my meals at the same
price and not have to go fifty steps - and as I
was closely engaged in my room ~~preferred~~ it
I would prefer to get my meals this way in the
City because I get them what I order and want
cooked to my taste, while at a boarding house
I have to take it as it comes, The advantage of

a boarding house is that I meet with my friends
every day and travellers besides, hearing from
home oftener and having opportunities to send
word or some paper home, at present. I have
but little changed, although some call at our
room frequently - Judge Ballaw is closely engaged
and is with me all the time, he prefers Boarding
or getting our meals at, we now do because he
does not get up before ten o'clock nor does he
eat until he is hungry - a singular man
but the most profound Thinker, Mason, and
best writer I know of, sound on the good and
fully up to all his legal talent, I never saw such
a man - his information is general and he
has not lightly or basely studied any subject
he is not selfish, but is kind and agreeable
to all and under all circumstances - a Christian
and a patriot - doing what he can for his troubled
Country and for the good of his race - Before
I close this I may go up to see Mr Orms & thus
we heard of the Kansas raid about Calhoun & Clin-
ton but know nothing definitely about it - heard
part of what they did perhaps all about Calhoun
I got a letter yesterday from Jennie Lewis acknow-
ledging the receipt of my photographs. it was quite
an amusing letter, but do not let on that you know

She wrote to me, her excuse for not writing soon was that the rail Roads were torn up. The Railroad all well enough - I will not say more on this subject at present,

Mr. Croes is just in, he tells me what he has heard from home and all that was done, I suppose the act was agreeable and right with some of them. I learned today that Dr. Holland was here buying goods - I also learn that some others are here from Henry - but have not met with them. I got a letter from R. R. she does not write any news, Geo. R. she thought would come back to Henry, but as he has not yet gone back I presume that he will stay where he is - I have not heard from Bro. Fayette for some time. The last letter I got from him he spoke of his health being good and that he had had a trip to Michigan, on account of the sickness of his dear E - he thought he would marry about Christmas - This is his secret, not ours - We must keep it as his - I have nothing worth ~~the~~ writing about matters outside of the paper. I hope I shall be able to send you the paper more regular, ~~if so~~. and that I shall write oftener, I shall have to write about ten letters by this mail on account of my laying them

by and not taking up business as I once was
acustomed to - Give my love to your Mother
to Carrie, Cora, Molly, Thomas & Frank - Did
you let Koe go to Deep Water? if not did he
know you when you come home? How does
Gennie & Abigail come on - Does John sing
well, oh if you had that bird that sang
from the Hickory's last Spring when I was
there, he would learn every note every
song - he may do it next Spring - I will
not write more but with love am

Yours Affectionately
John A. Bushnell