

1823

23: 1823 January 2: Robert Dunbar (Cambridge) to Mrs. Margaret Dunlop "Dear Sister" (Natchez)

Robert Dunbar

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Jan 2. 1823.

Dear Sister, I have just got back from the Post Office, having waded through drifts of snow some feet deep and have read your account of the cold weather in watching sympathizing very much with you for the loss of all the sweet flowers, and Sister Ann's sweet potatoes. (By the by I wish I had some) if I recollect right it must have been very cold for the climate of Mississippi; indeed it is very uncomfortable weather here when the thermometer stands at 16. I suppose it stopped your grading about for a while, for I hear you have become very jealous for that. I wish I was at home now Sister to assist you, for I am quite a whip and could drive you in great style through the eye of a needle as we say.

I would that was a very unfortunate accident of Miss Anna's. I hope however it will not be a serious one. You will not forget to remember me to her always. I should not be surprised to hear of your writing with something of the kind, for I know you cannot get a team to attend you on all your excursions, as you state drive the grey who exults so much in running backwards?

Jan. 3. I have not time to finish my letter to you so I must as it were shut mine if you will excuse it, as I am going to see the great comedian Shivers, who has set all the Boston folks running

to the Theatre, I have seen him several times, and
never saw such acting before. He has such a just
conception of his characters that you seem to have
and see the characters themselves whom he represents.
I should never be tired of seeing him perform, for
he has a most singular knack of twisting his features
& disguising his voice so that one would think he was
a different person when he changes his characters, but
I must stay at home I suppose for the rest of the
winter, my pocket being empty & no means of filling
it again. It is really very unfortunate for us that
a few dirty pieces of paper or bits of silver are so
very essential to a student to make a vacation
pass pleasantly. You must not think that because I
have been going to the Theatre that I am getting well
again you must recollect that it is now Vacation, & I
am rather tired of pugging on metaphysics &c for the
last 3 months. Oh this being a good scholar is tedious
work, I wish I had begun when I first entered college
had I done so. I would have easy now, but the
past can't be recalled, though the future can be
improved. Give my love to Sister Ann, I was going
to write to her when I received your letter, & as you
are together I hope it will make no difference to
whichever of you my dear Sisters this letter is directed

and I am sorry it contains nothing more than that
I am very well & so is Alexander who sends his love
to you & says he will write next ~~Monday~~ Sunday
Remember me to all & believe me your affectionate Brother
Robert [unclear]

My Mother has not quitted her late bed but
gives my love to her and her little ones
Elian Diah & all the little ones.

Cambridge W²
Jan 4 - 5

25-

Mrs Margaret Dunlop
Katcher Miss