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– Letters

Lucinda Lenore Merriss Cornell Collection
(1855-1911)

4-15-1870

April 15, 1870: To John B. Cornell

Archives

Alice Jane Cornell

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Ms. J. B. Cornell
Westerlyville.
Ohio

From uncorroborated reports - to think of it - I was
P.S. - You might tell Mr. Gordon how I have
Nearly every day while I was at Mrs. Curtis, some
of the Institute folks came over and gave me a
ride, and last Monday morning Mr. Stone came
for me, though. I have to go down stairs very slowly
still. I go to breakfast & Tea, my dinner is brought
up to me: I had a joyful welcome home, the
girls like to have smothered me, with kisses and
caresses; they said I had been gone so long -
I saw one of the Trustees as we were coming home, and
he came to the carriage & enquired how I was - and said
that I must take better care of myself in the future, for
they did not want me to work, only direct others, that
would be work enough; I certainly must thank them
all, for the interest they have manifested, in my welfare
and Dear Mrs. Curtis, she was like a mother to me. I cannot
repay her in money, for she would not take it - there
is something else that I can give her - that they do not have
here; if there should be any Princes this year I hope to get
some for her - nothing would suit her better - though they
would ^{not} be ripe when I return: If you have the money
you may send it, as to the land you can have it to
work - If you do not work the East farm you will have
more time to devote to that at home. - But as to any one
wedding, I do not know anything of it, nothing has reached
me - Now my sheet is full - I do wish for the Circle
the children & yourself, I will say good-bye, (I do not sit up all day
will soon
your Sister Alice

Cleveland Apr. 15th 1870
Well Brother, I am home
again - That is back to the Institute
I staid out at Mrs. Curtis most 2 weeks
at first I did not see that I improved
for I did not relish food at all - for
my stomach was in a dreadful condition
and my tongue was so sore & swelled
that I could with difficulty talk
But after a few days, I asked for some vinegar
and Mrs. Curtis gave it me, and after that
I began to relish food, and it digested better
and the Dr. came often to see me, gave
me medicine to allay the irritation of
my stomach; and all this time I suffered
with that terrible disease, that you so often
have. (Piles) When I would otherwise
have been quite comfortable, they kept
me in perfect agony. My feet were swelled
quite bad when I went out there - but
they grew worse, until they seemed as

full as the skin could hold

There was but little pain attending it, The Dr. was sometimes perplexed to know what to do for me, my disease assumed as many forms, said he did not know what it would be next. I think he is a good Dr. his name is Reverendy. he is one of the best Surgeons in the Country was in the army, and had Charge of a large Hospital:—

Well he would examine my feet and say the best that could be done for them, was to bathe them in warm salt water, ^{and bandage them} and last Sunday he came to see me; and said if he was not afraid of hurting me he would tap them. Why said Mrs Curtis do you think there is water in them, I of course there is said he. But the swelling will go out as she gains strength to walk around - if she will only have patience - to keep quiet and take time to get well - But said he

Mr. - Alice will like to see the letter -
and other papers you have sent - The 13th she
I receive the Gazette regularly Monday & Tuesday

there is the trouble - She is in a hurry to get well, so as to go back, and get to work again - But that she cannot do; There are others to work beside her, and she can never stand it to work as she has done - Well all this I had heard many times, and I knew as well as he that my sickness was occasioned by Colds & over-work - But there was a great deal to do, the assistant Matron was sick several weeks; and though her sister was here still, work was not done as I wanted it - So with a family of 120, looking to me: that every thing is done properly, I allowed myself too much care, and gave myself entirely up to household duties and being so bilious, and not yet really acclimated; it is no wonder that my nervous system insisted on a time of rest & relaxation - Well Mrs Stone has just gone out, been sitting here talking over some arrangements that are soon to be made