

Fayetteville, N.C., Jan 31, 1861.
Dear Nephew;

Your kind letter was received this morning, and I hasten to answer the same. We were all glad to hear from you. Fannie and Jennie were perfectly delighted. They are both well, and as far as I can learn, they are well satisfied. The only thing in the way, appears to be Meade. The others talk about you and the rest of the family, but they wish she was here to go to school with them, and I wish so too, but I know of no way to get her now, unless Mr. Gates of Charlotte comes down to see his mother, before Cousin John & Brainerd comes down

this spring, but if I have no chance of getting her down before then, I want her come then certain. Unless you can come down and bring her, and you must come down and see us.

Of course we take no offense at your requests, and are glad to know that you think of them in that respect. But ought to have known Robert that we would have attended to that matter. Yes, Robert you and the rest of the friends were kind enough to let us have the children, and your aunt, as well as myself expect to do the part of parents towards them so long as we are permitted to live. We have no one else to do for. We hope to be

able to raise them accomplished women at home and abroad.

They are both enjoying excellent health. You would be astonished to see how well and healthy they look especially Jennie. She has improved wonderfully.

They are getting on finely at school. Fannie is reading and writing and studying Geography and Arithmetic.

Jennie is reading and writing. She charges me not to forget to tell you that she and Fannie stand head in their respective classes. They are both good girls. I prevailed upon Fannie to write you a few lines. If she lives, it will not be a great while before she can write you a respectful letter. They say you must tell Mother, Meade

Nettie and Gran-ma howdy
and all the rest of the friends!

Lizzie joins me in love

to you, your mother & Madge & Nettie
^{with all my love}
and your grand-ma. Write often

nothing much in the
way of news to write you
more than you have. Our
country is run wild with
excitement, and we are no
longer the United States. We
are two distinct governments,
and what is to be the final
result of the affair, is only
known to an ever wise and
overruling Providence. May
He turn His anger from us
and save us from civil
war and blood-shed, is my
prayer.

I remain

Truly yours,
J. J. Prather.



United States National Park Service
U.S. Civil War Heritage Digital Collection

Letter from J.J. Prather to his nephew (Jan. 31, 1861) - Transcription

Fayetteville, N.C. Jan. 31, 1861

Nephew;

Your kind letter was received this morning, and I hasten to answer the same. We were all glad to hear from you. Fannie and Jenney were perfectly delighted. They are both well, and as far as I can learn, they are well satisfied. The only thing in the way, appears to be Meade. The [They] often talk about you and the rest of the family, but they wish she was her [here] to go to school with them, and I wish so too, but I know of no way to get her now unless Mr. Gates of Charlotte comes down to see his mother before Cousin John MCrainey (?) comes down this Spring, but if I have no chance of getting her down before then, I want her [to] come then certain. Unless you can come down and bring her, and you must come down and see us.

Of course we take no offense at your requests, and are glad to know that you think of them in that respect. But ought to have known, Robert, that we would have attended to that matter. Yes, Robert you and the rest of the friends were kind enough to let us have the children, and your aunt, as well as myself expect to do the part of parents towards them so long as we are permitted to live. We have no one else to do for. We hope to be able to raise them accomplished women at home and abroad.

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They are getting on finely at School. Fannie is reading and writing and studying Geography and Arithmetic. Jenney is reading and writing. She charges me not to forget to tell you that she and Fannie stand head in their respective classes. They are both good girls. I prevailed upon Fannie to write you a few lines. If she lives it will not be a great while before she can write you a respectful letter. They say you must tell Mother, Meade, Nettie and Gran-ma howdy, and all the rest of the friends.

Lizzie joins me in love to you, your mother, Meade, Nettie [1 word] and your grand-ma. Write often.

Nothing much in the way of news to write you more than you have. Our country is run wild with excitement, and we are no longer the United States. We are two distinct Governments, and what is to be the final result of the affair is only known to an ever wise and over-ruling Providence. May he turn his anger from us and save us from civil war and blood-shed, is my prayer. I remain

Truly yours
J.J. Prather