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Letter, J. M. Jones to Mrs. Augusta H. Rice, June 16, 1864

J. M. Jones

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Marion June 16th 1864

My dear Mrs Rice

I have just finished reading your very acceptable letter by Ansel & delivered to him the articles you desired. So far from being considering it - then ~~rather~~ quite the contrary, it affords me great pleasure. ~~at my~~ We were all very much delighted to hear from you & the children, but would have been much ^{more} pleased to have seen you in person, it would really be a treat ~~(notwithstanding the same time)~~ to have you come up to spend a long time with us.

Our friend Mrs Logesman left Marion (I presume for Huntsville) some two or three weeks ago, she ^{was} very much affected after the death of her father. ~~But~~ ^{she} was anxious to return to ~~her~~ Huntsville, but through the advice of some of her friends she remained here some weeks & finally left. I have not heard from her since.

The Walthalls & Carlisle are all well except

notwithstanding her desire to attend the
frequent prayer-meetings, Blue Beard
opens his Church every afternoon for prayers.
I have not seen his spouse, but understand
she is very delicate. I suppose Miss Chandler
has heard of the death of her young friend
Miss Lizzie Fox sister of Mrs Cole, she died
at the Hudson some weeks ago, she was
a particular friend of my youngest sister
Magg. Sister Mattie is busy collecting for
the benefit of the maimed soldiers, she is
one of the number appointed in Marion
for that purpose, I believe they have raised
a large sum of money, my brother Joe & his
wife have gone to their plantation to live
at least for awhile, until they tire, little
Mattie doesn't like country life she says it is
too lonesome she wants to come back to
grandma's. I am enjoying the felicity of
teaching as well as yourself, but I have
only one scholar little Ed. & he is very
hands-full, I often tell him he is the
most stupid child in the world, he is

Mr. Walthall, his health has improved some
since his return home, but he ^{still} looks badly,
& Mrs W. fears his lungs are seriously affected,
his family are all predisposed to that disease
& ~~very~~ ~~very~~ very frail in constitution, but I am
in hopes that so good a man may be spared
yet, that with the comforts of home & the
good nursing of his fond wife together with
the society of his family may restore him
to his usual health.

We have had such incessant rains for the
last two weeks that every thing is dripping
with water & no one able to stir out of doors
not even for exercise without the aid of an
umbrella, I fear very much the result on the
wheat crop which is now in the stage to harvest
my garden is very fine, vegetables fast maturing
but as yet I have had very few. Mother's
health is still very feeble, she has given
out all idea of going to Virginia she fears
she may encounter more than one beast.
She misses your pleasant rides very much
& never gets out to church since you left

very much delighted that he can spell
fly & fly, & ed. little Berta has an pond
of late very much. I have been giving her
Cod Liver Oil & her strength daily increases
but her glands are still very much
enlarged & cause her pain occasionally.

I mix in society so little that I am
unable to give you much news except
in my family circle; our war news has been
so favourable of late that I feel much
cheered while it lasts, but my spirits were
considerably damped this morning to hear
of the death of Gen. Polk.

I must close by delivering the numerous
messages of love to you, the children & servants.
My larger children are all at school or
they would express them to Nannie & Arthur
but Mother, Ed, Berta, myself & the servants
each send a portion of love. I hope I shall
hear from you often until I see in person
coming to spend some time in my house.

Good bye my dear friends & may the
blessings of heaven rest upon you & yours
is the sincere wish of your
attached friends I Am Love

Remember us to
Miss Chandler