

Lancaster Nov. 23^d 1863,

Cousin Theophilus, -

I must say that this time I have no news to write, not because there is no news but because Cousin Delia Grubb and Cousin George Reed have doubtless before this time related them all to you. I write to let you know that I am well & in addition to that to fulfill my promise to you that I would write and if possible to induce you soon to write to me. I have had no opportunity as yet of reaching home, but have heard from them all & am therefore able to inform you that we are all well.

It seems that Cousin Delia Grubb & Cousin George Reed the same day that I left for the West to visit my friends there left Erie to come East to visit their friends here; intending

to return through Columbiana Co. & visit the relatives there; where I presumed they now are. I was very much gratified to see them but was sorry that they had so little time to spend in this place. I endeavored however to the best of my poor ability to entertain Cousin George while here & escorted him around to see the most prominent places of interest this good old German city presents to the inquisitive stranger.

Presuming then that they have safely reached the very kind & hospitable shelter of your comfortable homestead it but remains for me to consider with yourself the news they relate. Just as we were wont to do when I was at your place even until the clock would almost reach the "small hours" of the night. They have told you that Aunt Ducken Stump is still active although

she has reached the good age of 88:
they have told you that Cousin Wm. H.
Stump has very delicate health for which
I feel sad for he is kind & hospitable;
they have told you that Cousin Wm. Ham-
mond & wife are well, also that Dr J.
C. Rogers & lady were on a visit to our
place & that our new cousin Mrs J.
C. Rogers is an amiable and pretty
lady and that they are well and doing
well - that Uncle Glasgow & Cousin Hugh
are well & single & that Cousin R. wife are
well. That Cousin Maggie & Mary Cooper
are still single; and that there is no
reliable rumour or report of their being
married. No young man as yet seems
to have been ready with the post to have
exclaimed that

"The brightness of her cheek would shame those ^{stars}
As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven
"Would through the airy region stream so bright
"That birds would sing, & think it were no ^{night}
"See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!



"O, that I was a gloss upon that hand,
"That I might touch that cheek."

The cool & calculating world seems as yet ^{not} to have entertained any such sentimental sentiments, and consequently our fair Cousins the Misses Coopers are single.

The weather here has been very pleasant all Fall - I have no doubt but that it is much warmer here than either in Illinois or with you. Our crops this year have been pretty good - the corn crop quite good - that is the advantage we enjoy here over the farmers in Illinois & other of the western states although our land be rough & not so fertile yet we are much more certain of having a good crop.

But all countries have their advantages & disadvantages.

The Republicans here are jubilant over the good work our brother politicians have effected in the Buckeye state - with the Buck-eye & the Keystone true to the Union & the cause of Freedom we entertain but little fears with regard to the result of the next presidential election. We now perceive how much our party can effect by being properly organized by means of "Union Leagues". Let us only

be true to the principles of Washington, Jefferson & Jackson & we will again see peace, happiness & freedom making our land an asylum for the oppressed and the glory & refuge of the down trodden and the ^{poor} ~~poor~~ over the whole world.

But my sheet is about full so I will conclude by sending my kindest regards to Aunt, Cousin Almira, & Cousin Duetta & the rest of my friends & relatives ever. Come in East & see us when ever practicable - & write soon to your cousin J. M. Coulson -

I write letter to Cousin Duetta on about a week ago but as yet have received no answer - J. M. C.