

where I always expected you
to be.

Oh John I hope you will
reconsider your thoughts and
come to church as you ~~had~~ always
have been doing ~~and do not~~
pay any attention to all
the people who are making trouble.
You could not make me
feel any happier than
favor me with this deed.

Hoping to see you Sunday
as usual and that you
will answer these lines, telling
me of your troubles, I beg to
remain, as ever

Excuse the
liberty I am taking
but long to see you
as usual, and thought
it was my place
to give my only
kind thoughts
to you. Ruth

Jan. 22 / 05

Dear John:

Regarding this trouble
that came up, I could not
retire until I had written you
a few lines.

I felt quite disappointed when
you did not show up, but do
not wonder at all when I heard
your statement.

Dear John, I hope you will not
take it up so serious, for I feel
very bad over that you do not
care to attend church, for at
church was the place where we
first got to become friends, and
where I was in hopes of seeing
you. If in this church we can
not be treated right, we will in
another, but one thing dear
John do not pay any attention
to those people who are constantly
making trouble, for I have
been in the same fix myself.

Even the people who are supposed to be my best friends have had a great deal to say, for some one had spoken to my mother and said that you did not think anything of me, and I was only in your way, but I know better from what your actions towards me have been.

I think this must have come first from Hattie, but am not sure, although my thoughts are for her, for she said right to me that she thought ^{that} you felt ashamed of me when your brothers teased and it was not your parents at all. What business has Hattie to say anything about us, it is just to make trouble. ^{But} thing I am not a ^{mean girl, but I am not bad to get along with}

Now you can imagine for yourself how I left when I heard these remarks.

I have cried ~~and~~ cried over and over again, and did so last week, wondering why people cannot leave ~~me~~ alone, and I think you feel the same way, do you not?

Now for myself I can say that I have not any ambition for our church, but have plenty of friends besides two or three, here and elsewhere.

To tell the truth I have never cared for any boy before I meet you, so I cannot help taking such a liking for you and miss you when you are not around, so do not wonder that I will miss you a great deal when you are not