

6-1-1879

**Rome, Ga. Letter to "My Dear Lydia," from cousin Kate P. Caldwell,
1879-06-01**

Kate P. Caldwell

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Rome, Ga.
June 1st 1779

My Dear Lydia,
How can I find words to express my sorrow & sympathy for you under this ever heart rending affliction in the death of my dear, dear cousin, Mary. You know well how much we loved & admired & appreciated her kind, noble heart, her unsurpassed talents & her almost unequalled character as a whole. It seems to me that anything I could say would only be an in-

trusion upon & mockery of your
grief. Dear Cousin, you surely have
been sorely smitten: almost every
late year has brought its bitter cup
of agony for you & the words
I have scarcely been out of my mind
to-day: - "Whom He loveth He chasten-
eth." Every trial only draws God's
children nearer to Him: He will not
allow them to wander from Him by
worldly happiness. Dear comforting
thought, if our poor human fan-
glish will allow us to draw consol-
ation from anything.

Mrs. Coffin's kind letter to Ma
was a great shock to us, for we had
just heard through friends of

amnt Eliza's that cousin Mary had
returned from Ma. with her health
entirely restored. I am sorry that
I did not follow the promptings of
my heart which often, during the
last eight months, moved me to write
to both of you, urging a more frequent
correspondence; but Ma's long &
dangerous illness at my house last
fall, sister's marriage & removal as
soon as she could from Ma, & the
coming of a new babe to me this spring
with its consequent cares, have all
necessitated the idleness of my pen.

A little more than a year ago, I had
a letter from dear cousin Mary which
I answered at once, begging her to

let me hear from her often, but
I suppose her bad health following
so soon prevented her doing so,
though we know nothing of that for
months afterward when Aunt Glover
wrote M^{rs} of her being in Fla. with you
for her health.

Craig begs me to express his
warmest sympathy to you. He has
heard us talk so much about cousin
Mary, that he has had the greatest
desire to meet her & I shall always
feel that he missed a great privilege
in not having known her.

Dear M^{rs}, who is deeply distressed
regrets so much & reproaches herself
that she did not know more of her dear

Lord's mercies last days: that she did not learn from herself more of the characters & disposition of her children & of her hopes & plans for them. And I would be so glad, for her sake, if it is not asking too much of you, dear, that you would let us hear from you sometime when you can bear to write of what I know pains you so much.

Ma joins me in most earnest love & sympathy to you. Praying that the Comforter may be given to sustain & cheer you, & bless me, as ever.

Yr. fondly attached Friend & Cousin
Kate P. Caldwell.



Mrs. F. P. Manning.

Jacksonville.

Fla.