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## Letter from Louisiana Strentzel to Alice and Mary

Louisiana Strentzel

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My Dear Nieces Alice & Mary

Yesterday afternoon Louie & I had been on a visit in town, returning home late we found the lamp already lighted and our evening's mail lying on the table. among the rest was a package of Longy-grown papers. Louie at once tore off the envelop and commenced looking them over. I had gone into the dining for something when after a few moments she called to me "Mother come, there is news for you, I saw it, almost frightened lest it should be some bad news, when she slowly read <sup>over</sup> the announcement of the double wedding. The news was so sudden & unexpected that I did not know whether to cry or to laugh.

I did neither, but sat down on a chair buried my face in my hands and tried to think. Why, these children both were home after I left home, yes and have grown up to be women and now are married, can it be possible I have been away so long and I indeed so old? I do not know how to realize it. it all seems <sup>to me</sup> like a dream, and then how my heart went out in prayer to God that



your pathway may be stre<sup>wn</sup> with  
the choicest blessings, and that you <sup>and</sup> your  
live <sup>your husbands</sup> long happy and useful lives.

but my dear children, do you not know  
that we are all dying to hear something  
about those husbands of yours? we had  
never even heard their names before, and  
of course we want to ask a thousand  
questions about them are they large or  
small, young or old, dark or fair,  
handsome or well it would be useless  
to ask either of you this last question  
for of course you imagine them to be  
angels just descended from heaven

Yours An