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Chicago, Ill.  
May 21, 1865.

My Dear Sister

I suppose you think it is time that I was writing to you well if I have neglected you so long I have often thought of you all well we have been very busy looking for a house while we was at Racine but could not get one so we have moved to Chicago we have got a very pleasant house now we live between State and Wabash Avenue on 23 Street only White house on the block if Uncle Tom has not left Newark tell him where we live so he can come and see us when he comes here. I can scarcely write my hands are so stiff we have got our House all clean now



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the House was so dirty, we have been  
 just - been here a week we have got  
 our Carpets all down and the  
 House is arid, the Saturday night  
~~at~~ before we left Racine there was  
 fire in the Hotel where we was  
 staying about 2 o'clock in the morning  
 I was awakened from my sleep  
 by a great cracking in my room, this  
 listing could not think what was the  
 matter at - last I thought I would get  
 up and see I opened the door and  
 as I looked out there was a great  
 smoke came in my room, I gave  
 an scream to Father and then called  
 Dave and Carrie David said what  
 is the matter I said this was some  
 thing in the House with that I heard  
 a lady say burst open the door  
 I said Mother the Hotel is on fire  
 sure enough it was right next  
 room to mine if I had been in their a few  
 minutes longer we would

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had a hafter jump from one of the  
 windows down on the back porch  
 such a time their was it was soon put out it was set on fire by  
 some one that was angry at the proprietor of the house. Father  
 says he was dreaming about John. He seen him looking so well  
 and laughing he says he talked to him and he thought he would  
 run upstairs to tell me just then he heard me scream he says he  
 never had anything go through him as that did. I was the frist one  
 up I have got such a colic I can scarcely talk I ran all over the  
 House in my night-clothes trying to awake up the rest of the  
 boarders, and then I put-on my clothes we did not go to bed that  
 night the next day I shoock just as if I had a chill of it will be quite  
 a while before I will get rid of my colic.

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How I so want to see you all at this  
 and how I miss his down what I think  
 of them and wonder what they are doing. I  
 do not think we will like Chicago but it is the place  
 for business. There is money to be made  
 here if any place how is all the girls  
 how I would love to see you all you don't know what a  
 satisfaction the Family picture is to me when I want to see you all  
 I have to do is to go and look at you all it seems as if you ought to  
 speak to me why don't Mother answer my letter I want to hear  
 from you all so bad I have been dreaming so bad about you all  
 that I am afraid there is something the matter, give my love to all  
 the girls and tell them I am I am now going to write to all as soon  
 as I have time we are settled now so I can write at any time now  
 Sis write to me as soon as you get this I suppose you are all  
 through cleaning house and fix as neat as a pin how I would like  
 to be there with you and go through the House and

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p4

How I so want to see you all Mother and Pas I miss his clever  
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 Sis write to me as soon as you get this I suppose you are all  
 through cleaning house and fix as neat as a pin how I would like  
 to be there with you and go through the House and

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see how nice it looks, well tell  
 Cary and Etta I think of them  
 often and ever love to see them  
 tell them they must not forget  
 Aunt Mary, I give my love to Mother  
 and Pas and tell them to write  
 Father and Mother thus going to  
 church I did not go I did not feel  
 well enough but think I will this evening,  
 give my love to all the girls  
 and all enquiring friends and accept  
 a larger share of love for John  
 and yourself

From your affectionate  
 Sister  
 Mary Wickham

P.S.  
 Direct your letters  
 Mrs. Mary Wickham  
 Chicago Ill.  
 Box  
 3116  
 care D. Thomas.

From your affectionate  
 Sister  
 Mary Wickham

P. Y.  
 Give your letters  
 Mrs Mary Wickham  
 Chicago Ill.  
 Box ~~3116~~  
 care D. Thomas, 3116.

see how nice it looks. Well tell Cary and Etta I think of them often and would love to see them tell them they must not forget Aunt Mary. I give my love to Mother and Pas tell them to write Father and Mother has going to church I did not go I did not feel well enough but think I will this evening. Give my love to all the girls and all enquiring friends and accept a larger share of love for John and yourself

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*Mary Thomas Wickham*



*Mary Wickham Montgomery*