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Julia Gilmore Wrote Her Brother, Darius Gilmore

Julia Gilmore

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18 January 1872

Amelia C[ourt] H[ouse], Virginia

In this letter, Julia Gilmore wrote her brother, Darius Gilmore of Fairview, Illinois, that she has promised to marry Ben Van Raalte and will be going to Michigan to live. She will not be going until fall because Ben is building a new home for them. She also reported that Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte wrote her a "real nice letter." [Van Raalte's letter is dated 15 January and the original is located in the Van Raalte collection of the Holland Historical Trust in the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College.]

Original in the collection of Cindy Van Orsdal Merwin, Weaverville, CA. Copies are in the Van Raalte Institute and the Joint Archives of Holland.

How does Mary Rock get along with her baby
Does she bring it in the Chari get. Who plays
for you now? Be sure and let me know about
coming home in time You better raise the
money and let me have it to get some things
and then we can come home on our way to
Michigan How did the ^{last year} party go off all
right I expect I suppose Foss was in the height
of his glory What did Mother wear to Bills wed-
ding her old Black silk I suppose as a matter
of course Oh pshaw Darious I cannot think
of anything to write my head aches and I am
sick with a cold please excuse me this time and
I will try and do better in the future Give
my love to Pa Mother John and keep a large
share for yourself Tell Dan to be a good boy
and help Grandmother You did not say how
much your boys averaged nor how much you
received for them How many apples have you
this winter? How many cows do you milk?
Well good night Please and dreams from your
little sister Julia
Write soon and tell me about everything and
every body

Amelia C. H. Vii
Jan 18th 1852

Dear Brother

I expect you think I have forgotten
you in my new dream of happiness but I haven't
I can assure you How do you like the idea of hav-
ing Ben for a brother in law I guess you will have
to have him anyhow for I have promised him
and I expect I shall have to go to Michigan to
live now How do you like it He has written to Pa
and Mother and I hope they will answer for if
they don't he will feel real badly He don't want
me to come home until he comes after me and that
will be next fall Please keep it quiet until
after things are arranged will you He has gone
home to build and make preparations and I
tell you I think I am going to be pretty nicely
fixed I wish you would coax the Polks to give me
a neat little outfit I don't want to go into that

family looking just anyhow or I would never
hear the last of it Chris has promised us a
wedding but I don't want her to do it because it
costs a good deal to get up a meal the way she does
it - What will Smith say I wonder when he hears
of it - But you must not let it get out get Darius
I wish you could send me something for I am a
perfect King snuffin I haven't a whole dress to my
name that black alpaca is damaged and every time
I wear it I tear it - I have been so afraid to wear it
for fear of snussing it that I haven't worn it more
than a dozen times and it is going to pieces all
over and my shoes are all torn I cannot go to
church any more and if it had not been for Ben
I couldn't have written any more letters I have
been out of stamps ever since I wrote you the last
letter and Monday when he started away he gave
me five and told me those were to put on letters
I wrote to him and I have used them for other
letters. What has become of Helen she has not answered
my letter neither has Mary Jane nor Anna
I think they are real mean that's what I do.

never mind I will get letters now anyhow
without since I commenced this I received a letter
from Anna and Mrs J also a real nice letter
from Dr Van Roalte I wish you could see it
it would do you good I wish our folks would
write us nice a one to Ben it would do his
heart good I know it would, Darius I wish
you would coax Pa into sending me 50 or a
100 I am completely worn out of every thing
I would like to commence getting ready
there is no telling when Ben will come off
me I expect you will think I am crazy well
you won't miss it much for I guess I am
you would be too if you were in my fix with
not a cent to help yourself with what does
Pa and Mather think of it anyhow I hope my
letter will bring me an answer from them
I think you must have had a gay time with
your Christmas Tree as usual Who was on
Committee to dress the Trees this year What
was going on New Years anything How much
did Mr Joralmon get at the donation