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Julia Wrote Her Brother, Darius Gilmore

Julia Gilmore

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26 January 1872

Amelia C[ourt] H[ouse], Virginia

Julia wrote her brother, Darius Gilmore, that Ben Van Raalte had been visiting her in Amelia and hence, she had not written sooner. She asked Darius, "What do you think of my choice?" She hopes to be married at her parents' home in Fairview, Illinois, than in Amelia at the home of her brother and his wife. She also said that Ben was very angry when he was in Amelia because he was unhappy with Julia's situation there. If he had the money to rent a home in Holland, he would have taken Julia with him. Julia needs clothes badly but has no money at all. She works for her board and room. She again refers to the letter Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte wrote her saying, "Dr. Van Raalte wrote me a splendid letter approving the choice of his son and acknowledging me as a daughter. I tell you it made me feel real good." In a postscript, Julia seems to indicate that the Gilmores did not treat her well.

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Do not let this letter be
seen by any one but
yourself Ben is as ever
as usual
Amelia C. H. P.
Jan 26th 1872

Dear Brother,

I will tell
you the reason I did not write you, Ben was here
and I had to give him my spare time what do you
think of my choice I have just come home from
a party the whole family have been out to visit
a family by the name of Holmes baby and all
but I did not enjoy myself at all I guess I
want to come home is what is the matter with
me I think it will be more respectful for
me to be married at a Gathers house than
at a brothers I am just waiting for a letter
from Pa and Mother to tell me what I must
do, I hope they will say come and I will write
to Ben how things are going here and he will

written to you that I have if they did not know me
I don't care what Ben says - I have
said so by all means. He was awful
angry when he was here. He said if he was paid
or could rent a house he would have taken me
along right away. But he had no place to
put me I felt I had lost my last friend
when he left. He said I should not stay here
at first at all or if I did he would pay my
board and told Will and Chris so they were
awful spunky. Will said I earned my board
and you know how I am as long as there is
any thing to do I will help along. I don't see
but I work just as hard here as I do at
home if I stay here I will never get ready
for Ben. I see that plainly. For if I sit down
to sew for myself, Chris is spunky. But if I
have to stay I will write to Ben and he will
pay my board the last two months. The worst
is I haven't any means to get anything worth
I wish I could have about a hundred dollars
to begin for Darius. I am out of everything I have
a whole pair of shoes to my name and my
dresses are all mussed out. I haven't a decent

to see me so bad. I guess he will say
another time when he hears the news about you.
I think so. I did not like to ask Pa for money
because he never answered my letter and I
thought he did not like me any more. You
don't want me home any worse than I want
to come. I can tell you I am glad the people
all want to see me so badly. I think Helen
must care a great deal for me and Mary J.
too for neither of them have answered my
letter and I think they are real mean. Well it
is one o'clock and I guess I shall have to go
to bed. Now ask Pa and Mother to write me
soon and tell me what they think of my choice.
Dr Van Brant wrote me a splendid letter
approving the choice of his son and acknowl-
edging me as a daughter. I tell you it made me
feel real good. Now I hope Pa will write to Ben
himself. It will do him ever so much good.
Give my love to Pa, Mother and John and reserve
a great large piece for yourself. From your
but wants to see you.