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The Homestead

July 16, 1903,

Dear mamma + papa:

We received  
your second letter tonight  
and are very happy.

The otherday Albertus  
picked about  $\frac{1}{2}$  bu. of crab-  
apples, nameless and every  
thing is all right, we went  
fishing today and caught  
3 fish. I am sorry to say  
that yesterday the henhawk  
carried away one of our (large)  
largest of the young chickens  
we were eating dinner when

one of the boys told us that the hawk was circling above the pine trees with a chicken in its claws, at first we could hardly believe it but at night I counted them and found that one of the largest was missing. Today we have seen (nothing) nothing of it but know we are keeping a sharp watch for his return for we are expecting him soon. We have just come back from the post office and got your letter an one for Thattie and (if) four for papa. Albertus is sitting

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beside me reading his  
youth (companion)  
companion, Kitty and  
Mattie are happy and all-  
right. We were to go to Mattie's  
home 3 days (ago) ago but  
the man that was to tell us  
when the thrasher was to  
come did not do as he was  
asked. But we expect to  
go there soon now. Do not  
worry about us but have  
a good time & hope that you  
will enjoy yourself greatly  
& in your next letter I wish that  
you would tell me all about  
scenery of the (●●●●●) Royal

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George.

Yours sincerely  
From your loving son  
Wickie