
Wednesday, May 12, 1852

My dear lovely daughter

Your long expected letter of the sixth of the month came to hand today with three others. You need not doubt how much I was gratified to open it. I had indeed become uneasy hearing that some of the family were sick and I had even thought my dear little Antonie might have been ill from his head. But oh how I was relieved, and that was such a beautiful piece of ribbon and I do prize so much anything given me by one I so dearly love. And what shall I get you? I thought last Saturday the eighth I would get something for you and again I thought I would wait until you came up. Will you be up with V or when will you come? Tell John I want to see the children when I see you and if he would but come I would take such a pleasure in taking him up to see my dear old Father who he would be so pleased with. He has recovered and today I hear he is coming down. Your Father says he will save John and the other children a pair of his blonde sheep if they will come for them. He sold 10 a few days ago to go to Illinois for \$100. He has not done shearing sheep yet we are offered 20 cents in the grease and these is a Silver money offer for the best lot of 500 lbs in Lexington. It was showed to me yesterday and insisted on my trying for it but I do not know that we will. I went down yesterday and returned took Aaron to ride before me I drove the yellow horse and took down all of my dear son's clothes and bedding. He wrote to me to send them on immediately. He was keeping bachelor hall I sent him a large box I had packed at Canty's and directed to him. He says you do not write to him. Now dear child I hope he will do well. My children are dear to me. Well my dear I have been only tolerably well. I have so many pains and so weak a back. I have been to Midway for Laura [*her step granddaughter*] and to Winchester and it does weary me so much now to travel. I have bought one lawn dress for myself a common one and one for Laura, stockings and gloves and and I looked at a corded black silk in Lexington yesterday but thought I would wait until I would have more time. I bought linen for pillowcases and some for petticoats and chemise yolks and sleeves and —

Mr. Price dined with us today. He left Josephine at her mother's and he has been to Mount Sterling. He is a clever man. Rebecca was over today, she looks badly she has been sick two weeks she has taken violent cold. She got women papering her back room and worked and changed her clothes and has been confined to her bed but they all are better now. But Nelly and Mon are confined with something like scarlet fever. I have had all sick with measles, all the house servants and Willy is still sick and Laura has to have it yet I hope they will get through soon. Caroline is still up but I do not expect to see her out a day longer. I shall then be closely confined yet I do not have much to do except see to the fowls and garden. We have 120 chickens and three turkeys sitting. Well I will stop tonight and tell you all in the morning. Your Father has gone to bed and I am almost blind.

Friday morning

My dear child

I got up yesterday morning with oh such a sick spell, violent pains in my head and every joint ached. I've vomited all day I laid upstairs the noise and smells of the porch made me so sick. Rebecca came over and Mr. S and stayed to supper. I came down after dark but did not sleep well but since I walked about a little I am not so dizzy headache. I am totally broken down I can't take such trips as I used to do but I knew my dear son was in want of his bedding.

Well, the neighborhood has been in a noisy state about M Kenny and Sally F parting. They have different tales Mrs. Ferguson says (I am told) he is faithless to his wife and a dirty fellow in his family he says it is money all the time. He has conveyed away all his right to all she has and it is the opinion of everyone I hear speak of it that he has thereby thrown away his influence and dignity in his family. I am told all was to be laid before 5 of our preachers yesterday and see what was their opinion. There is a suit on both sides. Well my opinion is just this, he should have held his right by marriage to all, and then have been a man to act for himself and let Coleman Graves, (*who*) done the same and been a gentleman at home and everywhere else. I just believe it is right and best to do right - Lord preserve mine from any discord!

I have no new or nice thing to tell you about, I have not painted any [*thing*]. Our porches are so shackling they want repairing and then I will paint if I feel well enough. Pop Duval sheared our sheep yesterday. He says there is about 600 lbs. When I sell it I will get all my little things. I got a letter from Sister Henny, she speaks in glowing terms of Mr. Gex and Mr. Craig. She says they are the very first in this family. When you come up we must go up to see all of them and I hope it will not be long. I would like for Mr. and Mrs. Gex [*to come*] to be up about the time of our fair. There is such a display of everything that is interesting. I know that John would relish it too.

I am so sorry Judy, her little baby is so feeble. It was born without and constitution and never will be healthy, if it lives. Does your yard and garden look pretty? I often think when I am here so lonesome, if I could just be with you, situated to assist you in everything, I would enjoy it so much. I sit sometimes and see all the little negroes get over the fence in the yard and gather Dandelions and [*they*] look so happy. I think what would I give if I had enough to make me thus lighthearted, but I should not mummer. You must write to Roger sometimes. He is so far away from us all. I will write as soon as I feel able. I have no letter yet from Collett. He is busy building I hear and will not be up for his children until the Fall. Jane is sick all the time. I am told Mrs. Owings is in Mr. Sterling at Doct Cole but our family have no intercourse with her. Why does not Virginia write? Tell her I want to know when I shall look for her so that I might make a nice cake and all. And you my dear child write often and let me hear all about your arrangements for coming up. I want to see the children so bad, but you must be careful with them on the boat and when you get up they can run at large and be happy. Oh I did wish for you yesterday. Poor old Pamela came up and spent the evening and talked of you all the time. It seemed she thought it would gratify me. Farewell my dear child - I hope that you will be so situated that you may enjoy life at home and when I am no more, have everything that will make life sweet and death terror less. Kiss John and the dear sons for me and do not let them forget me. Remember me to all friends and to the servants. Rebecca is abusing you and Virginia for not writing to her.

Lord bless you my child

Your affectionate Mother

I am right sick, I must stop and lay down . I send a scrap of my lawn (fabric) and Laura's

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