
1853

Sunday Morning May 1

My Dear Child

After long looking your dear welcome letter, written two weeks today, I received on last Wednesday which I need, not say gave me great pleasure. I had day after day sent to the office and hoped and expected to get a letter from you, my son and Collett, but I have not received one from either of them. I have been uneasy about my dear Roger but trust in the Lord. Oh what could I do if my lovely son was taken from me, my joys now are only reflected from those of my children. I was glad to hear you all were well and busy engaged in your domestic duties. And as you wisely observed enjoying so great a privilege, that of communicating by letter that which distance and circumstance deny us. I have been uneasy about Virginia. I do not know why, I hope she is by this time better and soon able to write to me. You say Mother Gex and Emma have been up to Cincinnati shopping. They are both such nice, well balanced ladies. Dear little Emma, I love and feel for her particularly, she has no mother and she is so genteel and nice. I shall be so pleased with my pretty flannel chemise but I did not expect you to get it with the money I sent. I had neglected paying the boys for taking up our trunk off the Hoasian State and to get R Craig a knife. I hope you will always be to Emma a sister, it is so lovely to live peaceably with friends. My love to Mariam too and oh my dear little smart Antonie and Brooking. Tell him he must eat like a gentleman with a knife and fork and dear little son, did he look for his Big Ma on the boat? I got the seed, and when your letter came, your Aunts Henny and Emily were here. They started in a buggy and little George and Miriam Robertson on horseback on Tuesday and about the Blue Ball, broke down and got mended up and started and just at Alesberrie's, you know, this side of Will's the wheel run off and they left the buggy and borrowed a saddle and both rode the horse and we had a pleasant time. They stayed one day and two nights they dined with me and spent the evening with Rebecca - had everything nice. Her children are better except poor little Edward who coughs worse than any one I ever saw one, has fallen off to a skeleton.

I took the buggy and yellow horse and Thornton and carried Emily and Sister H as far as Will's on Thursday and left them getting ready to start on. I came back through town and got a pretty chintz spread like yours and Virginia's except it is a beautiful light blue and I got you a pretty calico a pale buff ground and covered almost over with a green china pattern. It will do for fall with a black apron. I want to go to Lexington on Tuesday to March's sale. I want a bureau and some common chairs and a carpet for the little dining room and some shovel and tongs and a caster. Your Father said he would go down with me and get me a good common Rockaway [*a Rockaway is a type of carriage*] (perhaps) and he will return and I will come home in the stage Friday. I would be so glad if you could be with me that time. We would be so happy and we would get so many good things to eat and all.

I have just had the house cleaned and made some flower pots out of white and purple Lilacs and am now expecting Laura and family to dinner. This was my church day but I will not go. I have an old joint of bacon for dinner, a sort of beef squirrel soup and a

cold leg of pig and a cold octagon cake and potato pudding. And now if John could but be here today and the dear little sons and you to sit in the front porch with your Father and the children to be up in the yard gathering dandelions and you and I in my room, I would feel another sort.

Your Father says I must tell Mr. Gex he has sold his lot of mules for \$150 delivered in August, the first day. And we will have 5 or 6 hundred pounds of wool at 30 cents sold. He says John and Mr. Craig ought to get their rams and ewes, they are so fine. I made plenty of butter. We have 12 calves and Rosa and Kitty milks. I believe Kit is getting ready to have a wedding, her and Charlotte. Priscilla has just come in and said I must give her love to you and Miss V and she wishes you would be up here at Holiday and set her table. She wants you to be strict with Sarah and not to let her go about without you are with her.

Robert Long took a trip to Cincinnati last Monday. Started from Winchester with Betsy Awsley's daughter Mary and went to Lexington that night and on in the stage to Cincinnati and was married and got back to Lexington. I learn they are still there, all parties opposed, she is a pert slut as you ever saw. I do not know where he will take her to, Polly seems to be so disturbed.

I have a fine prospect for peaches, (?) and strawberries. I hope you will eat some with me. I want to meet Virginia in Georgetown if I can but I hope she will come up if she but stays a day. Now my dear child my paper is growing short and I am not half done. When shall I see my dear child - do my dear be happy, be prudent, do not let anyone intrude in your and John's rights. You will have to have a stern dignity to get along with this world. I do love everybody but no one shall set their foot on my rights certain. And give my love to Molly and the children and to V and Mr C and to Mr. and Mrs. Gex and Silas and Emma and Luke and Mary G and all the black friends and Thomas. I will not finish until after dinner.

4 O'clock Laura and Dr. F and family are just ready to leave. I will close, no news except Lucy Lockly you know Mr. Nickles died a few days since, sick a long time, left two children. Mr. S said he was sorry he could not stop as he went up he proposed it but the telegraph would not leave. He bought some 6 or 8 hours and came home by land. If I get a letter from Roger tomorrow I will write again this week. Although you will find I have no stamps. Adieu my dear child. May the Lord be with you is my sincere prayer. My love to John, kiss my dear little sons for me. I will send you some ice plant seed from Lexington.

I sent you some cauliflower, cabbage seed in my last letter. They are so fine to make pickles.

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