

1851

My Dearest Sister,

Brother L [*Bettie's husband Lewis Mason*] has just come up and says he will start directly after dinner so I can't write you much as it is near dinner time. You can't know how much disappointed I was you were not along with Brother. I had been upstairs and fixed your old room as to be nice for you by the time you came, but hope and trust you will come up so soon as you get your soap and garden made and come up to stay a good long time. To think it is now going on 2 years since you left and never seen any of your old acquaintances. Mr. P [*Josephine's husband John Price*] has been gone near 2 weeks. I have been very lonely of nights baby (?) is a great deal of company but (?) company of evenings the time Mr. P is always with me when at home. I have not heard from him since he left. The young men got a letter he was very well. Will not look for him for three weeks, nearly what is the reasons you don't write oftener. I had been looking for a letter for 2 weeks before Brother came. You don't know how much pleasure it gives me to hear from you and dear children. I do want to see my dear little Betsie so much, to hear her talk and see how she looks and sweet little Molly, her Pa says is so pretty and interesting. He sit and told us last night about her eyes and how and who she looked like. I do want to see her very much. Brother says you are busy soap making. I commenced last week, can only make 2 days in the week after Henrietta is done washing. Made 3 kettles of as nice jelly soup as I ever saw done of hand. I have near two barrels of cold soap by me.

I commenced putting in some seeds yesterday but am now very sorry as I expected we will have to move as soon as Mr P gets back. I put in my peas and am sorry I did not send them to you and beets, radishes and onions. I send you and Prince what seeds I have. They are all fresh seeds. I saved last year and have a quantity of onion sets and put in as many as could get in the saddle bags. Cary will go out with Nelson to put out the things around your dear little baby's grave. I had somethings set out at my darling little child's grave, can't fix it until get the stone for it. We are having some cut at Marysville. It has now been near a year since she was taken from us but oh it seems like an age since I gazed on that lovely firm and beautiful face. She is constantly in my mind when her Pa left us this time last year she was the picture of health and oh how well I remember of her telling him what to bring her sister her brother and her cousin and herself for she always put in her cousin in speaking of doing anything or having anything. But I know she is happy yet it is a hard hard trial to give her up. I do not think it murmuring to grieve after so beautiful and so sweet a little child as she was.

Daughter talks of her very little it is Cousin she dwells on. She is very proud of her towel you sent would not let it be put with mine, keeps it with her clothes. She has fallen heir to the sack you sent smock Eddy. It is a beautiful one and fits her very well and the things you sent I am very much obliged those (?) look just like Aunt Mariam's. I wish that I had something good and nice to send you and the children but will wait til the new goods come for there is nothing in the store fit to wear, not even a pair of nice kid gloves. I sent Molly a starch bag and [*her*] cousin Bell [*Isabella*] sends Cousin some candy but will send them something nice when Mr. P comes back. I tried to engage some sugar cake but it has been so little sugar weather has been none

brought to town. I got it some indifferent molasses yesterday. I have some nice dried peaches for you and told (?) I was sorry could not send them by brother L, they are peeled and very nice. Cary sends best love, says she will write to you next week. She is filling the starch bag for cousin Molly daughter sends best love to you and (?) she wants to send her every (?) rag and everything she has to her. You must write my dear sister as soon as you get this.

Give my best love to Princy. I was truly sorry to hear of her suffering so much. I always loved her very much and she is so fond of you. Kiss the dear children for me and Cary as ever I remain your devoted

Sister Josephine

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