
August, 25

Morgan Station
Friday evening 4 o'clock

My dear sisters

I have been here since last Monday doing all I can for our dear sister who has been confined of first flux and now fever. Her case has been hopeful until the last two days and today both Dr. Beaufort and old Dr. Russell have decided that we need no longer consider her case anything more than a miracle if she recovers. They both told me they thought we might expect a fatal issue tomorrow. Oh what a wretched family. Henrietta is in the little room upstairs under medical treatment, little Mae in Emily's room and she, poor skeleton up in the large room. She has noticed but little didn't eat anything suffers but little except from debility a constant running off of the bowels. She has been 16 days in bed and the whole neighborhood alike suffering. Our old dear Father is in a most pitiful state of mind. Mr. Everett is too sick for sister Henny to leave but a short time. H [*Henrietta*] Blackburn is now here. I expected to have gone down yesterday but thought I would wait until this evening but now expect to stay. I left no one at home and Mr. B [*Brooking, her husband*] not willing for me to leave and I know I might be sick but if I was alike situated what would I do? Our poor dear sister has the best nursing and everything that can be procured but I must tell you, I have hope but no reasonable hope. Oh would we too to future to you. She does not say a word, therefore I cannot say what is the state of her mind. We would have written long since but thought neither Sally nor yourself could come now, so will but hope you may, be able to do some good hereafter if God in his wish and Righteous Judgment to take our dear sister who, I have no hesitation in saying, she is the best of the family and never ready to go than either of us.

I know I shall be greatly wanted at home but should I not be sick hereafter I may be able to stand all I shall have to encounter. At least I trust to God alone. My dear son has been gone four weeks South and no one at home to protect or manage. Mr. B was better of his attack when I left but not well enough to be left alone. You shall hear again soon if you do not send or come to Mount Sterling. Farewell my dear sisters may we live united and be ready to join each other in a world where trouble is no more.

Your affectionate sister Mariam

Thursday night my dear Princy I got this enclosed in a letter from Joe (Josephine) this evening. Your letter written on Sunday oh poor poor aunt Emily how distressing what a dependent family as I trust we will hear she is better but we need not have any hope from what your dear mother writes. My Ma and aunt Sallie got this on Sunday morning and Sunday evening Ma went into town and Aunt Sallie and she were going up next morning on the stage. Oh what affliction our dear old Grandfather in his old days to see so much trouble. Caroline sent me word she was going up to her Pa's so I will send by her. I am going up to Lexington next Wednesday evening Mr. Mason

may go as far as Frankfurt so when are you going? Don't go until Wednesday and we can go up together. I will get on at Carrollton. Let me hear from you immediately. Can't you come down I want to visit your Ma while I am up. Do not know how long I will be absent. I will have little Mariam armlets ready by Wednesday. We all are well MM goes to Louisville in the morning be home Saturday good night kiss the dear little ones and cousin John love to all
Affectionately Bettie

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