
Sunday, August 6, 1854

My Dear Very Dear Child,

Your long looked for a letter came to hand on last Friday which I need not say gave me more pleasure than I can tell you. It had been more than a month since I had heard from you. I was happy to hear you all were in usual health and enjoying many comforts so many are not in possession of. And how my poor heart leapt with joy when you said should soon here when you and the dear little ones would be to see us. I am indeed lonely and comfortless as you will find before this letter is read through. Laura is at home now and is a great comfort to me.

Your dear brother left for the south I do not know whether Georgia or South Carolina a few days since with a large lot of mules. He is in partnership with Blackwell and Nat Pellett. I think so far as I can understand it is not a flattering or a pleasant step however I feel as if all he does is for the best on his part. -----Laura and Mary have been out a day or two and I enjoyed their company much. Laura is affectionate prudent and kind as is Mary. We, like you, are entirely burnt up with the drought. The blue grass is all burned up and corn almost worthless, water scarce and people despairing. But I do not feel much concerned.

I am indeed truly sorry for poor Caroline Craig she has had line upon line. I hope she may ask where have my dear little ones gone and turn her tearful face that way. My kind love to her and all the family. Caroline's little fine baby died the day after I wrote to you. She is a feeling valuable servant, she has all the time desired to go down to see you all, but she has no company.

And now I must tell you all how I shall be confined. Your Father on last Wednesday morning got up early and found he had (or he thought) had a most uncommon sound nights sleep. After getting up he found he could not walk without reeling to and fro. He came out and got his cane and bathed his head and found all his sight was dim and all he saw was two objects instead of one. He continued in that condition two days unable to stem his course at all. Dr. Fraser came out and found him under a stroke of apoplexy. He told him he had a broken blood vessel in his head for some time and that he need know that at any moment he might have another and a fatal attack. He is now weak and cheerless. Lays down almost all the time. I ride out and attend to his stock and he took a large portion of Colonel whiskey and the evil has relieved him in part of the dizziness but his mind is suffering as is that of us all. And no one now here to attend to his affairs.

I went to Neil McConn and to Lexington on bank business last Friday which did fatigue me very much. I also brought up the drawing room blinds I had them repairing. I had them trimmed with red this time. I saw a Josephine Price she is a lovely genial prudent lady. She spoke much of you and yours. Your Aunt Sally was well and very cheerful and comfortable. I got a long affectionate letter from sister Henny a few days ago, she has been out to Morgan Station since Tuesday. Her family were all well at that time also the town [is] healthy again. She seemed to be in a most

anxious state of mind. Oh we all have just as much as we can bear here below, but I feel as if we should endeavor to do all we can to render our family and ourselves happy here, kind and just to all. And I believe God will do for us that that is best for us.

Now I will have say one word to my son John could he not now just get someone to see to his affairs and come up with you? And see your Father in his deep trouble? It would be best I think. I want to go down a little while this morning and hear a sermon at Mount Zion and get Caroline to sit in the porch until I get back then I will finish my letter.

Monday evening Winchester

I unexpectedly came into town this evening. Your father wanted to ride in, I think to see Dr. F. He is better today but weak and thin and low spirited. In getting to town I find the Methodist Church and all the shops and stables down to the corner entirely burned down last night by a cigar being smoked in the stable by a showman who had shown there the evening before, Saturday night. A genius I believe. Three fine horses burned and you know the church was just finished however it is a small matter with me.

Oh my dear child do write as soon as you get this and set the earliest time to come up. You can conveniently ask Mr. Gex to come with you. It would be so great a source of satisfaction and if he lives to our age he will find it all for the best. I know your Father would be so glad to see him. I have not been up to Dr. Frazer's yet but they are all well. Do give my kind love to each of my friends and relatives and to Betty Mosen and Louis when you see them. Kiss my dear little son and tell him his gold dollar shines in the work box. Kiss my sweet little daughter [*Henrietta's daughter Mariam was born March 29*] for me and their Father too, also Virginia and all the family. Farewell my dear dear child I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you soon and enjoying that pleasure seldom met with here. Remember me to all the servants

your affectionate Mother

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