
17 May 1857

Sunday

Dear Princy, [*the nickname for Henrietta Brooking Gex, Laura's half-sister*]

I was much obliged to you for your long and interesting letter received a week or so since - Hope you will write me such a one again - I've just been out looking at the garden trees and the prospect is not very favorable for fruit. We have a great many fine fruit trees, will have a good many apples and cherries but the peaches were very generally killed. Though there are few scattering ones to be seen. Mr. Fraser [*her husband*] has 10 acres in a garden spot and a Welshman and a gardener thinks he will raise a good many summer vegetables. Dr. Frazer thinks he is the busiest man in the world - is having five rooms added to the house. The brick masons have very nearly finished their part of the work supposed by the first of July it will be completed, that is painting and papering we now have 10 large rooms. Pa [*Robert Edward Brooking Jr*] thinks we ought to "keep tavern" we've got such a big house it looks very handsome and has a fine situation. Rebecca [*their sister*] was down to see us a few days ago. She is dressing a great deal this summer has a new flounced organdy and grenadine and a green silk - looks very well. I reckon Rebecca has written to you about grandpa's will [*this would be Marquis Calmes Richardson*] in which (?) your mom's children were not mentioned. I think you have all been treated very badly. The old gentleman must have been influenced he was not capable of making any disposition of his property.

Caroline [*she was the servant of Mary Mariam*] was up with Mrs. Spencer's last Sunday and Rebecca was telling her about it - I haven't seen Rebecca since she heard the will - Caroline has a very attentive beau I think she will marry soon. The man belongs to Mrs. Ann Jackson is a very nice-looking servant. She is anxious to make a visit to you all - I've heard her begging Rebecca to go down this summer and she would go home with her to nurse her baby [*that would be Albert, born in January, 1857*]. I wish very much she could go for she is as good a servant as anyone ever had. She attends to the dairy and poultry yard and sews says she is very happy and satisfied. Princy, Pa says I must tell you he thinks Captain Richardson treated you all badly but he would say nothing about it. Maybe those who influenced him need it worse than you do. You must come up this summer my dear sister and stay a long while with us. I think you ought to come to see us at least once a year and stay a month with us. Robert Craig [*Virginia's son*] was out to see us last Sunday seems right anxious to get home. Mary wrote to Molly a week or two ago insisting she would come up the last of this month and stay at least till Robert goes home. I feel that we can entertain our relatives pleasantly this summer we have a great big house, elegant vegetable garden and a Rockaway and horse at my entire disposal. Dr. Frazer bought a very handsome nicked Bay horse for the Rockaway gave \$300 for him and \$450 for the Rockaway. Give my love to Virginia tell her she must be sure to come up before Robert comes home. I will write to her soon my love to all.

Yours affectionately Laura Frazer

Mary wrote to Brooking a few days ago sends her love to you love to Mr. Gex tell him we shall I expect him up with you.

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