
At Mr. Spencer

Tuesday 12 O'clock September 21, 1853

My Dear Children

I came over about 11 o'clock hoping to hear from my dear son, but no news. Why does he not write? Oh, I am lonely today, I spent a lonesome day yesterday and I slept tolerable well last night and thought I would come over and see how all were here. Mr. Spencer is quite complaining but up and out. The dear little innocent children well and happy. Dear little Mariam wheezes some but is trotting about with my bonnet on bidding everyone a good morning. We have just taken a cup of tea together and the old lady has laid down and I am in Rebecca's room writing. Your Father seems still quite uneasy and I fear will continue so until his mules arrive. He is in a constant state of uncomfortable excitement. I shall not go home until after dinner and I will stop and see Mrs. Price a little while. I have almost done my mouslin delaine [*mousseline de laine, was a soft, lightweight, high-quality wool dress fabric, usually covered with a pattern*] comfort, large squares of each color. It looks well. I thought I would tack it with silk buttons but I find it too light. I will quilt it in large diamonds, I think. I will visit this week, may go up to see Mrs. Lang one evening and after come to see the dear little ones here. I feel all the time as if I would like to be with them.

Doct. F [*Frazer, her stepdaughter Laura's husband*] came out this morning a little while. He found Isaac in the field but said he would like to see him at his house in the morning. He said he left Johnny very sick, had another attack last night but was better. Nothing more from Bob Smith's case, said to be done "hastily in self-defense." Oh, if people would just try to make those in their power as happy as possible how much better it would be.

My dear Princy, I did not write by Virginia [*her stepdaughter who has just visited them*]. I had nothing to write you but I will say my healthy is tolerable good and I get on in this life about as well as any other one would in my situation. It is always a pleasure to me to do anything that will add to the comfort and happiness of my children. And again, it doubly adds to it to see them appreciate what I do and treat me with that kind of affection and tender attention that is so grateful to the feelings of a mother. My lovely child Virginia told me dear little Emma [*Silas Gex's wife*] would be confined shortly. Do, if it is agreeable to Mr. Gex, invite her to your house and attend kindly to her during her confinement [*child birth - Emma has a daughter, Lilly in "early" 1854*]. It cannot in-accommodate you much if you manage well and she, poor child, for no sister to look to and it would be best for Silas too. And it is always best to do as we would have others do for us.

The flannel sleeves are so nice and I will think so much of them. I expect now to set right into winter work and be confined all winter. It is so tiresome to be shut up all the while without any society or anything of that kind. And if Roger does come, I do not know how long he would stay, but I still hope in that my last days may be my best days, but when I look at my children, I feel comfortable. I hope you may have a pleasant time while Rebecca is down and I will be relieved when she gets home. I think she ventured too much with too small a driver.

I wish I could be with you this winter. Tell John I would superintend for him and help him all I could. I have always thought I would like to hire him by the year just to let him oversee and not work so hard. Say, dress up nice and put on his gloves and ride around and see to all and not work so hard. I want to see my dear Antonie and Brooking. I had not anything nice to send them. I hope Rebecca will get something for them. You must write more regularly. I get so uneasy.

I do not know what to think of Roger not writing. He cannot think how few are my joys or he would endeavor to make me happy in regard to him. You, my dear child always have been to me the light of my eyes. Oh, I pray that I may live to see the day when I shall be all the time happy in the presence of my children and have it in my power to furnish every means that can afford them all comfort. Virginia looks well and seemed to enjoy her visit as much as could be expected. I do desire the satisfaction of all and feel as if I would do justice and love mercy. You must give my love to all friends and all the servants and kiss my dear little boys for me. Tell them when I come we will have a nice little party. Their Pa will kill the birds and they catch the rabbits and I will make the cake and coffee, and who will ask a blessing on the table comforts. My kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Gex and all the family and to S [*Silas, John's brother*] and Emma and your dear children. Each of you ever believe me to be your affectionate and faithful.

Parent

M.B.B

I intended to send you this to pin under your collar, but did not think of anything.

Sister Virginia

Can't you ride over a little while this evening? I want to see you. I am poorly, be sure to come if only to stay an hour – don't fail. Bring my scissors I left at your house. I shall look for you. I am lying down – yours H. B. G.

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