
Sunday, Eleven o'clock February 5, 1852 [*Thursday*]

My Dear Sisters

Well I believe you both never think of me if you do, you take it out in thinking, for you never write. Prince [*Henrietta*] I wrote to you two or three months since but have never received a line from you and or from your sister V [*Virginia*]. I had concluded you had forgotten how to write until I was astonished and gratified to see a letter from you to Pa and Ma. Well Nugs [*her husband's nickname*] has gone to church and I have sent Ed and Will to the cabin the baby asleep in one corner and Louisa in the other and I feel quiet enough to write which is seldom the case. If you could stop in my room after we were all in bed you would laugh. The trundle bed with the two little boys and the crib and cradle and four Negroes on the floor, there is barely room to step. The baby will be three months old next Thursday and she is a pretty little fat white daughter. She has the most lovely complexion I ever seen and Ma says she talks - she can crow and laugh and I think very sprightly. Ma talks of going down to see you all in March I will try and come with her. I will leave the boys at home with Mr. Spencer and I expect will have a delightful time. I had rather wait until better weather but Ma said it does not suit her to leave home any other time and she will want to begin to garden.

I have had all of the Negroes summer clothes done and Nelly is making Mr. Spencer's summer shirts she has four done and then she will make the children's summer clothes and then I will be through. I have not seen sister Laura since the first of October. Mr. Spencer saw Dr. F [*Laura's husband Dr. Warren Frazer*] in Lexington last count day he said both sister L and Mary had been quite unwell, there has been a good deal of sickness in the neighborhood this winter. I am certain the doctor has been here every other day since Christmas. We have seven sick now Patsy has a baby three days old. Jim and little Phoebe has typhoid fever. Betsy and Tom Buford and aunt Phoebe has retched colds.

Nelly gets, breakfast Mary milks, Fanny and I clean the house and Mr. S dresses Ed and Will. What do you all do and what do you have to eat - I wish that I had some of your good jam Prince. Sister V I am going to Georgetown to see Betty and Laura [*her nieces*] when the roads get a little better and if you will come up I will take you home in my little Rockaway. It is a common but comfortable little affair. Ed and Will talk a good deal about Sil [*Virginia's son Silas*], Doct and Anthony and Brooking Broadnak. They hunt up a heap of things to send them such as pieces of China eggs and marbles and all sorts of trash and says their brothers will send them some fish and potatoes. We hear from Roger frequently. He is still optimistic and delighted with his new residence as ever. Ma just sent Willie Richardson on his pony help take either children over to stay all day but Mr. S and I were over yesterday evening and it has turned colder and I was afraid to take the baby out and Nelly [*the servant*] has gone to some insane party somewhere and I don't like for anyone else to return the little pet.

Pa is very much afraid she will have red hair [*the baby*] he said red haired boys would do, but a damn red haired woman - she will have light hair. I think her eyes are very dark blue. Mr. S saw a man in Richmond last week from your county he said he knew brother Abb very well and saw

him a few days before he left and you are all nice. How does sister Lizzy come on with her little family of young ones? I have not been out any this winter so I cannot write you anything about the fashions. Well sister V, I hear of Prince leaving her baby all night I expect she is (?) again as Bob says ain't she? I want to be getting her long cloths ready for her but I want her to wait until Mariam gets old enough for short dresses. I will put her in short clothes in July or August I hope she will have a girl next time for it is such a pleasure to call one for Ma and Ma appreciates the name too. Pappy was delighted with the baby and on account of her name. I think instead of Mr. S's family.

Roger too writes about her and says I could not have given her a name that would have pleased him more. How is Charlotte and her little girl and cousin Cyrena and the old gentleman? Tell John and brother Abb [*Virginia's husband Albert*] Mr. S would be delighted to get a letter then and will answer it immediately. I wish Molly was with me I think she is such a sweet child. Prince I suppose John is just jesting about going to California. Mr. S says he thinks he must be funning. John Spencer bought 100 acres of land from Dr. Mirtin \$10 per acre. Mr. S says he will sell his for that. I wish he would sell and buy a place with better improvements as building is so expensive and troublesome.

Our Caroline is chunky again I think she is like a rabbit. Prince, Bake Didlake was married last Tuesday night to little Charlie Bar. This is a miserable scrawl but I hope you can read it I have an old quill pen that is miserable and the baby is awake and I must close by begging you both to write to me as soon as you get this. I know you can find more to write about than I can. I get over home about once in two weeks and have been to church once this winter. Goodbye do write soon kiss all of the children for me and my love to all friends.
your affection sister R [*Rebecca*] Spencer

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