
Sunday February 13, 1853

My Dear Child

I had become so uneasy about you until I got your letter written two weeks ago which I do assure you gave me great satisfaction to hear you all were well and enjoying so many blessings, more than so many others are. Perhaps you do not think enough about the source they come from. We have all been usually well except your father, he has been complaining a good deal of late but is now better. Your Uncle Collett and his dear little children, servants and all got here last Wednesday, that cold day, in a road wagon on his way home after a confinement of a month of fever and other unfavorable symptoms. He looks miserable and I do fear he has run a great risk in leaving so soon. He however went on the next day to Lexington and on to Louisville. He said he would take private lodgings for (?) Am and the children and he would take the boat and go up to see Mr. Price and see what he could do. He got your father's consent for me to go down with Papa in about three weeks to see him and make my visit to you all at the same time. I wrote to Papa last night and set the 10th to start. I do not know how it will turn out, it seems of late that I am so important a personage here, it will be an effort on all sides to get off, but I hope to get as far as your dear kind hospitable house and back. I think I ought to have that pleasure as I do not take many such trips.

Rebecca has been scolding about you not writing to her but says she has an idea of going down with John Spencer soon when he goes to Cincinnati to get his fixtures for his new house. Her sweet little Miriam walks and begins to talk. I do not go over often though I have not seen her for almost three weeks and she does not bring her over. I think I will go over a little while after dinner. I want to go to Lexington this week. I have some trimmings to get before I start but if I get to Gallatin it will do me. Dear Virginia is a kind sincere child and Mr. G. an interesting gentleman and I feel so perfectly happy at your house. It is a complete treat to me. Tell John I do wish I could have been present at his Oyster supper and I would have furnished the catsup pickle and enjoyed so much the society of those present. Well, your saque cloak is done all but the trimming and it looks right nice although it is so common. I have had a fine purple calico made and I will get two more dresses when I go down and some caps and gloves and shoes and stockings.

My eyes have been so weak and sore. I could not sew any this winter. I have made some night gowns and some drawers. We got a long letter from my dear son a few days ago. He says he is doing as well as he could do anywhere and will not be in Kentucky until summer or fall. Oh it is such a privation to me to be from my children but I do believe few families are doing better than my children are. If you could but look through the veil they are covered with. Emily wrote me that she would remain at Morgan Station this year and Collett thought best that Mr. L should look elsewhere. He speaks of going down in the Louisville Rail Road and Jefferson City. He is in Orleans now. I have not been to Lexington since I went down with Papa and Sister H some two

months ago. Well I have been trying to get my soap made and bacon smoked and candles made before I leave home and I want you to see if you can buy or get Mr. Gex to do it some 50 [*I am unsure about this word and I'm not sure what she is referring to, but perhaps it is "Poles" and she is asking if Mr. Gex can get the type of pig that is called Poland China for her brother Collett*] for Collett at a moderate price. He asked me to do so but the roads are so bad no one will send a wagon to the turnpike, I do not know what they sell at, I suppose higher than if bacon was low. I once bought a cent load you recollect from Mr. Fishback at 15 cents.

I have been trying to get a few dozen young hens to raise them. I have a large rooster D Coleman sent me but I can't get any. Robert Long has bought a light wagon and buys up all the marketing in the neighborhood and goes down twice a week and is doing well in a little way. Polly and Mariam were over yesterday evening. I had been busy all day. I took down my curtains and the carpet up and cleaned up it was so dirty. I turned the carpet over and mended the curtains and put them up again, but it looks lonesome now. I miss Willie. Laura has been at home two weeks but has been all this week with Rebecca. Mr. Spencer has been to see his mother in Nicholas, she is very ill. No news I believe. Betty Lockly was married a few days ago to a Mr. Julian of Franklin City. Tell my dear little Antonie I hope to have a game of marbles with him soon and he and dear little B must have me some birds and rabbits to give their dear Grand Pa if he comes and I want to have a nice party with little Sarah and Virginia and we will eat peppers and fries and all and I do not believe it will make me sick like it does at home.

I will try Doct Linn's directions yet I have been very complaining all winter. My back is so weak I can't ride or walk and I assure you it is a great cross to me. My love to Elizabeth and her little family when you see her. Tell her I will name the baby Henrietta if she says so after my Mother and if I ever have any future, I will give her a part. My kind love to Emma and (?) and Mr. Gex and every member of his family. To V and all and to my son John a full share with your dear self. Tell Antonie Sally cries to go to Miss P (?) rivers and Cousin Gillen is all ready to go if her master will eat after Rachael's cooking, but I fear he will think she and I can't go at the one time. You must save me some eggs to make a cake and I will bring the sugar and butter or get sis to buy it for us.

Your father says he must go to see you all, he knows he would enjoy it but he does not like to neglect his affairs. Do get me all the garden seed you can get. Write as soon as you receive this and I will write again before I leave –

Sunday night

I have just got home from Mr. Spencer's, all well. I rode the yellow with Richmond behind me. He said he wanted to go pan the river when I went. Good night my dear lovely child. I hope to see you soon. Kiss Mr. G and the little sons and to yourself, always a full share from your devoted -
Mother

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