

1



Old-Sarah Bristol -
Care of Wm B. Bristol - Esq.

Chas. Warren -
Care of
Via N. Orleans,

Care No. March 26th 1847.

Dearest, precious, Mother,

Your letter postmarked March 12th

reached me to day. I had previously contemplated writing you to day as this was the last of the week & as Commencement, with its accompanying busy scenes comes on next week - I had felt quite anxious to hear from you as my last date from you was Feb^y 9th - that one was directed only to Roxbury & was very long in coming - the same day we had New York papers at Oakland of ^{ten} ~~six~~ days late date so that it was not owing probably to the mails - it also arrived the very day I had sent my scolding letter to Mary ^{but it did not prove to be your fault} - I find so many things to reply to in both that I scarcely know where to begin - I must thank you for your long letter. when I know how much you dislike writing I feel doubly thankful to you for all the trouble you take - We have had quite a houseful for the last two weeks - I sent up the carriage for Miss Chaplain & Anne to come down the day proved damp & unpleasant so that I felt rather doubtful about seeing them but lo! behold when the carriage comes here is Ellen with her tiny baby & Essie also - When I left them ten days before she could not ride farther than W^m Fenton I feared it would make her quite sick but both she & the baby have improved very much by the change - William came over to see her & has been here about ten days also - all left me yesterday the baby is scarcely ever sick two days in succession, colic, disordered bowels &c. but still seems to grow & improve - she weighs now just 2 months old 9 lb. with her clothes on - my baby weighs 19 ditto. Anne

calls herself the child's grandmother, father care of her at night
& seems to feel all the responsibility of a mother - & Ellen thinks
she cannot do any thing without her. We all think James
health is suffering, tho' she looks as usual, but she has ~~not~~ ^{hardly} had
a quick night's rest here for three months - The baby has no
name yet though they all are calling her Blanche. I suspect she
will finally be named Elsie - ^{she has red hair & Mr. Butler says in Judge Perkins over again} Our baby liked to have got her
name last Sabbath but Mr. Hutchinson was absent & the baby
had a cold - her Aunt Anne had made her a very sweet little
bunnet & she was all ready for the occasion - John says she has
the name for her & will not tell what it is. I think it is
"Frances Anne" - ~~etc~~ I lay every day to him you see her while
she is a baby. She is growing so large & will be apt to grow
petulant as teething commences - she is very lively & tatters in
her way da-da-da-da incessantly - I do not expect her
to be as smart as Lanny & Chaplain's baby who she sits at
eight months stands (when held I suppose) in the cradle & says
several words - what prodigies our children are - Johnnie
is still pretty well - We stopped the cold water treatment
about two weeks since as he seemed quite well - he still
coughs sometimes during the day - if he was stout & vigorous
I should think he would outgrow it but he is slender & narrow
chested - I asked John if he can't remember some smart saying
little Johnnie's to report to you but he answers "he says so
many I get confused" - he is ^{very} good about some things & very
bad in others - among his good things this morning he went to
the breakfast table which has been a very rare privilege - he is
exceedingly fond of butter cakes ^{*} & seeing them on ^{the} table asked for
the first thing this morning but when told he could not have any
^{*} lately he is not allowed to eat them -

never no complaint nor said a word - among his bad acts - an old
bad habit of saying "I won't" "I don't want to" "Ma, bad boy" &c - all
of which will quite shock you. None of which Willie was
ever allowed to say - one of his Aunts asked him the other
day how good he was, he answered "as good as God up in
Heaven" what could have led him to make up such an answer
I can't imagine - he could never have heard any one make the
comparison - He said to day, when I was telling him if he
put me down in the lot (which is always his favorite ^{When angry} threat)
he would ^{never} ~~no~~ Mama "I have gamma" (or grandma) he quickly
replies, Willie tells ^{him}, but she's your grandma she ain't your Ma

Mr. Butler returned from Hatteras two weeks since not
looking very much better - no plan feasible is proposed for
him as yet - The D. is earnest to get him at the College
but rather scheming for the rest of the professors by securing Mr.
Butler's ^{services} ~~power~~ for the College - John thinks Mr. Butler ^{influenced}
will never be able to preach as he has done - Mr. B. told
very little about it & no wonder - travelling would do him
good but he doesn't approve of it & has not the means -
No doubt God will provide for him in the day of trouble -
Mr. Stratton is said to have improved very fast - Mr. Butler
tells one Miss Shedd's school is going down as I had judged
from her own letters. I asked him the reason & he seemed to
think she was too much of an old maid - but don't whisper
this - I heard from her a week since saying she couldn't come
up to the Commencement but would like Leannette Treat to come
up & stay with - me a while - I do not know of any company
but presume we shall have a horse full -

The war news will reach you before this letter as we are just getting
the particulars - I suppose the nation will rejoice but it is at the expense of

(Private)
too many lives for a woman's heart to exult over it - Col. May
who was ^{one} killed was Henry's & Eliza's most promising son - It
will almost kill the old man - He is now in St. Louis -

I had not heard of Mr. Sarmain's estate - very comfortable truly
but they are not such as could enjoy it. I saw the good old man
death in a paper last night & could not believe he was still as stated -

Mr. Thak is Anne & I both a great deal of going north but
there seems to be no way of getting there as yet & I begin to fear
I shall not go at all. John says he cannot think of going before
July but wishes me to go before as that is too late for the children.
I am not willing to go burdening any one with three children & getting
an escort only half way. Miss Chaplain knows of no way for her to
get home as yet but she could wait till July - Anne says she will
not go so late because the train at Brattleboro would be too short to
do Jane any good & she cannot go there without company - Dr.
*Chamblain goes or at least is appointed to go to the General Assembly
but that meets at Richmond, which would take me out of the way
If I could get to Baltimore ^{with help} I might trust to Charlotte's going on but I
have not heard from her for a long time - besides I do not like to
spend so long a time ^{with you} as from the last of May. I should wear out
my welcome - & it would give all entirely too much trouble - I cannot
think of putting you to so much inconvenience as taking half the
house separate - it seems to me it would be the occasion of endless
difficulties & I should be the cause of all & would be very unhappy
therefrom - I know as it is, it would make entirely too large a family
for Mary particularly as she will be situated - I think I had better
board at least the early part of the summer - I have never proposed
this as John thinks himself so poor but he might object to my going
altogether but I do think you could not get along without great trouble
Dr. C. will not go at all unless he is appointed agent for the College -

by taking half the house & it is too large a family for Mary
let me hear from you soon - The Chaplain is to go
to Buffalo soon - next month I think

Ben Eschinger is coming out by sea in April - I am sorry I
did not know it earlier I would have sent for a fine hand dress
to be made up then I have none to wear & it takes me so long to
make a dress for myself - The baby is waking before I was
half ready to close my letter & it is 10 o'clock - The iron
planters are fearing an overflow - John is in danger also if the
levee breaks, still there is no telling & it is not worth while to
be troubled beforehand - sufficient unto the day is the evil
thereof - We that is Anne, Esie John, William & myself went
to a wedding the other night it was that of Mr. Zealand's only
son to Miss Bell a cousin who has lived in the family for years -
Mr. F. was very much opposed ~~that~~ & would not come into the room
at all though she was in the supper room, dressing room &c. She also
feels much troubled because Mr. Smith's son in law whose wife died
just a year ago is coming again - The wedding was a very dull affair.
The husbands all took their wives into the supper room all except John
Mr. Hutchinson asked if he should take me as Mr. Murdoch was
taking his wife - primitive simplicity Irish it? -
But the baby insists on my going to bed so I must bid my precious
Mother Good Night. If I do not get on to see her this summer it would
quite break my heart - May God bless & take care of her in the daily
prayer of your beloved daughter. ^{very love} to all & to Emily if with you
still. Tell Mary to hope on. a little ^{good natured} girl would quite compensate for all
this suffering - Write soon I don't delay. Ever your fond & devoted Fanny -

Have you paid Mr. Pritchard the balance I owed her -

You will get the little ring for Leannette or any thing else
you think better & send it by Henrietta, as I presume you
are keeping the box & the sweetmeats to send by her -
Will you also send me some cheap edgings, like that you
sent for my Joseys, to trim Fanny's apron - We occasionally
get fresh items of news from Willie of the many improve-
ments going on in New Room - The last that leaked out
was that you were having gas lights - Willie has many
good impulses & is on the whole a pretty good boy, but
pretty troublesome about his lessons sometimes & he did
not want me to tell this when writing his note & said if
I did he would tear it up - If he could only have a
little more application he would get on very fast for he
learns quick but he is all the time thinking of how
soon he is to get through - he spells hard words of four
syllables just plain well - It occupies about three hours
of my time every day between him & Johnnie - I do
not sew much but try to read & keep Mary in sewing
this keeps me employed - I am going to give Abby to Anne
for the winter as I cannot attend to her as much as she
requires & she sews so badly she is more trouble than assistance
But I must come to a close it is Saturday night & I wished
to finish my letter to send by John to Rodney on Monday
If I sit up late I shall be sleepy to morrow - We had
a service in church to day preparatory to the communion
& a very excellent sermon from Mr Drake a Methodist, but
one of their best preachers - I do hope our preaching to
morrow may be such as will wake up the people for it
does seem to me we are in a most dreadfully cold &
icy state - Mr Butler is a great favorite with the people here
but I think he shrinks from coming here, he nor Mary have
not been down since Sarah's death - He was quite unwell
from a cold last week, so that his voice failed in preaching
We hear from Jane that Bethe Eskridge is going to school

to Mrs Tuttle & Cornelia in Princeton - Do write often, dear Mother
if it is only a short letter, but this long, long silence is dreadful
I wish you had little Willie for a bed-fellow. I am afraid you
will freeze this cold winter - Love to all as ever
Your son Fanny -

Came N.Y. Nov. 11th 1848

My precious Mother,

My patience is almost exhausted in
watching & waiting - it is nearly two months since the date
of your last letter & six weeks since its receipt - Through the
Butler children & a letter from Mrs Prichard I have heard of your
health & that you were gone to N. London & my only solution of
your long silence is that you were busy making preparations
to go away & were waiting to hear of Willie's arrival - By our
last date from Jane Oct 23rd she had not then heard of Annie
having arrived & no doubt you are equally impatient with
them but six weeks is a very long time for my dear Mother
to let pass without writing - I sometimes think you must have
written & it has miscarried as you are seldom silent so long - I
have written you twice since Willie's arrival & once to Mary &
William - The last I directed to you was to New London - I
hope it found you there quite well - I feel impatient to
hear how you get there & whether you had trouble in getting
there or back again - indeed I am in ignorance of all your
plans - whether you are to return before Mary's confinement
& what time in November that is expected - We have
despatched this week to Mary & William 2 barrels of sweet
potatoes & a half barrel of hominy - I had them well
packed as I thought under my own direction in straw so
that I think they cannot feel the frost - I think if they
would have them buried in sand as soon as they are
opened they would keep very well - You know the last
Mrs Prichard received from her decayed as soon as they were

Fanny has not been ill but much troubled with diarrhoea & is bad cold -

The barrel of potatoes were packed in cotton seeds. We want you to notice which keep the best
exposed to the air. The hominy John fears will spoil as it
does not keep very well at sea but I hope not. I was
anxious to send it as I am so fond of it myself -
Many will learn from Mrs. Diverne or Mrs. Pincham how to
cook it. - You know we only use that kind for breakfast
or perhaps have it fried in a large cake for dinner. it is first
washed like rice then ^{the} water poured through a sieve several
times on it, till the hulls seem washed off - then it is cooked
a good deal like rice only much longer (an hour & a half is
not too long on a slow fire & very little water to it - the
children love it with milk or molasses - I like it with
butter alone - There are three different kinds of potatoes in
the barrels but most of them are the poplar roots which
I think are the kind Mary likes the best - I put a
pomegranate in the barrel of hominy, which I hope will
keep well, as it will be quite a curiosity to you there -
I had but two & I wanted to ~~send~~ keep the other for
Henrietta - I believe Anne is going to send several
with the barrel of potatoes she sends to Mrs. Pincham.
Tell Mary how to eat ^{it} ~~them~~ only to ^{chew &} suck the seeds & be careful
not to get the juice on any thing as it makes a very bad
stain - We were to have sent some peacans also for the
children but did not succeed in getting them from Strosser.
Let us know if they arrive safely & if William has to pay for them
more than they are worth. ^{John has paid expenses as far as the ship} Our papers to day
brought us the telegraphic reports of the elections only
4 1/2 days since the election - it is quite joyful to us both
Wm. Taylor an honest man - I want to see him
our President - but the same paper brings us a report
of a vessel having arrived at New York with cholera
on board - this is fearful indeed & has come far sooner

than we expected - I have thought it would smelly be there by
next Spring & have often found myself unconsciously
wondering & planning how I could get to you - forgetting
the text in the good book "Sufficient unto the day is the
evil thereof" - I do not feel as if New Haven could be
soured with it very severely as it is such a neat clean
place - but it makes but long to fly & be with you
if you are to have it among you I want to be near you
I hope you have noticed what has been said in the U. S. Observer
on the Cholera particularly that by our missionaries at
the East - If you do not take it, beware it - it was in the last
September numbers & one or two early in October - be sure
& attend to the slightest diarrhoea in season - I see by the
papers also that dysentery has been very prevalent in
New Haven among children but you have never mentioned it -

William Perkins goes on early in December for Elm
so that we shall hope to see Ellen, Henrietta, & Becky
Perk early in January - I hope Henrietta is still of the
same mind - I will try & meet them in New Orleans if
I can leave the children & if nothing should prevent -
It would be pleasant for Henrietta to pay a little visit
there then, then later in the season & more convenient
for me as I hope to go on to you early & shall have much to do.

Mrs. Parker has returned from Natchez, Mr. Marshall
having arrived & leaving her no better much better though she
does not expect she can live long - I suppose you know that
she left Martha at Mrs. Gardell's in Philadelphia - The
sickness in Natchez still continues & has lately been more
fatal. several prominent men there, have been taken off -
They have also the same at Vicksburg but not as fatal -
It seems strange that the cold weather we have had does
not check it - but no doubt it will - poor Miss Shedden
seems to labor under many trials - no doubt she will come
out bright at last - refined in the fires of affliction.

best love to all I wish a dear full of love & gratitude to my beloved Mother

same job for me, in Henrietta's room - They look very pretty in day time but are dark & ugly at night - I found it a pretty troublesome job, as the curtain was too wide & had to be turned down the whole length - I have not yet got her room in order as the carpet which Anne brought I did not like & I have sold it to Mary, consequently I am going to take up my carpet & put on that room & put the old green one in my room. I have put the buff curtains in the dining room this winter & have got the chintz which are lined with pink in my room - with a nice little carpet on the dressing room it looks very well only I was disappointed not to be suited with my new carpet, but as a carpet is a thing that lasts so long I did not feel willing to put it down - We have had rain every week after Minerva was through with her washing so I should have put it down before this -

As Henrietta has waited so long I shall feel very sorry to have her come with Mr & Mrs Angier for the trip over the mountains must be very disagreeable at this season & she could not enjoy it, besides that they might meet her in the Ohio. William & Ellen will probably come early in January & she would not be more than two or three weeks in advance of them - at sea she would every day be getting into a warmer latitude - William as I wrote you left last week for Washington by the southern mail route & will be in as soon as possible. How long he is detained in Washington is uncertain - but you can hear from the girls by telegraph immediately, I should think & let Henrietta know if she has not already started. Jane wrote in her last letter that she would go to Mr & Mrs Woyts if she had her direction

& that she would write to Mrs. Haven & get it - I have not written to Henrietta for some ^{time} having constantly expected to hear from her of her plans on hoping to see her here as I did not hear from her -

The box which I feel very anxious to receive knowing how many little comforts a dear Mother always thinks of, has not yet arrived though it is high time. I do not feel anxious as yet, for every thing this fall has come so safe - The potatoes I presume reached you before my letter announcing them, for Mr Connally sent them by ^{which reached N.Y. 6 days & 8 hours} steamer - He took much pains in forwarding them & wishes to hear if they got on safely - I fear they decayed as they are so apt to when first put up - Many will no doubt be well enough to eat them - The quarter barrel of pecans which I was to have sent for you & Mr Pritchard only arrived from Duresch a few days since - Tell me also about the pomegranate - I read Billy all your letter to night after he was in bed, as he particularly requested to hear that instead of a book. I am very glad to hear of Eugene's progress as I hope it will incite him - He has heard far he is in the spelling book & how much of the multiplication table he knows I suppose he was ahead of Billy last summer - John has offered me the salary of a teacher if I will teach them every day - I think a recompense is richly earned - Billy does not give me much trouble in his spelling now, but is sometimes pretty careless in his reading -

Our weather is very changeable but so much rain that I fear Henrietta is not going to have a pleasant, dry winter as you had last year - The last two or three days that have been so warm that we have had no fires & sat with the windows open. To day it changed most suddenly & is quite cool again - yesterday I was out all day having the rose bushes trimmed up & box set round the circle in the flower garden. I fear she will think me without taste or industry

Henrietta will enjoy it - as the Cholera is so likely to spread over
the country by next Spring I do not venture to hope confidently
on my promised visit home - but should that not prevent,
I do not think any thing else that we can know of, will
have been my intention for some time to board knowing many
family to be too large for such an addition as mine - ~~and~~
I have not mentioned it because I did not think it worth while
to trouble you but as you speak of housekeeping in the Spring,
I am induced to mention it - You might by ~~the~~ means to ~~thrust~~
of it, for besides being too burdensome for you, you would be left alone
the next winter - I am in hopes to find some place near you
which will be pleasant. Henrietta thinks Miss Lee's, but I do
not imagine the rooms there to be agreeable - How would Miss
Law's in the St. John building answer or are there too many
students there - As to Mary I do not know whether she will
be willing to go or whether I shall wish to have her - She is
pretty irritable & I think it doubtful whether we could get
along together with the troubles of travelling & in a boarding house
but it is always a difficult matter getting a new one to suit -
Whenever I go to town where things ~~do~~ ^{are} not go on as smoothly
as at home & she has different duties to perform, she ~~always~~
seems out of humor & impatient easily fretted - as Sarah
somewhat of the same nature two of a kind wouldn't
agree - I feel very anxious to go by sea as the land journey
seems quite too formidable. We feel anxious about Ellen's
coming home, as we think they would be afraid to come
to New Orleans & the land journey would do away half the
benefit she has derived. William seems disappointed not to
have found her more improved but still very impatient to
leave her home - Poor Essie, Jane says, has not smiled
since William came but Jane is so distressed at keeping
her there - I certainly should not feel willing to go to New
Orleans unless there is a great change in the next three weeks
Anne expects to spend most of her time with Ellen after
her return as she is so unable for housekeeping - You will
hear more particulars of their plans however from Ellen &
Essie Biddle who will have returned by the time you receive
this - If I do not write intelligibly or write too close
you must let me know - You do not say any thing
about the pomegranate from which I fear you opened the other
end of the barrel - The one I had saved for Henrietta was
spoiled - We should like your potatoes very much indeed
but John thinks coming so late in the season they would be

very apt to be frosted or spoiled - Little Fanny has got quite well
now & is about as broad as she is long - she has had a very
sore face & chin which has greatly disfigured her. The boys are
well & Willie improves fast in reading - You do not
tell me where Eugene is spelling now -
Came Sat. Dec. 28. 1848

My precious Mother

You will think me very lazy in
not writing since my last three weeks since but as
Henrietta was writing last week & as John sent off a letter
to William the week before I thought you would excuse
me, especially as you would know how busy I must
be, in trying to keep every thing going & very sick for Henrietta's
arrival & since then Christmas troubles have kept me
on my feet almost constantly so that at night I
was too tired & sleepy to write - Christmas is at last
nearly over a relief to me but it has been a season of
joy to the negroes & amusement to the children - The
weather has been miserable, cold & either damp or rainy
ever since Henrietta's arrival & for how many weeks
before, I cannot tell you - You know how uncomfortable
& dirty, bad weather makes every thing here & of course
you know how annoying to me if it is just when I am
anxious to have things in the best order - The escaped
from New Orleans just in time to avoid the Cholera, though
when Mrs. Buckner came up before her having fled in
alarm & when Henrietta did not arrive till the second
day after we began to think she might have had it &
been thrown overboard on her way up - The disease is
very fatal then by our last accounts & very prevalent
among the higher classes, indeed it seemed to appear
then immediately - The city was very filthy & seemed
just prepared for its reception by the damp weather & you
know how disagreeable & dirty New Orleans is in rainy weather
We heard last evening of the death of Dr. Glendinning, the
gentleman who went up with John Perkins last Spring & took
care of him in Louisville. Mr. Connally writes he took tea

(with him in the evening & he died the next morning -
and the death we heard of was a Mr. Dyson whom you recollect
we got acquainted with - last winter & mentioned
him & his wife to you. She was a Barrington of
~~New London~~ ^{Middlebury} had no children & was bound up in her
devotion to him. Jane knew them having travelled with them
up the river the last time she went up to St. Louis. He was a
temperate man I should think in all respects. all the deaths
that we have heard of have been of gentlemen, I suppose from
their greater exposure. Mr. Buckner has gone as I told you
to do shopping preparatory to Kate Freeland's marriage. She
left in haste - much alarmed & was very ill after her return
which if she had staid in had she been might have proved cholera
from her fatigue & shopping all day in wet feet, going out at
night &c. all very unusual to her - She had a relapse again
on Sunday & was very sick - This will interfere very much with
wedding preparations which we learn ~~xxx~~ is to take place on the
4th of January a week from to night. The doctors say there were two
cases of cholera in Rodney early this week. There is much alarm
on the subject so that every thing of that nature is called by that
name. Both were negroes & I presume owing to Christmas feasting
she died & one recovered - I often get much alarmed myself
when I think of the dirty habits of negroes which I would suppose
to be peculiarly favorable to it but I try to remember that we are
in the hands of God & to him alone I must we look for our
safety & protection - You will be much surprised, &

safety & protection - You will be much surprised &
 grieved to hear of poor Mrs Stratton's death - I think I mentioned
 her illness in one of my last letters but at that time probably
 I did not know that it was of such a serious nature - her
 disease was only about three weeks since pronounced terminal
 in the lungs. She did not suffer much but was so extremely nervous
 & restless that she would not allow any one but her husband
 & mother to wait upon her - Miss Shadden was keeping the
 children when she last wrote me - her poor mother after hoping
 the disease might terminate favorably - She gave birth to an
 infant about ~~two~~ week since which breathed a few moments & then
 died - It is only a few weeks since Mr S. told Miss Shadden
 she was expecting her cousin & a sister of Mrs Stratton's & the old
 Parsonage would be quite gay this winter - I believe they were
 both there - Jeanette was to have come up to spend Christmas
 with us & the carriage waited for her in Rodney one evening till 9

o'clock but she did not arrive - Miss Shedden wrote that she had been unwell & been disappointed by them so that she could not spare Leamington. I fear she is rather feverish & the poor child may often be disappointed unnecessarily - Miss S. was much disappointed not to be able to come up herself but as school had come together so late many of the girls would not ~~have~~ go home at Christmas. Our Christmas day was enlivened by the arrival of the children from town who came on horseback though a cold day. Mr. Stevens & Mrs. Ireland dined with us & we had a good Christmas dinner the turkey being killed on Saturday & I having made the mince & pudding pies with my own hands - I can make paste very finely & am quite proud of myself & thankful to you. Anne & Henrietta took off & arranged half the dresses for the Christmas presents so that I had no trouble of that kind. The calicoes & stuff for the men came from New Orleans & were very nice - excellent calicoes at 8 1/2 ct. - Henrietta is very pleasant company making herself one of the family as we make her - I think she is much pleased with the variety - even if every thing does not suit her taste - Some it still with her which of course makes it more lively & agreeable - We expected to have eaten a New Year's dinner with many & to have spent next week up there but as the wedding is to be next week & the rains are so constant I do not think we will go up for fear of not getting down - Her children spend all this week with us - I think Henrietta will go to the wedding - Miss Ireland called to see us yesterday & she thought her a very pretty girl - if nothing happens & if the girls encourage me I shall probably give a party too, which will make it pleasant ^{& give a chance for the girls} for Henrietta - ^{to the quarters} Anne, indeed all but me went up to the Christmas ball last night - in spite of the wind they thought themselves quite repaid no doubt Henrietta will have much to tell - There were some fine ladies there, both of our own & strangers - While I have been writing, two letters were brought from Rodney, one from you, dear Mother & one from Eric mentioning William's arrival - of Dec 14 & 15 - You mention several things which as I wish to answer I shall not be able to finish my letter to night -

Dec. 29th Our rainy weather holds on - a steady rain ever since yesterday morning & not an entire sunshiny day have we had for two weeks - cold & shilly too - I fear it is going to be such a winter as we had when you were first out - (little I think

but you know people here are very mean & if they were pleased
I do not suppose we shall hear about it. - There has been a
great deal of feeling manifested on Mr. Brattleboro's part because
Mr. Butler was invited to perform the ceremony instead of
himself - The reasons had before been given him by the family
viz. that he had married both their parents & had baptized both
the bride & groom - But this did not suffice - Mr. H. absented himself
from the wedding though Miss Gurley was bridesmaid - He wrote a letter
to Mr. Ireland afterwards on the subject of dancing ~~as well~~ (they danced
all night at the wedding party) & ostensibly, but his feeling on the
other subject showed itself very plainly - Mr. Daniel had
intended to divide the fee (which was to be \$100) between the
two ministers but as Mr. H. had so conducted it was all sent to
Mr. Butler - Mr. Butler has been quite unwell of late the
affection of his throat returning - He is rather inclined to say
Brattleboro if he had his goods supplied & could get the
means - I suppose Mr. Angier would be ready to supply it - He
has not come out yet & is still without a settled place - The
last accounts we had from the girls (Butlers) they were spending
their Christmas vacation at Flatbush - Do you think them improved
I suppose Mr. Goodrich has returned ere this - We have not heard
yet of when Ellen intends leaving & what it to be their plan -
The alarm about cholera has very much subsided & it is not
generally thought dangerous to visit New Orleans. Still Mr. Farley
who came up last week says that it is not diminishing its
private practice but is more manageable almost invariably
attended by premonitory symptoms which can be relieved if
taken in time. The Ross brothers who were obliged to sail this
month or forth with their freedom were attacked with cholera &
nine had died - He hired a physician to go with them on their
voyage - We hear of some cholera among plantations in the swamp
but no more on this side since my last letter. Mr. McGill
who you know has a place over there has lost nine or ten - There
seems to be a general tendency to affection of the bowels & people
generally are I think rather careful in their diet - There has
been no more of it at Rodan - Mr. Connolly & Chaplain have
remained in New Orleans but by great prudence have so far kept
quite well - The weather has been most unfavorable for health
If I did not deem it unwise to trouble myself about what is
so far distant I should constantly be thinking of it in reference
to my home would visit next spring - I cannot bear to think of going
another way than by steam-ship especially as in all probability
I shall not go so early as I wish to go - Henrietta & I
have already commenced gardening & are laying out a new

Bancroft. Jan. 24th 1849 -

My precious mother,

You will think my silence very
long, but I hope you have heard through Mr. Pichard's
letter from Anne of all our doings & have not wondered so
much at the long break in my correspondence - I have been
trying all day to find time to write you by day-light as when
evening comes I am so tired & stupid I do not feel fit
to sit down & make myself agreeable but I have found
things so out of place & work so put back by these party
doings that I have been kept busy all day & now with
the oppressiveness of a cold in the head which I have been
enduring for three days & no relief yet I shall beg beforehand
your forbearance if I am more than usually dull & stupid.

I am ashamed indeed on reckoning up to find that it
was before New Year's when I last wrote you - your letter of
Dec. 15th was received about the same time so that I am now
nearly four weeks without a letter from you - I trust you
are not sick my precious mother - do write often if only a
few lines that I may not feel anxious about you -

Our New Year's visit to town was cut short by the prepa-
rations to be made at home for the wedding which was
fixed for the 9th before we left - Mary had a little
company one evening at home & Mrs. Parker made a
dinner party in her best style for Henrietta - This was
all the sad of Port Gibson society - & she is so very
cautious I scarcely know her impressions - I believe she
has come determined to be pleased at all events & make
the best of every thing - Mary was delighted with her &
is urgent to have her come up soon again - Anne has been
with us ever since until last week - Mary would not consent
to spare her longer - She is such good company that I am
sure she made it much more agreeable for Henrietta & felt
unwilling to lose her on that account as well as any one -

If Mrs Richard has not read your last letter from Anne you must
get her to do so, as it will give you a full account of the
wedding ~~about~~ which I shall not have time to describe
I had started to go over in the Swamp the day after the
wedding as there seemed a prospect of clear weather
but as he had been here some weeks after being left Dues.
set under the care of a new overseer. Your fears expressed
in your last letter relative to the injurious effects of these
trips to the Swamp seemed almost prophetic for he came
home with a severe cold more so than any he has had for
a year & a half I should think. He was obliged to stay in the
house for the next two days & give himself up to it. He is
much better now but still coughs badly - our wretched weather
still continues & every body is suffering with - colds more or less.
raining & chilly most of the time - occasionally a sunshiny
morning induces us but it soon clouds up & is dispel our
bright hopes - Anne had rather stray to John of going off to
a milder climate - I offered to go with him. He says nothing
about it so that I fear he does not think of it - I fear
he ought to go sometime before next summer's northern tour.
He is trying the codfish liver oil but that is slow in its effects
of course John did not feel much in the spirit of a party
for the bride, the day for which we had fixed before his
going to the swamp for the 16th. The rainy weather kept
up from Friday till Tuesday quite disheartening us in our
operations as the roads bad before, were daily growing worse
& so much of our company being expected from Pat Gibson &
Rodney. I had given out over a hundred invitations - all
from Pat Gibson of course were expected to stay all night &
preparations made accordingly - but we might have saved our-
selves the trouble for the roads were considered impassable
& no one came but Miss Mac Cay & two gentlemen - Mrs & Mr
Conry had also staid away from the wedding & promised
to come to our house but even they with the Watsons disap-
pointed us - a little bright sky & a gleam of sunshine in the
afternoon of Tuesday induced us to hope for at least a dozen
or two to repay us for the labor of a week (indeed, if you
had seen all our rustic fixings you would have thought we had
labored hard) The evening came pitch dark but not raining
about 40 came - all from Oakland & the neighborhood. None from
Rodney - Henrietta had set up the table with a very hurried

manner & with no rehearsal & as you know, very little assistance
to be had in the way of dress "here in these distant ends
of the earth" - but they went off admirably & I believe to
the delight of all being a perfect surprise & of course no
high expectations raised - You will wonder where we could
arrange them - we enclosed the front gallery with lowells &
used that for the scene of the ballroom - of course the
company were shown around as they came; the gentlemen
to the ^{or the right of the} fish bedroom, & the ladies to mine. They then entered
by the back door into the parlor - The walk between the two
cottages was enclosed by holly trees which served a double
purpose of beautifying the scene & screening from view the
curious eyes of dozens of "darkies" who I doubt not were
peeping curiously behind the scenes - The ball gallery
was lighted by a very pretty rustic chandelier constructed
by the carpenter & ornamented with - Henrietta's taste. Of
course the front door was kept closed until the tableaux
were ready, the performers of course going outside round to the
front gallery (I had a board walk ^{illumination of course} made there) This for a
night in January you will imagine rather an exposure but
the evening was warm & damp - We performed most of the
characters ourselves only calling in the aid of Mrs Donato
& Mr Keen a Scotch cousin of Miss Mac Cay's - There were
not over five past 10 o'clock when all were ready for
their supper - The table of course was spread in the dining room
with - two tables in the corner for meats & oysters &c - In
the centre was a beautiful pyramid of flowers nearly 3 ft. high
constructed by Henrietta & looking the more beautiful because
flowers are so rare at this season even here - at one end
was a candy pyramid with a bouquet in the top & another
& pyramid of cake at the other end - These with pink, white
Jellies, elegant Charlotte mutes &c filled the table & Henrietta
thought she had seldom seen a table look prettier - I do not
pretend to be a judge as it is so long since I have seen much
in that line - The supper men fine & eat with great goût by
all. Mr Connelly when he sent us the things warned us
against them as Vespers & all prints are forbidden in his place
but I have heard of no cholera as yet resulting from the party
I did expect the reggae's indulgence in things they were unac-
customed to might cause sickness but we have had but one
case - The party broke up about one o'clock, we congratulating
ourselves that it had gone off so well after all our fears & I
believe to the satisfaction of all who attended -

You must put up with having things less nice than you
used to have them & would have them - It is so apt to be
cold at that time you will certainly expose yourself &
get sick unless you are very careful - We two sweet
active women must undertake or think of stooping to put
down ~~compete~~ yourself. I hope you will be able to get
somebody for the kitchen & let Ellen be about the house
as she has been so long with you - she would do that for
you & attend to much of the housekeeping - I suppose
she would not be willing for the change unless you give
her the same wages - Mary has concluded to stay
with me - I was at first rather reluctant to keep her
as she has so many times flamed up & wished to leave
but she is much attached to the children & I thought I
had better keep her for the summer at least -
We have had some very warm weather but it has again
turned cold. John has gone to a resort - he returned from
New Orleans feeling better - but he always feels better when he
has a rest from care - If you do not hear from me
until after commencement do not be surprised as
I shall ~~feel very nervous~~ ^{have much company} Again I beg of you not
to exert yourself - I hope Emily is still with you - my
best love to her & to my dear brother who is constantly
in my remembrance -

Yours ever fondly
Fanny -

Please ask William to mention something about that
buggy for Mr. Maynard when you next write -

Fanny

Came out - March 21. 1849 -

My precious Mother

It seems very very long since I heard
from you - But could I know that you were well I should not feel
so impatient. All the care, distress, & fatigue you have
gone through will I fear have worn out both mind & body
& it makes me feel doubly anxious to hear while I try to
reconcile myself to the silence by the conviction of how
painful the duty of writing must be to you & that you put
it off from day to day, each one hoping to feel more like it.
It is now two weeks since Mr. Richards letter of Feb. 17
arrived. I should have replied to her ere this but have
been very busy - It is very hard to realize at this great
distance all the dreadful scenes of which my dear home
has been witness; occasionally a sense of what a chasten
is made then, comes over me in its full force, but I know
I shall not ^{as you do} fully realize it, until I see & feel it -
We shall never find another like her & we shall show our
love by cherishing these memories - Those poor children
can but better realize their loss & it must be a painful
sight to see them - I was sorry that William was to
have them all taken from him - It seems to me it will
make his affliction only seem the greater - Louis & the
baby will at least I hope be left - I feel very anxious
to know how you have succeeded in getting a nurse -
it will be hard to find one in New Haven responsible enough -

I shall insist on keeping house for you as soon as I am able -
As to the nurse I must leave it to your discretion but is
not Mrs Mack too old - It seems to me I should have
preferred Mrs Curtis - I shall need her rather
before the middle of June as near as I can tell -
I feel some uneasiness about going on either by land or
water - There is nothing to be found out about steamships
& it seems very uncertain whether any will be going
at the right time - if not, I think we shall go up the
river, cross Ohio in the rail-road which is now in good
order, then to Buffalo & Rochester - About winter we can
go to Albany now in 14 hours - John will go with me -
he feels that our hopes for a pleasant summer are sadly
marred - Mary was a great favorite with him & he felt &
appreciated all her kindness & the trouble she took when
we were on in former times - He thought himself too -
favorite of her which attached him still more -

Ellen has been very sick with a bilious choleric attack
they were driven from their house just after they went up
by the water from the river breaking through a levee
below & surrounding the house with water two or three
feet deep - They have been at the Judge's ever since -
his house being a little higher was not affected - The
water has gone down, but still it must be very damp &
I have no doubt it is very injurious to Ellen. She wrote
that she had only walked out once & that she took cold
very easily - We were intending to pay a visit ^{there} but have
delayed, owing to this overflow & now not hearing for
more than 2 weeks whether she is still sick or whether
she is better & being so near Commencement we have decided
not to go - The river has never been higher but once I think

& the destruction of property is very great - The accounts
for June above are very bad, that the upper river are
very full - Henrietta seems to desire to leave as
soon after Commencement as possible - she means to go
on her own responsibility without waiting for any escort
She would like Willie to go with her for the sake of
company but he does not seem willing & I would not
urge him. I feel very sorry that she must go, but she
thinks it is necessary to make her summer arrangements
as early in May as she can get on, which will leave her only
a short time with her brother in this - She does not appear
to have decided whether she will rent the house or keep
house herself -

Henrietta, Willie, & myself went to
Hatchez in the carriage last week staying only a day with
Miss Shedden. I went to have some Haff dresses fitted and
had too much sewing to undertake making them myself -
Miss Shedden drove ~~the~~ round, so that she saw most of the
pretty places about there - she seemed very much delighted
with the shrubbery - Miss S. looks very miserably quite
unfit to go through with her many duties - she has now
the largest school in Hatchez but a very poor, incummodious
house - her brother's prospects are brightening - one judgment
has already been decided in his favor -
I feel very much hurried with sewing & but only one month
more to get the house ready to leave - I ought to have
as much of the next winter clothing out for the negroes
as I can & it is not begun yet - Then Commencement &
company after (Mr & Mrs Edward Chaplain spoke of coming)
will interfere & make me feel very hurried - I feel anxious
to get to you as early as possible but it seems impossible
that we could get off before the 1st of May - And now
my dear Mother I beg of you that you will not exert
yourself in house cleaning - you are not fit for it & now
certainly you are far less able to endure it than formerly

I want to see her - ^{millie} her arm nor ear are well yet -
though in spite of sea-sickness & the rolling of the vessel
I think she has been pretty well attended to - not
as well though I confess as dear Evander would have
made her - Millie, John & Fanny have been a constant
terro to me lest they should be overboard. But I suppose it
would have been just the same on the steamer. Millie
& John have said their lessons every day, the former
Geography & Spelling - the latter spelling - Millie read the 9th
Chapter of Matthew to me using only two words physician
& sacrifice - His Pa decided that he deserved the saddle.
He seems too to understand & remember what he reads
at which I was much pleased - He sends his love to Grandma
& says it is not such a dreadful thing to come by sea
I do not know what to say about it, dear Mother, but it
seems to me if the river was high that you would find
the route ^{we} took last Spring the pleasantest. I have
my little hope of your coming & yet I cannot but indulge
a little - If you could only persuade Henrietta to come
I feel sure you would enjoy it & it would do you good -
I am sure it would give you the greatest happiness - I shall
be very very lonely without any one this winter - which
not so much & always head & ear over in business that
he is no company, then if I have no nurse I shall be
in a constant stew but that I do not mean to think
of. I shall not rest till I get one - I feel much
stronger since my sea-voyage & have no doubt I am
far less fatigued than I should have been by land.
I hope you have Henrietta with - or near you by this time
& that you are about shutting up the house - Oh if I could
only be with you to help you - do not be anxious over much
or consider it too much of an undertaking - far better
let things run the risk of being injured than weary

yourself by over-exertion - I wish ^{we} were to be in New
Orleans so that you could telegraph us back of your
welfare but if any thing is the matter at any
time telegraph to Mr. Kennelly 46. Camp St. He
will write to us - I must try to write to Maime to
night so with a heart full of
love for my beloved, precious Mothership Galeana Oct. 29. 1849
I am as ever her affectionate Fanny -
Dearest Mother,

It is two weeks to day since
we parted & here we are safely in the Mississippi
Expecting to be at New Orleans to night. My letter to
you of ^{the} Sandy Hook ^{the} ~~Sandy Hook~~ ^{the} ~~Sandy Hook~~ was finished Tuesday Evening
but our head wind kept us from going out all day
on Wednesday & not till Thursday morning did our pilot
get us to sea & leave us off Sandy Hook. Yesterday
afternoon we arrived at the Balize - You see therefore
how much we have been favored in a short &
pleasant trip. Making it really in one day less than
the steamer ship which left the day after. The
arrived only ^{at the Balize} Saturday morning so that she was out
eleven days & we only ten days - She had the ad-
vantage of us in getting to sea that was all - for
we had larger state rooms & so much less of a crowd
that I doubt not we were far better off - Our Captain
was very kind & a careful sailer & we ~~have~~ had
an excellent table - We all suffered from sea-sickness
for the first two or three days - with the children &
nurses it lasted only one day - the weather has been very
warm so that we all got out summer clothes - since

as yet near land air we find quite a difference &
are ready for winter clothes again - Essie was sick
for several days with the same complaint that she
lup shore with & after that sea-sickness kept her in
bed. Essie Butler too has been in her bed almost
every day of the trip. The first breath of land air
seemed to restore the invalids & they both appeared
at table yesterday bright as lamps & hungry as
wolves - Betty Burr was only sea-sick for a day
or two but I believe thinks herself ^{better} for the trip -
John has enjoyed the sea-air much & has seemed to
feel quite well. He scarcely coughs at all in
the morning so differently from what ^{it} was when we
went on & for two months afterwards. The steamer
has been decidedly advantageous to him - I only dread
the return of all his colds should take him
down again - I am sure one of her severe head-aches
just after we came on board probably owing to the
passing away of the excitement she had been in
before leaving. I think she is somewhat threatened
with one again to day. Probably the excitement
of getting so near home after her long absence has
something to do with it. Hannah has been
no treasure certainly - most of the time making
no effort whatever & renders herself useful &
gay, headless & inattention to her duties to the
children. This morning John reproved her rather severely.

As I just overheard her talking to the mate that Mr.
M. took her for her services I have just sent for
her & had a talk with her - She says she would not live
with any body that spoke to her as he did. I think
from her talk she has meant ^{to} do her duty but ~~has~~ ^{has} not
felt well & therefore has been delinquent - I do not know
how it will turn out - She is certainly very correct
in theory - all fair & smooth - & with one she tried
would no doubt be invaluable but her manners are
very disagreeable - the trouble is to know what to
do without her for to get one in her means is almost
impossible - I have tried to treat her kindly & over-
looked her faults thinking at home I could correct
them better & that when she was with the children
alone she would do better - We never had any
reason to think that bad feelings was the cause of
her failure in duty for she has 24 beautifully & seemed
well - We have been waiting here in the pier for
hours now for the steamboat which took us up
to wood - The girls have all gone on shore. I preferred
to remain quietly here & had a bath with my precious
mother - I long long to know all about you & wonder
I did not think to tell you to have a letter
waiting for me - John is going to telegraph you of
our arrival as soon as we get up to the city. We
shall get in to morrow morning & shall take ^{up} a
steamboat up the river to morrow afternoon.
The dear little baby has improved on the voyage & has
grown fat again - though still she is not so fat as

on the lady that she thought it would be very grateful
to hear them - She had previously positively engaged to come.
I felt the more disappointed because Miss Thedden had
represented her to me as every thing desirable. It seemed
too late to send north again for her as no one would be
willing to come out in mid-winter so that I have written
to her friends if possibly I may get one then - I have not
heard a word from Hannah though she promised to write.

Your letter from Rochester I received last week on Tuesday.
I rejoiced that you had reached there so safely while at the
same time it cut off the last lingering hope that you might
be persuaded finally to come - I fear there is no chance
of Henrietta's coming now as she does not seem to think of
coming without you - I have not heard from her since the
letter she wrote when in New Haven with you - I was
very glad she had consented to make you a visit. Anna
had been hoping that she & Annie Chaplain would take a
visit to come out together -

Richie Peck, Essie Muddoch & Ellen & Essie Butler were
down for two or three days some time since. They did not
stay longer as Ellen was expected back & Essie was not
willing to be away from home. Ellen had been sent for
as Judge Perkins was so ill & needed her nursing. She
has been at Somerset ever since Essie is with her now
so that they cannot keep more than two home at
a time. It seems hardly worth while for Anna to
keep home - Poor Richie has finally succeeded in
getting an opportunity to return home - She enjoyed
herself much & seemed very happy but of course felt very
anxious to see Anna again - She left last week on
Monday in company with Mr & Mrs Pomeroy who go as
far as Baltimore - She will have a very cold journey at
this season of the year - Anna gave a party last week to

bring out the Butler girls. Martha Parker has returned & is very
much admired by every one. I have not seen her yet.
The sweetmeats were very good. The wish was spring but not
had got out. I enjoy them enough to repay you for all the
trouble you have had with them. We have only used one jar
of strawberries & I thought them delicious. D. W. goes
in this morning & I will send my letter by him just as it should be
late for the boat. Much love to Albert & all the family -
Do write often - you know better than I do. Love him. Dec. 17, 1849 -
Monday 80°

My dearest Mother, You will think me a great
laggard about writing & I know it full well & though I could
find a hundred excuses I really do not think I ought to
make any to my dear Mother - one might always find
time to write a few lines & yet to get about it is the
thing. I do not believe I have written you since Mr. Ship
arrived which must have been just after my last
letter - He has been very much of an invalid & has added
to my many increased cares with no nurse, new servants
to teach the la - He was attacked with diarrhoea while
on the river had an uncomfortable boat, no attention &
constantly drinking the water in large quantities so that
when he got home he was so weak he had to be carried
on shore - He was been confined to his room more or
less ever since he arrived with a continuance of the
disease - being a sick man before he picked it he had
to recover strength - like all gentlemen, too he has little
patience & I have found it very hard to get things
to suit him - he speaks his mind freely & abuses
whenever does not suit him outright - I have visited
him in his room frequently daily when I thought it
necessary - He seemed very grateful for my kindness
but sometimes I get rather provoked at his rudeness. I cannot
I ought not for a sick man with talents & energies to
shrink in life & with no money in his pocket to endure
the expenses of a long sickness is certainly much to be

John keeps generally well & is getting fat. I am very well also.

pitied. He complains very much of our variable climate
& thinks it any thing but beneficial to his complaints.
This also makes him very petful. He is sick
enough to be under the  care of a physician constantly
but we are so far from one & he could not endure the
expense of ~~regular~~ frequent visits - Still I do not believe that
Mrs could do much for him - He is a very interesting
& gentlemanly man for I feel great interest for him &
am anxious to do every thing in my power - He told
John the other day he hoped she should be with for a
month - before his leaving her to show me he was not
quite such a bear as I much think him. Mr. Watkinson
has paid him two visits - with the first he seemed
quite pleased but in the second some remark displeased
him - He was very ready to discuss religious subjects &
he does so so frequently with John - but he is not a
believer in the Bible nor in a Saviour. I trust he may be
enlightened & that God may have sent him here for
some good purpose - He was down stairs & took his
meals with us to day - Yesterday which he had not
done for a week before - If he had come with us by
sea, it would have been vastly better for him -
It is being so much of an invalid would keep me at
home at least I could not be absent long - I am going
up to town tomorrow as there is to be a great wedding
given by Mrs. Stamps to Miss Irish who is to marry her
brother. She has been living in her family for a year past
& shall return as soon as possible. The baby is so fat
you would scarcely know her - She is a sweet good
lively little creature & I feel sorry that you cannot enjoy
her in her baby hood. She might in a measure fill up
your dear little Mary's loss - a baby is a pleasant thing in

a family though as Mrs. Hoyt says a very expensive pleasure.
It seems to draw out the affections of the older children
they will quarrel among themselves but all unite in love
for the little baby - I feel the need of your judgment &
assistance daily - I fear none of the children will have
Millie's good sense & kindness of heart all of which I attrib-
ute to his Grandmother's teachings. I have daily to mourn
over my inability to train them as I would. I am not
successful - I see the difficulties but do not know
how to remedy them - Fanny is not aware of her petting
nor of her squealing. Indeed if any thing it is worse &
Johnnie developed new & wicked dispositions very often.
I have so many cares & they are so constantly about me
now that I have no time that I know I am very easily
petted by them & often set them a very bad example of
impatience doing the very thing that I should correct
the next minute in them. I have discovered a punishment
for Fanny who would get off to the horse lot & up to Aunt
Jenny's house which has so far been quite successful
after once being put in execution. This was, undressing
& putting her to bed in broad daylight & keeping her there
for two hours. She has not been up then since without
permission - Eliza is my nurse for the baby - She is very
kind & discreet too so that I feel no anxiety about her.
She would be an excellent nurse for all the children if
she were more active & stronger. Fanny is very fond of
her - Mary Riley retains her attachment to Fanny - She
sent her the other day a little bonnet for her doll & a
pretty little box with an stop of rose bottle in it. After
telegraphing Mrs. Pichard not to send a nurse as we had
procured one in Hatterly the woman has disappointed
me. The reason seemed a good one - A sister of the
lady she lived with - had died & it threw so much care