

at her Grandmother's 2 weeks previous - Her Father is
very angry still & says she shall never cross
his threshold. I presume he will keep his word
as he has a brother to whom he has not spoken
for eighteen years - Every one thinks his prejudice
very unreasonable as Mr. Hughes is a moral & correct
young man. Mary is living at Mr. Hughes (his
brother) in Port Gibson - I suppose you wonder how
we numbered 70 under the circumstances at my
party - but there were several young ladies at Mrs.
Purviance's, several came with Mr. Archer - two
Miss Buckners from Natchez were at Mr. Buckners
two Miss Smiths old Mr. Ireland's grandchildren - The
gentlemen did not seem to outnumber the ladies -
I am sure the fame of my party has gone far &
wide & the ease & elegance of my entertainment
I am too old to be hurt by flattery & am too
humble an opinion of my own powers to you
must not press because I repeat it to you.

Martha Duncan left on the Trade, Sunday
Eve. Mr. Bell also left on the same boat. She
came out in the morning & went in late in the
afternoon - Martha you know has taken a
house at Pelham & goes on early to furnish it
Mr. Parker follows in June - I wish I was
going too far & the dread of spending a summer here
I have been half disposed to go to Kentucky. John
of course would consent but then I must leave him
& the boys behind which I can hardly make up

Came Mount May 12th
1856 -

Dearest Mother -

The battle of Commencement
being over you will I am sure have been looking
for a letter from me before this time but I was
last week much engaged with the negro clothing
& when night would come I was too tired to
keep awake - I have been suffering for two weeks
with a heavy cold which has made me stupid
& heavy but I think it is improving now. The weather
has been changeable so I suppose yours has corresponded
I wrote last by Uncle Alfred because I knew I
should not write Commencement week so I presume
you have received it just about this time. I hope
you have not had the heavy storms which have
visited us or at least our region - we have been
flooded & they have not visited us in their greatest
severity - all occurred just before & during Commence-
ment week so that it ~~costed~~ ^{cost} our company very
considerably & diminished the crowd which was
expected at Oakland. In some places the wind
seems to have been a hurricane blowing down here

looking up & splintering the sturdiest-oaks of the
Forest - one family near Crook's Creek were driven
out into the storm at midnight & were actually
homeless not a building on the place being left
standing. This took place on Saturday the 26th April
on Tuesday night there was another violent storm
which seemed equally disastrous in different
directions. Mr. Butler was at Mr. Lums's & gave
a curious account of things there. The china trees
in the yard were rooted up & blown down in all
directions but not one fell on the house - You know
how short a distance there is from the kitchen to
the house & yet one was prostrated ^{in that little space} which did
no injury but which might have fallen kindly upon
the room where Mr. Butler was sleeping - The top
of the carriage house & of his buggy was taken
off. Of course the creeks were nearly impassable
& it lessened our company greatly - The storm
came on again Wednesday evening the night of
the Senior Exhibition so that it prevented all but
those at the President's house from attending. This
was a great disappointment to the young people
as they always anticipate more pleasure at
that, than any other time - The Butlers with Mary
Sevier had come on Saturday previous, Anne Lane

with Mr.^{rs} Bailey came on Tuesday - so that I was
not wholly deprived of my company - Mr.^{rs}
Purviance gave a party on Monday evening which
was also stormy but we sent off the young people
in the midst of it & they thought they had a
delightful evening. I gave them permission to
invite the Senior Class here for Thursday Ev. There
with the strangers present - no married people were
invited excepting Mr. Watton & Mr. Tom Ireland
numbered about 70 - quite a gathering was it not?
All seem to think they had a delightful time &
all went off well without much trouble to me
as Anne was here to assist me - She did not go
to the commencement exercises but it was necessary
I should & I returned at noon - Most of the cake
was made that day & not a cake was used when
I came home at noon - But the table was all
set before dark & more cake ready than there was
room for on the table - The head terrapins, oyster
soup, cold turkey, straw berries, jelly, fresh peaches,
or peaches put up in their own juice & ice cream -
all went off well except - two pieces of ice cream
which would not freeze & consequently proved a
failure - We had quite a horse fall to remain
that night & did not get to bed till 3 o'clock -
Mary Burton was here as a bride having been married

This scrap is from Mr. "Gine Pittman"
one of our best religious persons

any mind to do - I may do it yet though
The summer weather has kept off a long
time as yet so that I fear it will be very hot
when it does come - Don't you think you would
meet me in Lewisville & then we would go into
the country from there - Mr. Bell would do every
thing for me I needed there & I could find company
up the river very readily. I know Mr. Palmer
would get very much discontented if I went away
but I do not think his heart is much in teaching
The boys take very little interest in school & are
only pushed up to study by the fear of bad marks,
& consequent punishment from their Father - Willie
begins to like study better but I do not think
any of them respect Mr. P. However, this you must
keep to yourself - The boys are so very important
at this time ^{of life} & the habits of study they acquire
now will cling to them for life. I feel very anxious
about them all - Fanny needs the stimulus
of other companions - she has not as much ambition
as I would like - Sally learns readily & fast -
she is quite sharp in arithmetic now - adding,
subtracting & multiplying
Did I tell you that Leannette Treat was up
at commencement - she staid until the Tuesday
after then went in to Bradney for the boat but
was too late - came back after 4 o'clock at

night - The next time she went in for the boat
Friday night the boat did not come till
near morning - I was glad for her sake
that her visit - was so prolonged for she looks very
thin & care worn & has grown very old - ^{She seemed too so happy to be} The
released for a while
Says Miss Shedden has given a great deal to her
brother to help him in his suit & has even borrowed
money to give him -

Mr. Butler's affairs are in a trying state. The people
have dismissed the clergyman who was filling his
pulpit & do not fit another because they say they
cannot afford to support 2 ministers - Mr. B. was
much distressed at finding the state of affairs &
decided at first to resume preaching but a
sense of his inability prevented & he returned
the congregation after church last Sunday to
tender his resignation - 29 years of his life he
had spent among them - since the loss of his health
he had twice been compelled to call upon them
for special aid which had been promptly responded
to - a third time he had been compelled to appeal
but had met with no response which urged upon
him the conviction that his work among them
was done - He mentioned too that his salary
of 1200 entirely inadequate to support his family had
been badly paid for several years & this was the
first time he had ever addressed them on the
subject - He then requested the session to call a
meeting & either accept his resignation or manifest
the feelings of the congregation - He went to bed
sick in the afternoon & went into the country the
next morning to avoid talking to people
His health is better but he is quite unable to preach.

It will be a most trying thing to Mr. B. & I fear
break him down entirely unless God supports
him which we hope will be all-sufficient -

He was appointed agent for the College with a
salary of \$1500 but whether he will accept or
not I cannot say - Mary nor the girls will never
learn economical habits; but John must support
them if they need of course -

Poor Mrs. Buckner is troubled enough to manage
her property so you see too much is as bad a
thing as too little - Fannie & Sallie are
well but both growing quite thin again - Both
send much love to Grandma - Charles is going
to Rodney & I must send my letter. I did not
get it off Tuesday & then I had a Miss Van Bort
from Elizabeth Loring to dine here - She is staying
at Prof. Doernum's - I was distressed to learn by
yours to Willie of the poor little baby's sickness
there is nothing I dread more than a spasm &
such a continuance was dreadful - I am rejoiced
to hear you are all better - Love to William
Caroline also to Louis & Gene - love to all
that enquire for me & remember me

Ever as your loving Daughter,

Write as often as you can -
yours letters are always
anxiously looked for -

we have not discussed

He is at present over the river
but will I hope return to morrow
The high water fills the thoughts of
all the planters - It exceeds last
summer & is fearfully high - The
levees are worked upon day & night
in many places - ah Hard Times
they have been very apprehensive of
a crevasse - It would send the water
back ^{over the country} for 15 or 20 miles if the levee breaks
there - It is over some parts of
the street in Rodney now & the water
of Grand Gulf is under water -

Mr. Evans place is I understand all
under - only her yard & house is dry
because she made a separate levee
around it - We have had very high
winds which have done much damage
by increasing the force of the waves -

The children were down last Saturday
to see their Pa. They are kept busy &
are growing a little thin under it. They
were most delighted to get home but made
a very short visit - reaching here Saturday
night & going back by 6 o'clock Monday
morning. All the town was on the quai
to see Mary & Mr. Butler -
All are well as usual with us.
Fanny says she cannot find time to write
to you. Little Epic says she wants to see
you - with best love to all I am, Darling Mother
Your own Fanny -

April 15th 1858 -

Dearest Mother,

I was greatly
disappointed not to receive a letter
from you by the mail to day as
I had looked confidently for one
& it seems, indeed it is so very
long since I received one, I really
believe it is nearly six weeks. As I
heard from Willie to day in New
Haven to day & he does not mention
any thing being wrong with you
I do not feel alarmed but still
I should be more easy to hear
from you - No doubt you have
been thinking me equally remiss
in not writing but I did write
to Albert, after I received your
last - & have written once since.
I have felt all this week that
I ought to write informing you

John's return, but each day I had
hoped to hear from you & so have
deferred it, besides that I have
been very busy with sewing in
anticipation of Commencement which
is now close upon us -

It is very late to night - but as I
am going in to Rodney to-morrow
I will write if it is only a few
lines -

John returned safe & looking
much improved a week ago, yesterday
spending two ~~or three~~ days only in
New Orleans just long enough to get
my groceries - The Capt. the Butlers
there, as Mary had shopping to do
for her sisters, John thought Mr. B.
much improved & that it would
have done Mr. B. more good to
remain there than to go north but
I presume his inclination lead him
to his native valley - I will try & find
a published letter of Mr. B.'s in the
Reveille & send you. In it he does
not seem to think the climate of
Texas advantageous to him -

John suffered very much with

sore throat - before leaving there for
two weeks. Applied to a famous
physician there & used his remedies
without the slightest effect, When he
reached New Orleans, he consulted
Dr. Stille who said it was the back
part of his tongue that was sore
& not the throat - He soon relieved
him by touching it with caustic -
He had experienced so much difficulty
in swallowing that he had lost all
appetite -

To say we receive any of
our friends home safe after a
journey in these days of awful
explosions, conflagrations, & rail-
road concussions is no small subject
for gratitude - I feel most deeply
my great indebtedness to a kind
Father that has watched over
my loved husband in two long
journeys - both of them fraught
with dangers & exposures -

I have not asked John his plans
for the summer, as I hate to think
of another long separation which I
know is inevitable - He will take
me, on north, but further than that

have heretofore generally been
considered healthy -

The children one & all want
to see Grandma - Little Eric
thinks very often of her Pa - The
baby is growing quite a beauty
She has such beautiful eyes -
She is pale but & has constant
bowel complaint from teething
but is not made sick by it -
O. I wish I could find something
here to send you children but
Pat Gibson does not produce
any thing - Love & kisses to little
Mary & the baby - Love to Caroline
& William also to Eugene & Louis
from your loving daughter
Fannie -

Pat Gibson -

July 2nd 1858,

Dearest Mother

I write by
Miss Daggett who is a teacher
in Pat Gibson in Miss Marins
school. I have never made her
acquaintance but from her name
presuming she was related to
Judge Daggett. I called this morning
on her & wish to send a letter of
introduction by her but that it
is necessary for you to show
civilities to her but as an old
lady I knew she would call on
you & take pleasure in bringing out
any message from you - Beside
that I knew it always gives you
pleasure to see any body that
lives here & has seen me if only
for a few moments - She belongs

to New Haven but I cannot tell
you to what family of Daggetts.

I had a letter from ^{John} Memphis
last night the first intelligence I
have had of him since he left here.
The letter was 7 days old. I had
become quite ~~discouraged~~ ^{discouraged} & blue
at not having even a telegram
from him from Washington, but
the storms have been very severe
in every direction & I presume the
lines are down. I think he must
be safe with you to day & will
probably leave for Stoughton to-
morrow (July 3rd) I do hope he will
not pay Willie a very short visit
as the boy has been looking forward
to it so long. He will be greatly
disappointed if his Pa does not
spend a week at least.

John seems to plan to be in St. Louis
very soon so I hardly dare to write
another ^{letter} to New Orleans. Still I

think I will write in the hope of re-
ceiving it as I have written but once
since he left. The children have
been up making a visit all this
week & have enjoyed it highly.
They with Miss Dwight left this
morning for home & I will go
down to-morrow. The girls will keep
me company & Chester Butler is
going to stay at Cambridge most of
the summer. It is a comfort to
have a man about, where there
are ^{even if he is young} over-
^{unexperienced}seers to be managed. I think
I shall grow quite grey from care
before the end of the summer.

I hope you are better as the warm
weather comes on. Willie says he
had a letter from you the last time
he wrote which was June 21st.
There is some talk of yellow fever in
New Orleans but people are always
frightened & ready to predict an
epidemic. The year of an overflow

Says he was afraid Miller would
be a little homesick at first as
several of his old companions have
left to go into business but he has
taken hold of his studies with a
right good will -

By the time this reaches you
you will have seen Lewis, I
presume on his homeward way
as I suppose he would hardly pass
by without showing you his
improvement. John writes that
Lewis is much improved. As for
his own health I cannot antici-
pate entire restoration but I do look
for great improvement & shall be
greatly disappointed if he has
not found it. They have undergone
much fatigue & exposure, indeed
actual prostration for 36 hours.
John must have had ^{hard} hard work to
keep up his spirits, I think, with
a discontented guide & Lewis so silent has been only through the kindness of

Oct 21st 1858

Dearest Mother,

I do not know
how long it is since I wrote you
but I dare say it seems very
long to you who are no doubt
anxious about our health until
there is a post. We have been most
graciously preserved than we ^{of yellow fever} ~~are~~ ^{not}
we had an alarm of one case at
Rodney three weeks ago. Many
of the students left & every body
ceased to go in for a day or two
but in a week passed & no new
cases occurred, confidence was
restored & every body went in as
usual, We feel very grateful to have
escaped, for I feel confident that it
has been only through the kindness of

of our beautiful Father! — Many
of the small towns on the river
are suffering from it even now.
Richburg is suffering much & it
is considered very unsafe for
travellers or the inhabitants to
visit them. I'm watching they
have had very little but just
enough to make every one
timid about returning there.
Mr. Spalding writes to Mr. Butler
he attributes their exemption to
prayer. They have had 2 daily
prayer meetings all summer.

In Rodney no precautions
have been taken & constant commu-
nication held with the boats —
Poor, devoted New Orleans is still
suffering much & constant fuel
is added to the epidemic by
emigrants & strangers arriving in
the city, young men seeking money
at the risk of losing their places by
longer absence — The fever here has been
very malignant & many notes &

old inhabitants — have taken it &
died with it — By William Bristot (Pr)
After receiving last week I learn
that you are still in Rochester
I hope to be enjoying yourself
I hope you are laying in a store
of health & strength. Willie
wrote me just before he left that
he has enjoyed his visit there
very much & also his trip out to
Chicago — He thinks much Mary
the finest housekeeper he ever knew.
Heads of Henry become quite
attached to his cousin — I hope
it is reciprocated & that he makes
himself ^{an} agreeable inmate.
William says that he thinks
Mr. Reid's school differs from
most others that they make
gentlemen of the boys & not
scholars merely — I have heard
from Mr. Reid but not from
Willie since his return — The

(51)

His last letter was so full of
animation, we felt as if we had
been reading a romance instead
of stern reality. The very fact
of his enduring so much effort
shows the beneficial effects of
the climate.

Our hearts were so gladdened
to day by hearing from John by
telegram from St. Louis that he
was actually so far on his way
homeward. What a relief to all
our anxieties to think of his being
so near us again. We thought he
could reach here on Monday night
I shall have the carriage waiting,
you may be sure. It has been
a most anxious summer for me
If there had not been a God above

in whom to put my trust
with hope I should many a time
have sunk under it. The Demits
were waiting in St. Louis. I presume
he will see them. Mr. D. is entirely
restored. The physician in Baltimore
says his lungs never were diseased,
while his two physicians here, pronounced
one lung entirely useless -

Poor Mr. Butler has been very sick,
I seem ~~ed~~ much diseased. Sometimes
for days suffering from nausea
then at other times his cough very
troublesome. I think his physicians
look upon it as consumption, but
they may be deceived. Mr. Mann
is engaged to preach at St. L. many -

Give best love to Albert & Mary
I intended to have written to Albert
along with this but am quite

wearied, having heard Mr. Buckner's
& Mrs. Evans were to dine to-day.
Please tell William his letter gave
me much pleasure & I will write
soon - I think he had better not
take the gardeners he mentions.
He would be too far off to be watched
& they leave ~~at~~ ^{grudging} soon enough without
coming within the habit already
fixed upon them - I would like
him still however to be on the
look out for me - Much love to
all - The baby grows fast & strong
& every one says is like Willie -
Mr. Buckner asked Epie to-day
if her Father was coming hence.
She answered "It's my Papa."
I do not think she will know him
& I do not think he will know
Sora - Good Bye, dear Mother

I wish you would leave that
cold country & come here for
the winter. Best love to all
From Your loving daughter.

away for these two months - January & March.
But he has not been able to throw off
business cares, indeed that seems almost-
impossible on a plantation. The sick negroes
are a master's greatest annoyance.

Mr. Butler & Mary started off last Friday.
Mr. B. enriched by the kindness of people
in this neighborhood with a contribution
of \$6 or 600. He started to go to Florida. As
John goes down this evening to New Orleans
he may possibly join them or possibly they
may take some other trip. If John could
only get a good agent, one that understood
planting I think he would take a long
sea voyage - I would not object for I think
with pleasant company it would be
beneficial. I very much fear Dr. Green did
him an injury. I had never thought so much
of it; as since I saw the account of Mr. Whitney's
case, but John has said for a long time
that the wheezing he is now troubled with;
did not commence until after Dr. Green's operation -
last summer - This I think proves that he
caused inflammation in the bronchial tubes.

when I think this difficulty lies -

He was so much benefitted last summer
that I have great hope that freedom from care
& a ~~large~~ ^{on a longer trip} absence ~~from home~~ might be bene-
ficial. I think they worked too hard last
summer. Mr. Butler will wait in New

Orleans till John comes down - He is very
much afraid of being sea-sick as much
as you are - Indeed I do not think he

would have courage to take a sea-voyage.
Therefore I do not believe they can come to any
agreement to go together. As they have
Mary's cheerful company I would be glad
if they could do so -

When I last wrote you, ~~we~~ were daily
expecting Miss Leonard, but she had treated
me very shabbily: after offering to come as
I wrote you she took it into her head to
get married & did not notify me for one
week after it - I meantime was prevented
from securing another teacher because I
feared Miss L. might not have received
my letter or in some way been delayed.

Mr. Bourie wrote to me of a lady who had

Little Dora is better, but has been suffering
a good deal with heavy cold. She seems to
have a delicate stomach. Eddie had a
heavy cold, but it does not make her sick -
She can say seventeen or eighteen questions in
the Catechism for which she has earned five cts.
for the missionaries. She goes to church & prayer
meeting & is generally a pretty good girl -
Dora is very bright & interesting but does not talk
excepting a few words - She can hear Mary's
voice at a remote distance & always runs to
find her - Eliza is very feeble this winter - indeed
she is good for nothing most of the time -

Old Dancers is nearly dead double but holds on
to life - Old Charles, Tabby's husband is pretty
much laid on the shelf & enjoys his liberty

You would enjoy seeing the old ones before
they pass away - They all have a vivid
remembrance of old mistress' kind words.

I think you must be having warm weather
I hope so for your sake. I am glad you have been able to
go to church, often do take a carriage whenever

you want it. Tell Albert I have not written
to William on the subject mentioned in his
letter because I did write in September
on the same but if William is not sending
you any remittance get a very small one
I shall certainly write. He has never answered
mine - Miss Chaplain wrote me of Mrs
Byden Edwards severe illness. I hope she has
recovered - Miss C. said she was very anxious
to come out if she could find an opportunity -
but I doubt her making this effort - Her brother
in New Orleans, has had a very severe attack on his
lungs & works too hard to get well -

Do not keep yourself too warm in your
my little room. I am afraid you will
get too tender. I am sure it must be a comfort to
be able to minister to your wants. I hear from Willie
often. He seems to improve & I hope is doing well in
scholarship as well as in deportment. He finds
the winter pretty cold - He finds Miss Wright a
pleasant house - But I have to go off to pack & then
trunk & must close my letter. He is so averse
to leaving home that he will not say he will
be absent more than two weeks - but I do not

She has quite a talent for drawing
 & sketches from nature. The children
 are already so inspired with this
 vivacity that they would take a
 lesson in the evening rather than
 not have any. In Music I
 think she will be a good Teacher
 though she is now somewhat out of
 practice not having been able to
 play during the last year in the
 house when she was situated.
 Her sister - the one whom we loved
 when John would have liked and
 her at Savannah: She was on her
 way to Trade Hampton's where she
 is to be governess - Fanny seems
 now fully to realize the importance
 of hard study & I think she will
 do credit to herself in another year.
 I have been teaching them ever since
 we returned from Pat-Gibson in
 order that they might be a little
 people in their studies when
 Miss Oakley should arrive.

Eddie's
 Kim & George
 Ma & Mother

It is true my letter was off to Rodney so I cannot say it is
 a close-fisted letter. I shall write to him
 again perhaps while
 he is in New Haven
 & you think his Pa
 sent him enough -
 The sum of \$2.50 to each
 I would like to have every
 one of the farward but not
 wasted - Miller will
 take you of Andrew
 & death of which I
 have not mentioned in
 his letter - Tell the
 boys not to forget to
 write to Chestnut Hill
 & to Caroline & all
 the children & little
 ones in your letter

I have only written since I
 reached home. Little Fanny has
 written also but I find my letters
 to the boys are about all that
 I can accomplish. Fanny scratches
 off a good many letters to them
 which though I fear sometimes
 they cannot read as they are
 hastily & carelessly written, they
 should value much for the kindness
 & affection they evidence.

This morning I am seated before
 breakfast to write to you. that is soon
 after 7 o'clock which you know is
 winter is pretty early. The reason
 of my being so indolent is that
 I have just had a visit of three or

days from Martha Wilkins &
Belle Lisk & Mr. Mendach has
joined them in their visit to
New Orleans this morning. He has
been intending to go for some
weeks but has delayed from bad
weather, new overcoats & our cause
at home. He has been very unwell.
As I wrote you the dust affected
his lungs very seriously. I do not
think I have ever known him more
thin & more troubled about himself.
He at first attributed it to cold
but in our night travelling on the
journey but I feel convinced it
was solely owing to the dust. I think
some steady cold bracing weather
would be of great benefit to him
but our weather has showed some
of the most severe changes I have
ever felt. One morning last week
the thermometer stood at 5° in
the morning - by night it was down
to 20° & the next morning it was
down to 14° above zero - Years ago,

(seven years) when Martha Wilkins
paid her last visit - here I remember
the thermometer going as low as 12°
above zero & it was considered most
extraordinarily cold. We have never
felt the like since until now -
poor Miss Oakley arrived on this
very day rather bitter experience
for a lone woman travelling by herself.
She came all the way from
Savannah by herself but met
with no difficulties. She came by
Mobile & New Orleans - She has with
the maturity of thought & manner
that I would like in a person so
constantly with the children but
I think she will answer to the
children and disposed to be very
industrious & make up for lost
time - She seems a very estimable
the person, conscientious & anxious
to improve them - She is an
Episcopalian but I think a good woman.
She has been living for more than
a year on a rice plantation near
Darien, Georgia.

Grandmother, Accept the warmest love

John Mary is most heart broken & crushed
beneath her weight of sorrow. It seems
to mysterious - she never seems to
have complained of pain at any time
only of shortness of breath & weakness.
Her friends in Trilhestarre deem not
to have been seriously alarmed about
him until just before he left - & then
I think the beginning of the journey
must have been a great exposure
some in stage & rail roads when he
suffered for proper food & rest.
I think his disease must have got deep
hold at Princeton before in the first
attack - You could never have conceived
one year ago ^{or longer ago} that he was marked only
for consumption - so all bodies, well
developed, his gentleness, amiability,
combined with: manliness, & high sense
of honor won for him all hearts -

I want Fanny to copy off Aunt Annie's
accounts of her journey to meet him &
of his death. I do not find time -
Fanny says she wrote you while I
was in New Orleans but as you do not
mention it I fear you did not receive
it. I heard from Lewis in answer
to mine just as was leaving on the trip.

I was obliged to read it hurriedly in
order to give the letter to him to take
with him, as it was too long for him
to read them. This was no fault
returning I do not comprehend but he
does not seem to think of it. I wrote
him urging it, as you requested -

March 27th 1860

Dearest Mother,

Yours written about
March 5th was received last week
& again reminded me how much better
you are in writing than I am - I have
written to William just after my return
from Port Gibson & about ten days after
my return from New Orleans & hope he
will not forget to show it to you as
I could not then write to both - by
the date of my letter you will see it is
just about a month since John sailed.
If I could but know whether they had
been days of wearisome suffering to him
or if each day has breathed new life
& health into his frame - I must be
patient & wait with New Mary alternat-
ing of hope & fear you can well
imagine - Dear little Epie said to me
to night - "you cry whenever you think
of Pa, don't you?" - poor little soul
she little knows it is only the utterance
of the thought that calls forth the
tears - & how many sent up thoughts
there are which the spirit must feed upon

I find it our bitterness. If we had
no hope, no trust, no faith in this
Almighty hand who can raise up those
who are laid low, yet if we had not
his promise to go to to pour out our
earnest petitions we should be
indeed most miserable - I know
dear Mother that you join with us
not only in prayer for the restoration
of our dear one, but that we may
forth live better lives if we are spared
to meet ¹¹ our Willie will have a school of
patience. I pray it may be useful
to him & that he may learn cheerfulness.
I rejoice that he was just at this
age when his mind was fitted to take in
impressions. It was pleasant to see
his dear Father in the midst of weakness
so cheerful & agreeable to all who visited
him - I trust Willie may imbibed
some of it for it is an enviable quality.
The Dr. had strong hopes that the fever
would wear off after he got to sea & as
he seemed to improve in strength &
appetite soon while on that odious bar.
I trust it was ominous of better things -
I saw Annie Chaplain the nurse of the
Ship & John's direction in France & Paris -
which I told her to show to you. I hoped
some of you would have letters there

to meet him. He will not probably
stay long in land but may leave
some directions where to have his
letters forwarded to. It is true I
had heard from Annie in answer to
mine from New Orleans - also from
Mrs. Sampson to whom I wrote to
have your picture sent out - I am
sorry William has never taken a
look at it - I was so anxious Kenneth
should see it also - I am so sorry
John did not sit for one last fall
at Gurneys. Anne persuaded him
to have one taken in Port. Exton one
morning when he was cast up there
about the last of January. It is an
excellent likeness, as he looked
then (a photograph) but it has a
pained ^{sickly} look & rather distressed me
to look at it - He has a good many
taken of Mr. Butler but you would
scarcely recognize them as he is so
much altered by long ill health.
I sent two papers with notices of
Oyster in them to Johnnie but I fear
they will be lost as they were sent off
without being sealed tightly - I want
him to send them to you - The expressions
of regard from his slaves were high testimonials to his worth when we remem-
ber how short a time he was there -
They resolved to erect a monument
to him in Princeton Cemetery -

There must be some other reasons for this separation besides poverty -

Prof. Goodrich's death will be mourned by all who knew him for he was a truly good man - Mrs

Mrs Prichard then at the funeral I have not heard a word from her but I wish very much to write to her

I know she thinks much of us all in our present state of anxiety -

Johnnie will soon be making his spring visit to you - The mother feel quite lonely in Father's absence. I do not know what we shall do with him - His teacher says he cannot learn Greek & of course he cannot take a college course -

Poor little Johnnie's sickness was dreadful indeed. I hope Caroline may have much comfort in them when grown to repay all her toil & anxiety - What a world of watchfulness it takes to bring up a family I think I have been most blessed in healthy children - Ellen's two older ones are delicate particularly Maren the second. The Doctor insists she must take them north this summer. As she has no excess of

think it is a great undertaking
to go. but I hope they will be able
to accomplish it. I want Anne
to come Erie or I am with me,
Anne is very stout & needs a change
very much. though she will not allow
that she needs it. It would be
terribly lonely for me without them
all as Mary is tied closely at
home by Mr. Butters' feeble state
of health.

All on the plantations are
getting on very well. Overseers are
being faithful so far, & no trouble
as yet. The weather is pleasantly
warm though we still keep up fires.
Spinage & radishes are fit to eat &
peas in bloom. -

Robert & Buckner's
wedding is fixed for the 26th April.

You perhaps do not know that
she is to marry John Parker of
Port-Gibson. - Dr Parker's second son,

Mary Parker & one of Mr. Marshall's
daughters to be bridesmaids

Children all send love. The little ones
are fat & well & Dora a little beauty
in a fair way of being spoiled from being
laughed at by the older ones as being
stupid. - Much love to all.

Remember me to the Forters - also to

Sarah Tolsey when you see her -

Mr. Buckenridge has not answered
as to whether he accepts the
Presidency of Oakland or not

Mrs. Whitney sent a very
charming letter back to Sam by
Prof. Phelps. "The State News". I
suppose you have seen it. Anne
Ropes also sent it.

Annie Chaplain had not written to
us of her projected move. Have
they fixed on a house. I trust you
will have a pleasant Spring & be able
to keep up the good health you have
been so blessed with all winter.

With much love & many hopes that you
will find you comfortable & happy
dearest Mother I am your loving
daughter -

know not what to do without her. She is much better. I cannot assign any other cause. The storm came on very suddenly, but she is not much perturbed & speaks like Dora. She has been a real good child though obliged to take a great quantity of quinine - so sensible & old. The prospect of being sent to Park Lodge because she is sick has been almost enough to cure her. They are both so fond of being with John who is so near their own apartments. He has written several times both in Paris & since his return. Miss Wright says he looks bright & well but I have not heard from you yet whether you think he has improved. I am glad his friends are going on to look after him. The special warranty of Grandma's kindness did he recover from his cold? - On Monday the happy news of John's arrival at Havre some hours earlier than expected. The telegraph was sent through Mr. Shipley Saturday & reached Rodney same day. It was brought to me before I went to bed. Sunday morning (29th) & yesterday I received my first letters - Our hearts were as you may suppose filled with joy & gratitude at these merciful answers to our prayers, partly & undeserving as we are. John wrote to Johnnie but did not seem able for more than he wrote to me & to Jane. I believe he sent a letter to Mr. Annetelle also. Willie is a real

good writer & proves himself very useful to his Pa. Charles (servant) was almost useless the first ten days after he left - new ailments as he was sea-sick but after that was well all the time - John suffered with fevers daily until he reached Havre from which time he began to gain strength & improve & appetite vigorous. The latter part of the voyage became wearisome from the lack of fresh meat & the change to land with its fresh meat butter, fine food & the hospitality of Mr. Savotelle proved too much for John. He walked too up a steep hill & altogether exerted himself too much at Havre. He was taken with a chill followed by fever the first he had had for several weeks of any moment. I quote from his letter he says "I am in all respects much better than when we parted & still full of hope that God is leading me by his own way to comparative health again. We start in the morning for Paris (Tuesday 16th) for Paris when I expect to consult a physician. Let you know my further movements as far as determined on - Until further advised direct to me Care of J. Clerc Kayser & Co Paris." write on this paper - they are crazy about letters from home - Willie says if he could only have five minutes to talk to me he could make a better nurse. He seems grateful to Mrs. Savotelle who had given him

buried last week on Thursday & only
ill two days. Poor Mrs. Parker was
nearly beside herself but bore it better
than she did Martin's death one
year ago. She & her daughter left on
last Sunday Evg. for Niagara. John & the
2 Buckners (his wife & Emily B.) go next
Tuesday. if they can get a boat. The
Daniells left for Pa. Springs this week
Mr. D. in very bad health. has had
several hemorrhages. - Mrs. Parker is
sent for to meet his Mother in New
York - I do not know whether Mr
Duncan went for him or not -

Mr. Broughton goes on about the 10th
of July, so that I could easily find
opportunities. The Professors leave for
Baltimore too in a few days. The
Buckners also go. so that you see
there is no lack of opportunity but I
do not consider it expedient. -
The girls, Sam & Essie are both in my care
but by my invitation. -

I hope you will consult with John
about some different school for John
I fear that climate is too cold for
him. But I must close as my
letters must be ready to go down
to day. & I must hurry out soon
before the heat of the day. The

weather is oppressive -
& the dust & chagrin
is great - we
must make no more crops.
You were very kind
to telegraph but sorry
you did it at your
own expense - I am much
pleased on being
satisfying & work
so many
many seeds
are all well
except falling
I suppose a great deal
of the seed - a
few are coming
to day.
Be sure & take a trip to
the middle of morning to a new

Place they have bought & there are
not nearly many rooms in the house
not enough to accommodate my chil-
dren, the girls & her family. It is
a sore temptation. & I spent all
last night in tears, you may be sure
I wrote a long letter to John & at
first directed it to Care of Mr Bliss
Wall St. New York. but as I am
afraid that is not right I will
send it to William & he will forward
it to Mr Bliss immediately. There
is also another letter I shall enclose
with this one which is a business
letter of importance & I hope will
reach him safely. I will send
my letters to New Orleans to be
mailed there so they will go quicker
& if you wish any to come me quicker
than usual direct them to Care of
Geo. Connelly & Co. New Orleans -
Do not persuade him to remain
long in ^{Louisiana} land. I believe Dr. Stillie
advised ^{Dr. Stillie} to the best that if he will
remain at sea long enough his lung
will heal up. & one lung is sound
so all the physicians have said.
I do hope his chills may not return

when he lands in New York. It is
no trying. I have just since I came
in received a note from Henry
Chaplain saying that he had recd.
a letter from John dated London May
30th & that he would sail on the
6th June in the "Barbarie". Of course
I presume some will be down to meet
him as I think John should rest
while on shore & eat good plain fresh
beef & solid food - & not travel
about too much. I hope he will
stay with you in New Haven as
it will be a relief to get to a
home table & out of a hotel - That
the people stare to see a real slave
along. Tell Charles to take good care
of the abolitionists - will steal him
off in spite of himself. I do hope
if John thinks of going round to
San Francisco & then come across
the plains he will think well about
it before he undertakes it - as I am
told they are obliged to make foraging
of 50 miles a day to get water. He
needs a strong well man to accom-
plish that -
You have not perhaps heard of
John D. Parkers ^{death} - He was

Blackbird for a couple of weeks