upon afterwards — The minority were few in number & all females so that their case was a desperate one but you know Anne is not to be baffled if any exertion can overcome difficulties. They succeeded in getting such an expression of feeling from fifteen influential families that the vote was turned in their favor inasmuch that their minority was increased to forty. Dr. Breckenridge thinks the candidate Dr. Conyngham can hardly accept with such a number against him. Poor Jane was nearly sick with the excitement. She did not feel he was doing any good for that she could sit under such preaching. Now could she feel it was right or that she could go within the Methodist & Episcopal church. Mr. Barker, I think would have left & so would Ellen & Anne I am sure but I hope now he will not be fastened upon them though the excitement caused by it all has been very disagreeable & long to be remembered —

Sallie continues quite well — & is recovering her flesh & strength — all symptoms of dyspepsia too seem to have passed away. I am now inclined to think her stomach was left in so delicate state by the measles & that she took not careful enough about her diet — frequently going to school too in a hurry (while at Pottsville) & not chewing her breakfast properly — Dreadfully feel too grateful that her life was spared I hope for some good purpose — She will be an energetic practical woman not particularly learned but with good sense & judgment —

Mr. Connelly paid us quite a visit last week spending a whole week which was a long time for him to be absent — He looked very badly when he came, worn out with the disputes

Aug. 10. 61.

Dearest Mother,

I have another opportunity to write & I hope a safe one though it now seems that all letters going north are to be opened so there is very little certainty of any one taking the trouble to close & forward them when once opened — Who could have imagined our peaceful happy country would have come to this, in one short year or rather in six months none but the all seeing eye can know what is to become of us. It seems to me the north has already brought ruin upon itself & is under such a despotism as was even known in Europe, with a government countenancing such usurpation as Lincoln has taken upon himself. It is certainly any thing but free nor can it expect to be prosperous. They say the steps he has taken were all necessary & that when the war is over & anyone he will return to the Constitution but what security have you with such a prestige for truth. Think we are blind to our interest I suppose, but they are awfully blind when they cannot see that the war will accomplish nothing but lasting hate, the loss of thousands of the bravest & best men & a debt which two or three generations will hardly see paid. Of course I cannot but rejoice over our victory yet I cannot rejoice when the thousands of lost & wounded on the battle field even if they

our enemies. Such carnage is too shocking yet the cool calculation with which the repub. lican senators expected to stand by & feast over the battle field & then push on to Richmond almost takes away all pity from hearts here that would warm towards the once loved northern home. Surely the spirit of demons has taken possession of men's souls.

The God of hosts here favored us this far not only with victory, but our whole country rejoices in plentiful crops. We are in little danger of starving though provisions are cut off from reaching us on every side. The unanimity of the people too in advancing the cause. Whole communities labouring night & day for their absent volunteers & ready to make any sacrifice of home luxury to provide for those who are defending their homes. Russell never made a greater mistake than when he said it was so difficult to raise volunteers in La. Has they not proved their courage & readiness to fight. He far underrates their numbers also. Louisiana has at least 17.000 in the field beside a plenty more at home. Many other things he says I could explain to you if you were here. Especially about impressing British subjects. The papers lie so on both sides that there is little pleasure in reading either accounts but we can finally glean the truth from private letters.

The children have been away this week that is Lamy & Sallie spending two weeks with Aunt Anne & Aunt Mary. Then the children there are to come down to spend the two last weeks of August. Mrs Copland was very reluctant to give them vacation & did not think they required it, but as they can spend no other month in the year together I consented. Mrs C. is now going after her children who are in Ohio & who I think I told you went to our Uncle's because she had no means of supporting them. The Uncle proves very unkind & wishes them to leave the house as the Father is incapable of supporting them. She sees no alternative but to go for them. A lady in New Orleans has offered to take two of them into her school & the oldest is capable of teaching. If the blockade is raised she will have no trouble in opening a school or boarding house in New Orleans. But at present she can do nothing.

Johnnie received his clothes. They were shipped he said to New Orleans so it was rather an expensive business. The box had to be opened at Lexington also to see that there were no contraband goods. I received your letter which of course was rather old then but I then received one from Annie Chaplain & also one from William of much later date last Saturday Aug. 3. I presume you received those sent by Mrs Bays. The old lady I understand carried forty letters. Many Bulletin also wrote you. They have been in great excitement in the church in Port Gibson caused by the choice of a pastor. The church has you know but three elders two of whom are brothers & who really rule the church. A minority who were opposed to the clergyman selected did not feel willing these elders should have it all their way & purchasers considered the pastor elect unsuitable for the office being too old to improve, very Methodistical & unintellectual in short he gave preaching to excite the feelings for the time but left nothing to think & feed

Augt 23^d 1861

Dear Son

Your just rec^d I will write Frances to morrow tho' we have just written trying to quiet her fears. I will enclose you her letter as it will tell you the state of her feelings better than I can, her panic is so great that to day I rec^d a Telegram wishing him to take up her deposit in the New Haven bank & transfer it to England poor child. I wish you could go to her it would be a great comfort to her. but I hope there will be a better state of things before that time & something decisive I should fear for his safety he would have to be very circumspect. she would feel she had some one to lean upon. but we must all have a stronger trust. brought to feel we are not our own keepers we are created for a higher purpose than our own ease and comfort. there is a book I want you to read very much Entitled the uprising of a great people from the French by Count Agenor de Gasparin. you doubtless have seen it noticed in the papers do read it. Love to Mary and all I am sorry Mary is no better. Mr Fenn called to see me he told me some of your good fathers had passed away it refreshed me to see one from Rochester

& bereavements of business but he grew improved while here. Johnnie talked so much about going to Mi wanted that I began to fear he might be persuaded by evil companions to run off but he told me afterwards he had not the smallest idea of going without my consent. I consider him too young to endure such service & so do all my friends. They have a feeling that they are disgraced by sleeping at home & really I believe it requires more moral courage to stay when to go. very few have gone just from this neighborhood which is thought rather a disgrace & the boys have strong feelings about it. They are both good & dutiful sons, manly & truthful & honorable. they promise to be a comfort to me & I hope there may be no necessity for either one going. oh! how many a fair mother will mourn her only son untimely torn by this disgraceful contest — Mr Copland has one son in the Capt. Fish's company. He could help her with a salary of $2000 a year but he may never return — Mr Connelly has a bank keeper who was at the Battle Rye the night of the raising in artillery. He commanded one of the guns & Mr Connelly had a letter from him while here. It was very exciting & interesting. There a gardener now at work here (I am making a garden on the other side of the road because we have so much cocoa here that we cannot raise flowers) who is from Natchez. he is an Englishman but has been here over 20 yrs. he has three sons gone to the war two now at Manassas. the old man went to Natchez to see the last off in Mr Alfred Davis' company last Saturday. He could not speak of it to me without the tears rolling down his cheeks

Mr. Alfred Davis married Miss Surget of Natchez & is very wealthy. She has equipped his company of 100 men all with third suits of clothes & 3 prs. of shoes each all made in Natchez & every thing in perfection at his own expense —

Mr. A. G. Watson a brother of the one near us is now forming a company also at his own expense in which he goes as a private & he has experienced officers as commanders one from West Point & one who has been in Mexico — She has 6 cannon bought at his own expense for it costing about $8000 —

It is not possible then should not be much distress at the north — but I hope you dear Mother may not know privations & want. Should you need any thing let me know. I would be glad to draw some of the money in the Bank then both because I would have a few the Banks may break & because I would like to have it safe here — but I fear there is no possibility of getting it. If I do not write to William as possibly I may not, ask him if there is any possibility of money being remitted through Louisville. I suppose no money would be allowed to come south — & if letters are opened which come south of course there would be no safety. I believe the New Orleans Bank is as safe as any there is ~~has not stopped payment for a long time~~ but it may ~~stop~~ payment in these times. as I think the North will be ruined if she goes on with the war. I have nobody to advise with nobody on whose judgment I rely but then nobody knows what to do themselves & I suppose they are quite more afraid to advise others — I know William will not approve of any plans & yet I feel certain that unless I can sell I shall lose every cent we have.

Sometimes I think it is as well to let it all rest quietly & trust to God but then I think God does not help those who sit down inactively & do nothing. I have thought a little of asking William to get Mr. Samson's advice he seems to me his friendship would lead him to give honest & not prejudiced advice & yet I am reluctant to take a stranger into my business — on the whole I am perplexed about what is best to do as I was when I began to write — May God help me & all of you & restore us to peace & order —

I regret to hear of your poor looks but not I could see you — dear Mother — Should we never meet here may we meet in an everlasting home to go no more out forever. Give love to all there & kiss the sweet

Dear Mamma Senior
is getting better Uncle
Horace is bitter Tom
Toto — Emily as well
with us not well
I wish you could write
to Frances again the
Folks about having her
home to South
says they are poor
Cathy Tete and Dolly
Tom Thorpe Dolly
should let them go
think Mr. Dorsey Tabby
her onto this anxiety
about the North they
think the has been
to Mr. Thomas and they
Tabbie has
bring for all
to all your loving
Mother

They really seem to have been making every effort to break it up. It is almost the only College in the Southwest that is going on. Our boys have settled down with more submission since Our President uttered his sentiments against putting our youth in the army. His remark was it "was like the grinding up of seed corn" — most true & pertinent!

The enthusiasm of my youth has lost many a noble son to the Confederacy, cut down by disease or unable for the hardships of camp life they are returned home disabled & with years of suffering before them. Willie has only been able to commence studying for three weeks past & last Saturday was again threatened with a chill. The looks thin & a great contrast to the superabundance of flesh he brought home with him.

He is anxious to study hard & improve the time. Johnnie will never study & few unless under strict teachers. He was under Mr Hall one quarter for a short time & was doing very well but Mr H. was called away from home & interrupted by going with me to La. so that we finally had to give him up. The family were all very sick with this severe sore throat so that I could not go there. They are since in the severest affliction by the loss of the oldest son with the disease. Few manifest despondence. We have had some bad cases among the servants but it seems to yield to treatment if taken in time. It is not diphtheria but a very bad sore throat.

Fanny & Sallie are kept very busy in school, scarcely having time to take proper exercise or at least as much

Cane Mount. Dec 3rd 1861.

My dearest Mother,

It is so long since any few has had this great satisfaction that I scarcely know where to take up the thread of our family history. Our country's history so painful & sad for the last six indeed ten months has absorbed every thought & feeling. It seems to me as if we had lived two years or more already since this deadful war began. Would it could all be hushed into oblivion & peace again make all happy once more & reunite those so cruelly separated. But alas, the day is a few far distant. Our despotic rulers will not be satisfied till they have shed rivers of blood & sacrificed thousands, & we will dispute the last inch with them. The war is no longer for union but for conquest & subjugation & we can side solely for our defence & for our rights. I must your opinion of the position of Lincoln's, honesty in professing it is changed ere this, dearest Mother. It is a sore thought with me that you could even for one moment have sanctioned what may end in the destruction of those so dear to your inmost heart. Fanny has all the sanguineness of youth in her blood & I believe if she were to hear the enemy

here on their way down the river & had actually passed Memphis & ~~were on their way down with an overwhelming force~~, that she would still not be discouraged. But would rely upon the bravery of our men & the righteousness of our cause for final success. Our prospects are rather dark at present in my view - The Federals say they will have Columbus if it costs them 50,000 more a noble sacrifice! indeed! to spread desolation & insurrection over this immense valley.

We are in the hands of God & I do believe that mere mortal schemes will prosper.

But I rile my to write on this themes, our hearts are so full of this though here in this quiet corner we see nothing of camps or battle fields; yet the cause is ours.

I am writing with - but a faint hope of its ever reaching you but it is better to make the effort - & even if several letters are lost one may at last succeed - a mail left for Europe & the United States via Tampico on the 26th ~~December~~ November but I did not know of it in time or one should have been despatched to you - I hear occasionally of people getting letters from their friends at the North so that I am in hopes some one may find its way before long & that it may contain no evil tidings. It is so distressing that now at your age when my presence might have cheered & comforted & even in Colley would have added to your quiet ease & contentment that you should be deprived of all by this barbarous war - I have had many cares especially in a business way, since I was able to write you last - after I telegraphed I thought seriously of going to Louisville to meet William then, but Willie was taken sick by remaining too long in the swamp & I was unable to leave him - Then I was obliged to be at home early in September on business & after that was settled & as soon as it was healthy I was obliged to go to Louisiana. Then I was detained two weeks finding a miserable overseer - & being obliged to wait until I could get another - Ellen Butler & Johnnie were with me - Willie was very sick again during my absence but his Aunt Jane & Ellen were here to take good care of him. They had a house full of ministers also during my absence as Synod met at Oakland at that time. I lost all the good company & much good preaching. It was a great disappointment - but I had the satisfaction of feeling my visit was a great benefit to the negroes - in relieving them from a worthless overseer - Synod decided that the College (Oakland) should go on - ~~Not the Trustees~~ {Brecknridge} men so displeased at a speech the Doctor made in which he said that the reason they did not want the College to go on was because they did not wish to furnish the money, that they in a body resigned

as I could wish, Fanny is not as advanced in her studies as she should be at her age & time is slipping away fast. But it has been owing to the many changes we are obliged to make in teachers here -

Dear little Eddie is learning fast. She would read in your big Testament if you if you were only here with the greatest pleasure - She is learning French, too, Dora's Education has not begun & as she has far more than a year been unable to learn who was the first man I think there are small chances of its being undertaken soon - They are very dear & precious little birds - & generally very good -

Our neighbors have just gone through many changes Mr John Parker has added a daughter to the family named Martha for Mrs Duncan - It is now going on three months old - Mrs Kate Daniell has a son born in October a sad gift but from that cause no doubt bearing special interest with its little life - It will be named Smith - This makes six children under 10 years of age - a helpless little family - when I look at her I feel thankful my beloved Husband was spared to guide & counsel these boys as far into life as they have gone - They will never forget his precepts nor his principles - he lives in their hearts & memories & his anxious care & prayers for their moral worth

upright ~~[illegible]~~ corpse of life Dec 3 '67 while yet I hush he seen answered by a prayer hearing God.

The war has developed energies & resources before unknown to us & you would be astonished to see that never knew labor working on coats, pantaloons, knitting &c from morning till night. Our children are so industrious they bring their knitting to the table, no self denial is too great – nobody asks for spending money & nobody thinks of superfluities either of dress or on the table. All that can be spared is cheerfully given to our brave soldiers. I have not learned to love stocking knitting yet however – The family in Port Gibson are only in tolerable health – Kate seems more of an invalid since the cold weather came on. & Blanche has been quite sick for a week past. Mary is pretty well but all are sadly afflicted in their church troubles which have been indeed very grievous for the last six months – but such a long chapter that I cannot begin to put it in a letter – The church is now closed & they are obliged to attend either the Episcopal or Methodist churches.

I have no time for more to night. I pray God this may reach you. I find my precious mother in good health. Those dear little children daily remember their Grandma in their prayers. Love to all – as this is subject to inspection I can not write on business matters –

Your fond beloved daughter
Fanny –

Dearest Mother.

I can hardly describe the emotions I feel when I remember that I am writing by one who will see & talk with you. So many months have passed & I have no word or even message from you. I wrote a letter enclosing it to Commodore Foote. But as it was written about the time of the attack on Fort Henry & the fall of Donelson I presume it never reached him. Miss Gilfillan who has promised to give

you this in person. has been residing in Annie's family all winter, as instructress of Ellen's children.

She will leave I hope that you can send an open letter via Norfolk so that I may at least hear that you are well. My anxiety is very great & I know how great yours must be my dear Mother in this our hour of peril. Our trust is in God & in Him alone.

The children are all well & very few changes in any way. No tongue can tell how much we miss our Head our Protector, our Counsellor in these troublous times, but he is free from care & sorrow. & his God will. I doubt not protect the widow & fatherless.

March 23d 1862

Your darling child
Fanny.

Mrs Miss Gaillard
Fairfax

Mrs M —
Sept 20 1862

Sept 20th 1862 —

I have been long & anxiously waiting an opportunity to let you hear from us. most gladly therefore do I embrace the present ~~opportunity~~ one though it may be only in a few lines to assure you that we all continue well — we have passed through a very warm summer with our usual health though I can by no means say it has been a healthy season — I have not a word from you since your letter of May the 8th or about that time which with the one addressed to Willie were both received at once — The mention you then made of your feeble health has made us deeply concerned for you & most anxiously do we look for another letter — The consolation that no news is good news & that ill news flies quickly, often quiets my apprehensions — I have no doubt if you would send an open letter, under cover, to Hon.th Reverdy Johnson he would forward it to me —

Little Rosa has imprisoned under

homoeopathic treatment. She is decidedly better than she was one year ago. Sister Mary I am sorry to say looks badly - Her throat is affected & she seems to have considerable bronchial difficulty. I trust it may be relieved before winter. Annie & Ellen are both looking thin but Sam & Essie look remarkably well -

Give much love to all who remember us with love - Love to Annie & Henrietta who I am sure are unchanging.

The children do not forget you & you need not fear they will do so - Be assured their hearts join with your own beloved Fanny's in prayers that you may be spared to meet us all once more.

Ever lovingly
Your own Fanny.

Mrs Murdock
Oct 29/62

Dear Mat
Oct 29. 62.

I have just learned by telegraph from a friend in Mobile that I can send you a letter. I have but a few moments in which to despatch it as a family from this neighborhood are just starting & will pass through Mobile & the letter will in all probability reach them much sooner than by mail –

Your welcome letter only a month old came through safely & was received with grateful & joyful hearts. To know that you were indeed spared & well was almost more than my heavy heart could have believed. We are all well. I presume you received a letter from me sent by the same opportunity which brought yours. It was mailed & I have no doubt went safely.

Willie has left us again. He

is in the line of duty & honor & I have no doubt will be taken care of by a kind Providence. John Butler is well is 1st Engineer below Port Gibson in some company & will have $100 a month. No truth in the report you had -

Mary's health has been bad for the last month. I feared she was going into rapid consumption but Anne writes to day that she is better, coughs less & is relieved of night perspirations.

Chaplain is gone - my Admin will remain at home. We are of course full of anxiety for the coming winter. as yet we are all undisturbed.

I paid a visit to La. last week found all doing well as usual - The servants felt as if I had not been there for a long time. I had heard through the papers of poor Mrs Bebalens affliction I am truly sorry. Much love to all & from the children from

Your aff & loving daughter
Fanny.

1862

Mrs Thos Hoskins

flow was too green to be gathered & was lost. crops however are in general abundant. we have an abundance for all our wants if it is only spared us — Willie writes he has not had a day's sickness since he left us. We fancie have a hard time this winter but I trust the hardship may invigorate his constitution. Bun & John B. are well but all are separated. so that our anxieties extend to many points. That they may be kept from the evil which surrounds them is our greatest burden —

Annie wrote you by a lady (English) going to Canada about 6 weeks since I hope you received it — You had better direct to New Orleans as you did before I may receive it — most probably Willie. Mary B. was quite bad health when I wrote last but she is much improved. you will be relieved to hear. Her cough is much better & she is in every way improved. Dearest Mother what can I say to comfort you. It seems as if there was nothing — yet we have had so many blessings already while others have suffered so much that we cannot complain. That God may still have us & you in his care & that we may all be fitted by these severe trials for a purer home where we shall go no more out forever is my earnest prayer. That you may have strength in your infirmities & that you may be filled with all the fulness of his grace is my constant & daily desire — love to all that inquire for us & are with us in heart — The little Chilton has had scarlatina & we should rejoice enough to do out yet — Dear Mrs Daniell poor Mat has had Diphtheria & Mattie is ill with it too. We are keeping disease from the children

Mobile Dec. 5th 1862

Dearest Mother

I write a few lines to let you know that all is well with us at present. I wrote a few lines the last of October very hurriedly as I had only a moment's time to forward my letter to Mobile where they were to be put out by some steamer & probably mailed in a foreign port. You may never receive it. Henry C. wrote at the same time to Miss Annie & I hope more fully than I did. Yours by way of New Orleans dated in September is the last news we have from you I long to hear again as time seems very long. Every thing is very dark & gloomy & no prospect of any termination to this dreadful conflict. Both parties are determined on such this war & the only result will be the utter waste & ruin of all portions of our land that the enemy invade & of course moderate hate. Thank Heaven we have not lived in those portions; our lot

M

Mrs Thos H. Cunningham
Yazoo City
Yazoo County
Miss
Darling

is cast in which is at present safe quarters no pen can describe. The sufferings that will ensue indeed has already invaded the homes of ~~millions~~ thousands.
My sisters talk of leaving before danger approaches nearer. If they move it will be to Carolina near their Uncle. At one time I thought I should go, but it seems impossible - perhaps it may be arranged yet should there be a necessity for it. One great objection would be the change of climate at this season - I think we would find it very cold. We do not know how to spare them though I think they ought to go. I should if I were in their place most certainly. But when they are gone all is taken that makes this a pleasant home. The children feel the same at losing Blanche & Nora - They do not feel the same attachment to any others among their young friends & a visit to Port Gibson or a visit from the cousins constitutes all the enjoyment that they care for -

Since I wrote you last I have made two visits to Louisiana. Of course these brought with them many cares & anxieties, but as usual were productive of much benefit to those visited. John is obliged to be there a great deal, indeed I see little prospect of his Education progressing. I have written to procure a Tutor but such a one as I would like would be hard to find in the present state of things. He has good judgment & a taste for the kind of business it is his lot to pursue. While he is anxious lest his Education should be entirely unfinished.

Fannie & Sallie have only just commenced school under one of the old Professors who has opened a male & female school at the College - As the neighborhood furnishes only enough for one school it was best to unite them. It will be an advantage to them as far as exercise is given them - as I think Fanny was suffering from want of it. They will be great comfort in time, I trust, & I wish, oh! how sincerely that they could have been with you to cheer your latter days -

It seems hard, very hard that we cannot go to you - I sometimes fear that you are so feeble that life gives you no pleasure & that you may become indifferent as to whether you are spared. I pray it may be God's will that we may all meet again - The winter threatens to be a severe one & I fear you will be shut up.

Entirely. We had a most severe frost when we had green corn in the fields, which was like a fire passing over it. The sugar cane was entirely killed & much of the corn made after the ear-

to go when I could not hear from W. & I.
W. has been to see us within the last week. he was unable to come here but I met him at a distance. He is well but deadfully troubled to find us so unexpectedly in this situation. I am not satisfied with his location & would prefer he had remained in Leon —
a friend going at the same time has promised to write you at the same time — so that I am in hopes you will hear fully after all it will only distress you & add constant anxiety to you — dearest & tenderest of friends, may God save you from distress & may he bless you for all your unsparing love & holy counsels — They will be blessed & we shall all I hope meet in a better world where there is no cruel separation Did you never get the letter sent by Jimmy M... He was taken prisoner the other day & his poor parents are nearly frantic. The last time I saw them his parents were so perfectly happy in just having got him home safely after in vain trying for months to get him transferred to this region.
Fanny & I join in love & thousand kisses. With oceans from your beloved F I must close & pray God this may go safely & find you well —
Sallie has written a long letter but I fear to send it. She is very sorry.
Dear little Effie & Dora send kisses.

May 14th/63.

Dearest & beloved —
Having by the same opportunity of which I took advantage last week time to write a few lines I add a little more to day, hoping the gentleman who is to take them may not leave Cliff. He has promised to mail them in New Orleans. I had asked him to get Mr. C[redacted] to write more particularly about us; but fearing he may leave when he reaches there I hasten to add a few particulars of our situation to which I wrote last week — I am told that all who have declared themselves enemies of the U. S. are obliged to leave the city on the 15th (to morrow) as this includes Mr C. there is little probability that he will write you any more — so you will be dependent on the providential opportunities that may occur. I scarcely know what to tell you. Especially that we are in a very disagreeable situation & perfectly at a loss where to go or what to do. It seems to me dreadful beyond measure to stay & endure what we must if our enemies get possession of this now so long country could possibly exceed that which has been already put upon those who have remained within their lines. The final loss of every thing must result, I am sure. On the other hand, the many

of going any where, are so difficult to obtain, the locations where there is any safety so uncertain, the means of living when you do find a home so doubtful & the impossibility of leaving what is behind in the hands of any one who would give it proper care! - a great many of the negroes have proved faithful but a great many have not: probably all the most efficient working hands of the men are gone. Still the question arises shall we forsake those who are faithful & leave them to their fate. There are enough to work & support for themselves if they are allowed to, but while some tide them to work, many others will tell them they are not to work & you know that while there is often difficulty under white rule in having proper subordination, there must be still more under negro authority; all interference seems out of the question on the part of the ones so completely are they demoralized the instant they come amongst them - nearly all on this place have behaved well, but you know that there is only a small number here - Bone on whom I depended so much & without whom I am broken up, has left me - Edy, Tabby, Rachel & Minky are all the women who have left - poor Edy will repent of it in a week. She is a feeble frame & has always been treated like a white person nursed in sickness & had every indulgence. These are inevitably the first to leave - If I had horses I should miss them much. As the horses are gone, there is nothing to need his care - out of 70 mules worth $150 apiece I do not suppose we have made than 15 of course little corn can be made with such a weak number to the plough -

Johnnie has lost every riding horse. his watch was taken from him although he plead for it as belonging to his Grandfather. The poor fellow has been obliged to lean out to secure his life as constant threats were issued that they intended to kill him if they found him for no crime except that he was trying to secure his property -

I am thankful to be able to tell you that I was not disturbed in my house. They came to the stable & stole whatever they wanted but never disturbed any thing in the yard. Aunt Mary & Aunt Anne left the houses & suffered considerably but Mary & Nunie plead with them to save things (I presume you remember her as the cook) - & finally went herself & procured a guard. I have not heard particulars from Anne but know she suffered considerably. She was very nervous over sick & wounded who [illegible] & Sister [illegible] & the ladies tender care. All the servants nearly had left the town. There that were left being threatened with death if they do not join negro regiments which are been formed in different places by the Feds -

Anne has written you by a lady who was leaving for your region. If she is allowed to take it, she will send it to you write to you herself after reaching Thera. Anne says she would give worlds to get away & seems to intend to do so. but would never set her foot on northern soil. F & S. say if they ever come to you they fear they would make themselves so disagreeable to your friend that you would have to keep them shut up - You know I should be miserable

* She came in after the enemy left the town.

My dearest Mother -

I embrace another opportunity to send a few lines though I get no responses to my many epistles. I have not heard from you since February though you will scarce credit it when I tell you - I presume it is because there has been no opportunity to hear from New Orleans. I have written many times since the 1st - Many & heart sore of them may reach you if only to know that we continue in the enjoyment of health & are in our own home -

I cannot tell you of my surprise & grief to hear the other day that William, Albert's son was Capt in a Kent Regt. & had died of fever in a camp near Clinton La. The report came to me through one who had found a letter to him in the camp, from one of his sisters, in which she mentioned me & also spoke of our sister. As he gave the initials correctly I think it must be Lillie to whom I felt much attachment & am grieved to hear he was against us but I mourn for his dear parents - it will be a sad blow to them but they have the precious consolation of knowing he was well prepared.

But this paper is so thin (& I am out of all other & can get none) that I m

hasten to say what little I can in so short a space – I presume Albert will come out as soon as the weather is cool enough to remove the remains – I hope he may not pass without landing for I am sure he would meet with no trouble, especially if he could get Allen to Com. Porter – Transports are to go down every week, guarded by gun boats on each side –

Our children are all well but every child in the yard has hooping cough so that I presume Dora & Ophie will soon take it. It will be bad for them in this hot weather – but God has been so merciful & kind to us we ought not to distrust him. We do not suffer for the necessaries of life but we have no luxuries – I presume we shall have no flour for we have no money to buy it with now. ~~Many~~ God grant peace may be restored quickly & the mutual satisfaction of both parties – your dear Willie was in good health a few days ago. He is in Monroe La. – Johnnie has gone to North Carolina – I urged him to go to College there but I fear he will join the army – If he does, it will be quite against my will – I wish he could get out of the country & go to Europe but he has not the means. John Butler has been with me for some days past. She was much shocked to find his dear mother looking so feeble – She has spent

more than two weeks with me but is very feeble — Fanny is writing you a few lines. I long for a change of climate for all the children & hope they may not have to remain at home another summer. Fanny shows some symptoms of dyspepsia which I am pained to see in her age. I think of you in your old age with great anxiety & wonder how you bear the long & painful suspense you must have been kept in so frequently about us. May God comfort you abundantly & we all have an entrance into his kingdom having passed through these great tribulations & been made perfect by them. Love to all whom we would remember

Your beloved
Fanny —

Aug.t 10th 1863.

Mrs Fanny

Aug. 10th 1863.

but the mile not be done in time unless this is delayed & Chief Marshals should interfere me —

been so difficult to leave home — Ellen & Effie kindly came down to remain in my absence — I also hoped to tell you in this that I may be able to go north for a short time but it is not yet certain — I had thought to prepare to William to come to Hatteras for me, but of course if I can go without him, I would not trouble him — I fear the trade on the river is subjected to some danger, as sixteen boats have already been destroyed — all is yet uncertain I feel it a positive duty to go to you once more. These beautiful words of the song "Rock me to sleep, Mother" so often fill my brain — You must get them & read them

I want to take the little ones & Mary, the nurse with me. She has been very faithful & kind & wants to go north to see her Mother but would promise me to return. My remaining at the north is an impossibility at present —

Your letter of the 28th Aug. to one friend ~~to my friend~~ in New Orleans, as also Williams of near date was received some three weeks since. He has answered it & you must have heard from me shortly after. I trust this may go quickly & relieve you — I am very fat & hale — trouble does not reduce me — my friends Mr & Mrs Marshall are very kind & I have had a delightful though short visit — I saw a Dr Bates from Rochester ~~lot~~ among the officers, I have met her but he does not know Albert — of course I was disappointed — Willie was not very well when I heard from him. I think he will welcome & I am concerned about Annie but hope I shall find letters when I get back — Tell Annie I have not seen her sister because it has been impossible for me to go. I will write her a note to night — I heard one of her children had been ill with dysentery — Give my love to her & all the family —

Let William understand that I do not think it necessary for him to come at present unless I should write to the contrary hereafter —

I pray God this may find you well & that we may meet once more

Your ever beloved

Fanny!

I had Fanny's picture taken today expressly to send you an

Engaged to meet every week at the College & sew or cut out. money is so scarce that many do not pin or rather you know there who don't point to part with their money will always find an excuse. Many people are in advance with their merchants, others like the Danville have been at heavy expense in building &c & have not a cent on hand but their merchants would advance them thousands if they wanted it.

The ladies will work their fingers off, before our armies shall suffer —

I shall not go to the College but I can help them with correct closing &c.

I felt much sorry to hear of Minnie Chapman putting herself in the third class — She is not right. I wrote to her brother about it — so I suppose she will think me a real gossip to spread it so quickly.

Fanny is studying very hard but I can't say so much for Sue — William is going on the River again to stay a little while — then I do not mean to allow him to go any more this

Summer. They both
Feel the
Feelings of so much
Loved relations —

I'm really seem troubled that we should not be for ever forgetting that we were to push as disloyal to the country they
but recollection here and it is for you to vote for any thing but Union. Reconstruction is impossible & union is impossible now whatever it might have been three months ago. Did not the same spirit force itself into the Legislative assembly & resist the North freed the secession & divisions then Our southern members were calm & conciliating & would not have had the question pushed upon them as if they could all have been then — It has ended in the disgraceful disruption of our glorious Church & it will send sorrow into many hearts —

Mr. Marshall has been followed Mrs Marshall & gone north. They will be despised by their friends for such a course — He has taken his daughters & left the sons — I hear of some that have gone to Germany. At Mr. Henry Duncan's (very few however) manifest — his timidity — almost every one stays at home

M

& Mrs Pringle (Mrs P. is a daughter of Dr Duncan's) - I am glad for them that they feel they can go away but for myself I would rather stand by my country - if she falls we fall with it - I do not apprehend we shall be crushed & "cut" but it may be so. God's ways are not our ways. but he sees if it is so the result cannot be a prosperous, happy government on our plan -

A curse will I believe rest on her for her barbarities already sanctioned & perpetrated by her Christian armies in a Christian land - Oh! it is fearful, dreadful to think of

Port Gibson is as usual forward in the good work of supplying the soldiers - The ladies have made & sent off a thousand garments in the last three weeks - neither the heat, red bugs mosquitoes, gnats & all our host of summer tormentors can check their enthusiasm for those who are fighting for us -

If the blockade in New Orleans keeps off the yellow fever we shall be very much helped - already it has lowered the price of provisions -

I have received all your letters very quickly. the one sent by William & Louisa came quicker than I have received one by mail but since I have begun wanting to hear from you the messengers seem to send again.

I was glad to hear Albert was with you besides it is nearly two years since he has seen you & he does not think you and Cousin Mary have met since - I do not believe he knows when the accounts came of your illness last summer. You certainly seemed very feeble then, & you have had such a succession of colds this ~~summer~~ spring that you are not as well prepared for the summer - We wish you would do like all the other northern grandmas came down & live with your children rebels as we are - If some trouble such have you sent apparently have settled - The neighbors inquire after you with interest - I feel sure you must be very much worried about - yet nothing could [illegible] their kindness & interest - when Sallie [illegible] Alison & myself have [illegible] made a simultaneous move to sew for the soldiers. they have now