My dearest Mother.

I am going to make one more effort to get a letter to you for I am distressed indeed indeed that you should be so long without information of us. as I learn by your letter of Jan. 15th received a few days since. It was the first time I had heard from you since the letter sent to Mr. B. & written in October. I wrote last week or as soon as I received yours & forwarded it to Henry C. who is now in Virginia along with the letter from his sister. I know he will make an effort to get it through but whether he will succeed seems ~~question~~ quite another question. I have also sent letters to one of our officers at Lynchburg, but cannot say that he may think it best to send them through. I wrote in October by the "Florida" She was then expecting to sail at any time & I had but five hundred dollars. Henry C. having a plenty of

time would I thought write fully about us. I still think you will receive that letter which though unsatisfactory is better than none. For I am sure she would mail her letter in Savannah. I am now going to send this by Charleston confident that the friend to whom I send it will make an effort to get it out.

Willie was there on business at the time of the last naval engagement. I was very glad for it was a pleasant & exciting time. The city was wild with joy. He tells me he wrote to you from Tiffin so that I hope you have seen Willie is in good health & writes every week to some one of the family. He is a dear & dutiful boy, seems fully impressed with the terrible scenes through which he has passed & from his former good habits & principles instilled by his dear Father, I hope he may pass through the ordeal & the temptations to vice & dissipation by which he must be surrounded. He knows how many earnest prayers ascend for him at home. God grant he may be prepared & spared for future usefulness & that he may soon return to us. The loss of his brave Colonel* whose care I had sought for Willie feeling assured his influence would be pure & refined was the very greatest that could have befallen

* lost Fish

* been wounded by the receipt

Mr Sampkin bought on me I admire exceedingly. I had not seen them when Anne wrote to Mrs S. so please express to her my entire satisfaction with every thing about them — I have tried on the little drop for Johnnie which you sent me it was very becoming & he was most highly delighted with the pocket & buttons — You forgot the cups I have therefore sent to New Orleans — I do not quite understand whether Mrs 5 of the $55 which you gave Mr Packard was for me or Anne —

I have just been on to Mrs Coleman's to call on Mrs Menifee from Kentucky the widow of Richd Menifee once a member of Congress. She is an old friend & says John was her earliest flame. She says Mr Duncan had just heard from you. I think it must have been later than your last letter to me & that you were still looking out for company. I feel very sorry you did not hurry a little & come with Mr Botchkiss as I feel sure you would have found some company on way. but it is of no use to grieve about it now — I have too many mercies bestowed upon me by a kind Heavenly father to complain when one is denied me —

Miss Chaplain has gone to Natchez promising only to remain two weeks but I suspect they will keep her longer. Her brother Henry is in New Orleans not yet having got a situation — I have had so many interruptions that I feel as if I had written a miserable letter & not said half I wished — do write soon — I hear from Charlotte not long since about a week — She has improved. Dr Smith had made an examination & said she had no tubercles which quieted her apprehensions & she thought she had improved. Give warmest love to Mary & William & kisses to the children — with fondest affection dear Mother I am

Your Fanny —

10

PORT GIBSON
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14
MS

Mrs Sarah Bristol.
Care of Wm B. Bristol. Esq.
New Haven —
Conn

saying she believed Mr Smith-Daniel had done all the mischief as Willie head had been full of marriage love since his wedding - The poor man has been afraid to look at or speak to Henrietta since - Willie studies now with Henrietta while I take Jennie. He is pretty lazy sometimes but has managed to get almost through his Geography - he can say all of "I saw the glorious sun" without being prompted & is now learning "Jesus & shall it ever be" The multiplication he could learn easily if he would pay attention but it is such hard work teaching him my patience has nearly given out. Mary & Anne have been looking for Ellen with all impatience for a week past having heard that the Falcon was to stop in New Orleans but we could not believe it, as we had seen nothing of the kind in the papers - a letter from Essie to day tells me of their route, so that they might be here the last of this week poor Ellen will suffer much I think for the southern route has always been called a very fatiguing one - Essie gives very little encouragement as to her improvement in health & no more in Sahe's case than in Ellen's - You are very kind my dear Mother & William also to wish me at your house with all my little trouble, but indeed I could not think of William turning out his children for my benefit - if you still insist perhaps I might burden you the first two months, but I do not feel that I ought to stay there all the Summer. Of course I know it would not be half as pleasant any where else as in my dear home but that I make up my mind to. I am glad & thankful to be near you all Jamy head - I cannot yet think of going without John - We have all put our heads together & determined to try & induce William to take a trip down here this Spring - he need not be absent from home more than six weeks & he needs a change he could leave home in March, come by the river which will be high, see all the cities on the route, & spend three weeks here & in New Orleans & then return with me - Now don't you all think this a good plan - Henrietta urges it strongly & so does John - do try him to think of it immediately, as there is no time to lose. He might start earlier & be present at the inauguration at Washington - Thank you very much dear Mother for the jackets & I shall sent for the boys by Ellen. You are always thinking of something for their comfort & benefit - These jackets will come in good time for Willie looks rather shabby as I have not been willing to let him wear the one you had made every day & his red plaid he has well outgrown - We shall go up to Pat Gibson when Ellen comes as she is to stop there first - Jamy grows very droll - talks a great deal & we think is very important so does Henrietta "I'm dot a head" she says the other day to H. "I dot a head too" "Dod (God) put it on me" She will not be petted but yet is affectionate - She knows one or two verses of "Lord, I confess to pose thy face" but we cannot get her to say it but very seldom - Put my pie is ready & I must close - My dearest Mother - Thank you, dearest Mother, for your two letters of Jan. 16. & 23rd but as well as my paper. I shall be very much pleased to receive your two letters of Jan. 16. & 23rd & do write often - love to all

Thanks Mary for her two pages. H. is very anxious for an answer to her letter

Nashville Jan. 16th 1849

My dearest Mother

Your letter reached me since my last to you - I then too again have been in writing but the fact is that I have been so busy in cleaning in arranging the day, that I was too sleepy in the evening to accomplish any thing - Henrietta & myself have made a great deal of progress in our flower garden & thought it was all covered with frost this morning but did not think it looked less pretty - We have made it below the old tree in front of your room by raising the ground nearly level with the cottage so that it is raised nearly 3 ft. at the lower end to prevent the high winds from blowing the sand which is turfed & is to be concealed by a peach hedge - for this mighty effort we had two wagons & a team one day & twice - four & five men drawing dirt for nearly a week - John says we have nearly ruined him but I think now that it is finished he looks at it complacently upon the business of it - We do not venture to think without some fear at the ravages which may be made by the boys during my absence next summer - a rail broken or a gate left open for one night, you know might destroy the labor of six months - We have been favored with some delightful weather - vegetation was considerably forward & the honeysuckles & some other shrubs were putting out their leaves - when now we are in the midst of colder weather than any we have had this winter - We were invited yesterday to meet the bride (Mrs Lamar) at dinner at Mr Kings - The morning was very cold

& occasionally a few hail stones fell but as it did not threaten a storm & as you know I did not like to be disappointed in my company when I have prepared a dinner we went, but had a very cold drive - found dinner on the table as they had given us up - very soon the snow began to fall rapidly & continued all the evening so that they persuaded us to stay all night. The ground was covered with snow this morning & scarcely melted before we reached home - this you understand is the first we have had this winter - many of the peach trees are in full bloom & must suffer much - We have just been enjoying the fruits of the storm in the shape of some ice cream which has thoroughly chilled us though as close to the fire as we can get - Pa dreams only Henrietta & myself for John has again encountered this severe change in another trip to the swamp. He promised to come down by steamboat to day & stop at Grand Gulf so that I hope he has avoided the piercing ride - He had contemplated going to New Orleans next week & did not feel willing to go there & perhaps further as we wish him to do, without taking a trip then to see that all went on well, especially as the water is very high & an overflow anticipated - He has not said that he would go further than New Orleans this will depend on how he feels when he gets there - He thinks Curacoa too inaccessible but thinks he might go to Florida - He thinks he can illy spare the time as if possible he would like to go on with me - indeed I do not mean to consent to go on without him - or Mr Butler, for I do not think it would be respectable & certainly very disagreeable for me - We had thought Mr Butler might go on to Genl Assembly at that time but have remembered since that it meets in Cincinnati this year - Henrietta says she must leave in April as she ought to be home the 1st of May to make some arrangements about her Lente & her plan is to have John (her brother) meet her in Cincinnati & make him a visit I shall hate very much to have her leave so early when she came so late in the winter - She tells me to say to you how much she is complimented by being so frequently told here of her resemblance to you as much or more in her manner as in her appearance - Mr Freeland says she is much more like you than I am by which I fear that I do not do credit to you - one of the negroes asked if she was not your daughter - She was so much like you -

Willy & John were with us last night at Mr Young's. He had left Fanny & Mary at home - Willy had a long dream to tell. This morning of meeting Grandma who was coming to see us "with all her servants" & Eugene who had on a white bonnet & a veil - This letter was no doubt suggested by the bride's Mrs Daniel's - he got poor Henrietta into a sad fix the other day - we had for some time been teasing her very much about Mr Stevens more because he is almost the only beau or rather marriageable man in the neighborhood than for any other reason - on this day we had sent for him to come over & lay out the garden as he is fond of describing mathematical figures. Henrietta was in the parlor alone when he entered He was no sooner seated than Willie entered at the other door & immediately addressed him "Mr Stevens, are you going to marry Miss Edwards" It could not have been addressed to one who would have turned it off more awkwardly - He blushed & said "Willie you must have seen Mr Freeland lately" poor Henrietta was obliged to come to his help & turn it off by

cold ice water the first thing after getting out of the bed, then walks 1/2 hour & gets back to breakfast precisely at 8 o'clock or rather 1/2 past 7 by all the other time in the neighborhood. He keeps our clock near 1/2 hour ahead – This is almost the only cold water process he keeps up now as it is so cold. He endures it & performs much better, is stronger & is certainly in every way much renovated – I hope he will try it in Fremont next summer. If he could have stay at Malvern 6 months I really believe he would have been a healthy man again. Does Maimie keep up her warm baths this winter – The water doctors do not recommend shower baths unless followed by a brisk walk – Ellen & Eppie returned from Somerset before Christmas – Ellen has a bad cough & when I heard from Anne on Monday Ellen had been in bed for two or three days with it – I fear it will be bad for her – It was a hard, deep cough when I saw her last in town – She is to be confined about the 1st of March – I shall feel very anxious – I don't know whether I shall go to New Orleans or not. Anne will not be able to leave Ellen that perhaps I shall be obliged to go – Miss Annie Chaplain had not returned from Natchez last Monday as she had been taken sick & was under the care of a physician. Edward Chaplain was up, thought he would be able to come up this week. I have not seen her yet as she has been in Natchez now ever since about four weeks after her arrival here – Mr Helme our negro preacher has left us quite suddenly – he did not give satisfaction – as the planters did not think the negroes interested & his heart did not seem to be in the work – he was a very dull preacher to whites & I never thought could excite the black people to attend upon his preaching – The college R. is much in status quo as money & little advance in the buildings. Dr Chamberlain seems quite discouraged but the number of students is larger than usual – Mr Black is living with his three children at the Doctors but will take Mr Bolli's house in

in the Spring - he always enquires after you with friendship -
poor old Mrs Foreland is left solitary - as Mr Chew has gone
down to live in the swamps 15 miles back almost inaccessible in
the winter - She has received but is very feeble - My love to
Hermilla I will try to write soon - Love to Maimie, the
Foters & all friends - You do not tell me who Uncle Edwards
goes to Washington to see & who does Elizabeth Whitney stay
with there - Does Mrs Johnson remain at Stratford or live with
Mr Devereux - I suppose Kate has no hope of seeing her husband

Mrs Sarah Bristol -
care of Wm B. Bristol. Esq.
New Haven
Conn -

Fix Newspapers

back for a year to come - rather a trying situation -
Tell Mary to write me whether she will put Eugene in pantaloons
next summer or whether he will wear pantalettes - & if so what
material is the summer blouse made of - It is rather hard work
sewing for three children - Tell Wm I am indifferent whether
he invests Mr $239 he received from Mr Clarke in rail road or bank
stock - John says he has no means of knowing about the banks
so that he could not choose - I am inclined for railroad say N. York
& New Haven but tell would consult Williams opinion -
Mr Sayre is to be married to a Miss Watson living with the Moore

She was somewhat bitten but state
dilirious on Saturday which way
the last I heard —
I think it must be few weeks
since I heard from you. It seems
very long & I begin to feel very
anxious — I always feel uneasy
about you in the Spring — no doubt
you have had very sudden changes
from warm to cold as we have —
Fanny was very much pleased to
get your answer to her letter & also
Helen's letter which was a very
nice one — It is late & I must
not write more — I hope I have
written plainly so that you can read.
Much love to all the household.
Do you think Lewis will go to Pikes Peak
It is said to be a great humbug —
William wrote he was in Chicago. I wish
he could find some situation where he
could use his knowledge & Education to
advantage & not depend on speculating
I do not deserve a letter from you because
I have been so long in writing.
Ever your loving daughter
Fanny —

of anxiety.

April 4th You will wonder at Father waiting so long to be posted but on Saturday I had to send the children off to Port Gibson after sending off two carpenters over the river then letters to receive & note the contents to John in New Orleans. To day I has engaged to join Mrs Watson in a visit to Mr & Mrs Amy — The old people look well but are obliged to take great care of themselves as they both suffer much from colds. It is really melancholy to see them all alone to live childless in their old age. They seem to feel it very much.

Returning home, my first enquiries were for letters & I was not disappointed in finding the one I expected from John, but exactly two weeks old, being dated at San Antonio March 22d. He thought they would reach New Orleans by Saturday last 2nd April. I shall feel very anxious to hear as our weather is stormy & I hear many fears of these northers on the Gulf.

He was just then suffering a good deal with sore throat — state he was pleased with — the climate. In a previous letter he says he thinks it suits him better than any place he has tried yet. He says the little church in San Antonio have tried to get Mr Butler there. Rainy offered him an large a

Cane Mount, Friday April 10

Dearest Mother,

The weeks pass away so quickly that I do not realize how long it is since I wrote to Albert & how anxiously you must be watching for a letter. I have spent most of the time since I wrote Albert in Port Gibson but came down twice in that time to review directions & see that all was going on well. The painters have at last finished. (the last one left this week.) The house is very much improved by the change in color. The house is a delicate tint of grey & yet you would not call it a grey. I am entirely puzzled to give it a name. The blinds are changed to green & the pillars are an imitation of your sandstone in color but not sanded. The banisters bronze color. The whole ensemble is very pleasing. We feel as clean as new pins & only fear the first polish with be worn off by Commencement. John objected to papering the parlor & library walls. So they are painted

with the gloss white & very nicely done –
I have been home nearly a week & I can not tell you how very lonely I am without John & the children. The little girls Fannie & Sallie would have me send for them although I had only left two or three days before because it was the end of the month & they had been promised that they should come home once a month. They came down Friday Eve. & returned Monday morning in time for school – Fannie bears the separation from home very badly indeed I think she would die of home-sickness if she was sent north. She is so warm hearted I have no doubt Miss Porter's school is a very admirable one but I do not think I shall part with Fanny until I can stay with her –
They labor under many disadvantages from entering Miss Marvin's school so late in the session as there were no classes just suitable for them It will however keep them from being idle.
Did you hear of Miss Bracey's ill health & that she was obliged to go to the Isle of Man to spend six months – poor thing she has labored so hard. I hope she may live to see some of the fruits of her labors – Willie writes me of March 20th that he is going to New Haven to spend two weeks of his vacation & part with Miss Annie Chapline & a part with Eugene – & wishes them to return to Stockbridge by way of Hanover to see John Butler. I had previously written him that he might go to Rochester as well as New Haven if he thought best as I knew you would not be in New Haven so early. His Pa wrote to him from San Antonio, so that perhaps he has given him different directions Miss Dwight speaks of him as doing well & as a noble boy. I wish I had her letter where I could quote from it. He now seems interested in his studies & does not study as a mere drudgery or because he is made to. I wish he could get Johnnie to feel any interest in it – but he openly avows that he hates study – Fanny is capable of great things but as Miss Bracey used to say had never yet had her ambition properly excited She is too apt to hurry over her lesson & think Oh I know it – that girl do – a little more perseverance would make her an fine scholar. This changing of teachers however each with a different system of teaching & different books is ruinous to all attempts

From the midst of bandboxes shawls &c came out on of the wagon on one side a mulatto woman with a young baby in her arms, on the other side a nice looking fast & uncle made its appearance but thence only a bundle of calico & a sunbonnet after a while the lady emerged from her room very handsomely dressed & a fine looking young woman. She proved to be a Miss Prather of Louisville, very wealthy, had married a young officer who was stationed in western Texas & was on her way home to make her first visit with the baby. Her husband only allowed to accompany her to Indianola. She had encamped in tents for many nights on their journey.

They have formed a very agreeable circle of acquaintance in San Antonio & Mary says she finds the ladies very agreeable — During their first stay in San Antonio Mr Collier & wife were there Mr Collier is son of Mrs Collier's husband of St. Louis & he married a daughter of Gen. Kearny Mary seemed much pleased with her. I think she said she was a member of the Pres. church Mr C's health will not allow him to live in St. Louis so he has bought a ranche about 80 miles from San Antonio, He does not like the country but she does — I do not think I told you that when they went over they met with Dr Freeman one of Mr Schweiger's son's Adolphus I presume — John made a very pleasant acquaintance in him. He is engaged in raising cattle on a ranche somewhere near San Antonio The road from Indianola to San Antonio was horrible & I do not know how any of them stood it if in the stage I think they went 34 hours at one stretch, I suppose because the stopping places were too execrable to be tried In the 56 hours journey a few hours rest from twelve o'clock till breakfast at a dirty, miserable hotel was all the rest they had. The distance is 156 miles so you see they never travelled over 3 miles an hour & yet it is one of the most travelled roads in Texas — Soon however the steam whistle will echo over the vast plains, i.e. in all probability I shall anxiously wait to hear of their arrival in New Orleans — The high water again fills all the planters with anxiety — The river is already higher than it was last year & we hear of levees breaking & whole plantations for miles being under

water, The destruction of property is immense poor Mr Evans at Rhinebury is fighting the water & must be nearly worn out. He has no overseer & he & his son direct the hands who have sometimes had to work till 12 o'clk at night – The has a large amount to pay next winter & an overflow would make it impossible. The accounts from above are favorable & I hope the river is at its highest point.

I have sent you a paper which contains some account of the "Princess" & also an obituary of young Wilcox of Rodney, he was the most promising of their sons – no tongue can tell the horrors of the scene. I do not suppose the full loss will ever be known – & it was the boat on which every one felt safer than on any other of our packets. I do not think I can ever go on a boat again with any pleasure – The little children are well now. Elsie is a great deal of company for me & Dora is very intelligent though she will not talk – She is fast catching up with Essie in size – Dora was pulling Essie's finger in a very strong way yesterday & Essie remarked "Why, she's an Elephant!" –

The Pat Gibson family are all as well as usual, but were much engrossed in waiting on Mrs Eskridge who was thrown from her carriage & carried there on a bed

Salary as he gets in P. Gibson & with very moderate work. But from a letter from Mr B. which I saw to day in the P. Gibson paper I do not think Mr B. is as much pleased with the climate. Those northers do not suit him. Mary is almost crazy to get home She has never been away so long from her family before – There was so much building going on in San Antonio with white stone used there that the air was filled with fine white dust not favorable to either John or Mr B. so they moved to Castroville a place about 30 miles west. There they found a very neat Hotel kept by two old French people from France who have been as kind as possible to them all the time of their stay – John in his letter preceding the one received to day, gives an amusing account of a returne which drove up to the door one day consisting of an ambulanche (a sort of Jersey wagon & two wagons with four mules each, filled with baggage, tent poles, kettles, trunks & 2 goats escorted by six soldiers. a rough looking sent, in half uniform headed the train & stopped at the Hotel.

had cold & quite a hospital with colds among her girls - She sent up quite a Christmas box for us & the children not forgetting Charles, Sam Minerva, Mary &c. Was it not too bad when she has so short a purse & they had no claim upon her -

It is late & I must come to a close. It seems an age indeed since we heard from you & I dare say you are thinking the same of me. I have so much to talk about the children - Willie studies his geography but is rather slow in learning the multiplication table. All the of Engles progress when you write. Love to Mary, Wm Emily & the children from

Your devoted & loving
Daughter —

flower garden below the old one in front of your cottage which is all to be given up & laid in grass - I mean nearer the road side - This is in order to have a better exposure to the sun & to avoid the shade of the china trees - Stevinella is perfectly charmed with - seeing so many flowers in mid-winter - Mrs & Mr Gray came down to see her & also the Bride yesterday & brought a beautiful bouquet - Mrs Gray has returned the hopes restored or nearly so. Mr Gray I do not think has the same confidence in the physician but of course he hopes every thing - He was obliged to put himself under his care as the birds he had before he left proved so very serious - He is now quite well - Mrs Wm Murdock is in much better health this winter & is now expecting her confinement in February - pretty rapid you will think Mrs John Murdock has also a second

of the same kind to whisper to you if she did not fear it would trouble you - What can't be cured must be endured, therefore my dear Mother unpleasant as it is I hope you will make the best of it & reconcile yourself. I have thought of getting you to engage a nurse but under all the circumstances of cholera &c. it is not easy to define one's plans therefore we must trust to Providence & not be too hasty in our own arrangements - You must think of a suitable boarding place for us to filling up the house I shall never consent - This is a great drawback to my anticipated summer's pleasure & one which I then most strenuously avoided, but it's of no use groaning over it now - If it does not trouble you, I shall not care. I have been afraid to write for fear of worrying you & lest it should be no longer a secret but remember that it is private strictly I shall wish to go on early in May if possible, indeed I could not well go later - Of course John cannot go so early which is very unpleasant to think of - do not tell Mary even & whatever you write back let it be in a separate note -

Has Mary named the baby yet - We are all anxious to hear - I think it very hard that she cannot find a moment to write to us - tell her I think my long letter deserved an answer - Yours - Henrietta is also hoping to hear soon. She has heard but once from Frances since she arrived - Henrietta was planning writing to Elizabeth Whitney some account of the party & was imagining Mrs W. going over to your house & expressing in her patronizing way her delight that "Frances felt as if she could give a party" It was so like her I was highly amused Miss Shedden hears bad accounts of Mrs Beaux & Bettie both seriously affected with pulmonary complaints She writes that "she is afraid to hear from them" - She sent me a box of flowers for the party, japonicas &c. but they arrived too late - Jeannette was quite sick for a few days but better then. She herself has

I believe I merely mentioned the arrival of the box but had not then seen its contents – every thing pleased me & was very valuable The boots fitted Johnnie perfectly & are his greatest admiration especially since he can pull them on & off himself – he is constantly changing from these to his old ones – He told me to say "thank ye" to Grandma for them & for the shoes also – he asks every night to sleep with Miss Henrietta though she has not yet invited him – The four yards of Mousseline which you probably intended for the children, I immediately appropriated to myself for a short dressing gown & hope you will not grudge it to me as it was just what I wanted – The calicoes were

very pretty - The napkins will not come amiss as yours are better suited to remembrance when those linen brought me - I did not understand what you intended the chintz for - It is no matter about the other chintz - for the lounge this winter

You have not yet mentioned the name of the baby from which we conclude none is fixed upon - Fanny will be very much delighted with her as she is always charmed to be where there is a baby - She pets & hugs the little dear Cora exactly as if she were a baby - She found a new doll suspended by the neck by the side of her stocking a present from Santa Claus which kept her in a broad laugh of delight from "daylight till breakfast - "Mama so kind" she says - Henrietta sends much love to you - Willie is always pleased to hear your messages & tole aunt Emily he often remembers her - Give my love to her & best love to Mary & a kiss to the baby - What do you hear from Albert? - Mrs Murdoch of Rodney is in fine health again, expecting an addition in February - Mrs Young we heard was to be home very soon quite cured - It is a very rapid cure if it is a permanent one - But I must come to a close as it is after eleven o'clock - all that would send love are asleep - but it leaves the more room for mine which is always broad & deep for my own precious Mother -

We hear of no more cholera cases at Rodney - Whenever you want to telegraph us any thing you can do it to Mr Connelly 46 Camp St New Orleans & he could write up here -

You must not try your eyes, dear Mother by writing in rainy days -

the room very small, but it is well it was no larger. —
Miss Annie writes of Willie's visit with much pleasure & (our Anne says) Even Grandma Whitney blushes her praises on his gentlemanly manners — but she (Anne) is shocked at Johnny not being invited also She says "she does not like picking & choosing in her family"
I much not stay to write more as I am to send this to Rodney soon, & then we go to the funeral of little Gust Freeland, Mr Thomas Freeland's little son — perhaps you remember he was hump backed & though eleven years old was not much larger than Epie. He had a sweet patient spirit — though all his sufferings & is no doubt at rest in Jesus — He said he was willing to die but he wanted his Father to be in

heaven with him —
No time to say more. The children are all well. I took the little ones over the river with me — They are very fond of Mary & she proves a treasure while they remember Bessie —
I am rejoiced to hear such good accounts of your health —
Do remind William to go to Gurneys the first time he goes to New York —

Ever your loving
daughter Mary.

and wonders very much that such an old lady should be going parties. He would have surprised for state more to have seen you playing hostess until after 12 o'clock —

How do you enjoy your little room I should think it would be quite easy & comfortable except that I think you must want some curtains at the windows & if you have the curtains in Louis' rooms they will be ruined with segar smoke — No doubt your wealthy relations corresponded to end & it must have been very severe with you. Please to tell me whether you ever got your cloak altered & if not whether you will not have a new one — Annie Chaplain's was a very nice one indeed for $21 but I should think a lighter cloth for you & wadded would be more serviceable & comfortable — I think you must want a lining for the carpet very much as I know it was put down on the bare floor & must be very cold — If you are in need of money I wish you would let me know. You had precious little when I left & my certain knowledge

from letter containing Albert's with the account of his narrow & wonderful escape was received a week before last. I have not written to him yet as I was busy making my arrangements for companying — It was a horrible attempt & I should think he would never cross the bridge after dark without a shudder — It is wonderful & providential indeed that his neck was not broken & that he recovered from his insensibility so soon — Of course I suppose nothing was ever heard of the perpetrator of such a villainous deed — It is wonderful what crimes men will attempt on the mere chance of gaining any thing — What do you hear from Louis — do you not think he will go home now that Wm Cleveland is dead — It looks so bad for a man to be leaving his wife & young helpless children for such a long time — & it is so very hard on her

By the time this reaches you, the boys will be with you. I hope they will give you a pleasant visit. I am quite worried to hear Willie complain so much of the cold. I fear he does not exercise enough or he would not feel it so much – I am afraid Johnnie is not studying very hard this winter as I hear nothing about it either from the teachers and from himself as I did last summer when I first went on or rather when he did. He seems to have been more full of Thanksgiving both in anticipation & retrospection than anything else – Poor dear I wish he would take some of the good advice Fanny gives him in her letters & remember how sorry he will be a few ~~years~~ years for all these precious moments wasted – He can make a fine man if he will only improve his advantages & therefore he is guilty in proportion to the talents given him & wasted –

I am glad you mentioned Mrs Chauncy Goodrich having called. I never heard of it. The only ones that I know of not having gone to see were Mrs Levi Ives, Mrs Hadley & Mary & Sarah – Mrs Salisbury (the old lady) I wished very much she to see but did not accomplish it.

Anna Peirt wrote me quite a long letter three or four weeks since. She wanted to send a fruit cake to the boys at Christmas but I told her she had better wait till some other time as they would be going away – She seems quite to be sapping as much as ever & says the almost gave up the ghost when the last ~~Tuesday~~ Monday's mail brought her the muslin dress I sent her. It was one of mine which I thought she would admire as a new orleans muslin. Becky had gone to Florida. She says Mr Peirt did not receive Caroline's invitation to the party until the day after & then in a soiled condition. It had been dropped in the street – She seems to think the party was given by you

Dear Willie: He fell on the first day, Jan. 31.
in that terrible engagement at Newport News.
Willie was by his side when he fell & as
he was carrying him off in shelter half
him cry his arm & that ere he reached the
hospital it could have done him no harm.
While speaking with the officers of the
same regiment I met a lady with them, as
nothing, belle had offered to assume the
role of relative there. We was undoubtedly the
Mrs Fitz Lee, sister of the cavalier gen
Charleston. She expressed great regret at
not seeing Willie when she left Q. for
Flat Rock, N.C. where they have been living
since last summer as soon as she heard of
his death. Belle is married a sister
of Pierce's. But I must hasten to close your dear
letter remembering that I merely write to
you and not heard for months —

The difficulties must have been very
great for us. I wonder that you could
have known Rev. Lee has been in position
probably as much so & stilly as any
other in the Confederacy.
Since we have been locked up many luxuries
but at no time penned for days have he
could unconsciously or been in fear of
any thing for any comfort of life. Flour
has ranged gradually from 12 to 86 dollars
in the two years past. Meat we have never
been without & have become so accustomed
to coarse food that we enjoy it as much
as Lee Flour & Meat. Coffee & tea
Delighted to find substitutes for what
once thought to be indispensable — of coffee

did not lay in a large supply, money being scarce with our merchant at this time, I did not like to call upon him for more than was necessary - but we learn to use it more sparingly & always have had it once frequently twice a day. By using burnt sugar with it we make it go much farther, many other substitutes are used as okra seed, sweet potatoes cut raw in small pieces, dried & burned - this last we used before we commenced using burnt sugar - tea we dispense with altogether but keep a little on hand to look at - Shoes is another article of comfort of which we would stand much in need, but our supply has not yet given out - I made a very nice pair of tops out of cloth for gaiter boots & sent them to a shoemaker (Mary Ryan's husband). he said they were the best he had seen - For our negroes I felt most anxiety, but they have been pretty well supplied; by exchanging hides I can get some leather & Henry our coachman has learned to be a first rate shoemaker - we shall be quite independent next year for we shall tan our own leather - Some negroes more provident than others foreseeing the hard times, saved their shoes, through the summer & consequently had a good pair for winter.

Clothing for them was the next great question of anxiety, but having the wool & the cotton we have turned in to manufacturing ~~the~~ our own cloth. I had two looms made at home which prove better for negroes than those with more finished machinery. I have woven enough to clothe all the children on all places, & many of the women. There was enough linsey left from last year's supply to furnish the

in knitting. Epie M. is quite accomplished in the art & aside from all the homespun coarse knitting she has done for the barefooted soldier she knits very beautiful & nice fitting gloves. for kid gloves which are a thing unthought of now John Butler who is at Port Hudson paid 4.50 for me not long ago, very poor at that. (I hope you have long ago been set right as to John being alive in the flesh) - Chaplain is at Fishing & in good health - though he has had nothing but mud & rain all winter. Such quantities of water I am sure never fell from the clouds in any one winter as we have had this season - I have really quite a lake now on the right side of the house - It was intended for an artificial pond a dam or road being built across the hollow in which rests the fence & in front of which is to be a hedge - It will be quite ornamental when the banks are covered with Bermuda grass as I hope they may be this summer. My garden

on the opposite side of the road is now complete & is a pleasant & attractive place to me. You know we could have no flowers on this side owing to the cocoa which infested the whole ground. We have been very careful to allow none to get in the new garden. It is tastefully laid out & the lower part for vegetables is terraced one terrace full 10 ft. high – There is a pond in the left corner which serves for watering the plants in dry weather. The whole of the front lawn is much improved – It would all I could do to render them home attractive to the children – I wanted them to love it & I thought this the best plan. but neither Fanny or Sallie have the same enthusiasm for flowers that I have. Essie shows more love for them. Essie is my little pupil every morning. She recites her spelling, Geography, French, French spelling & reads to me – Dora also says a lesson whenever I can attend to her – Espie generally occupies me all the morning. Johnnie's being still with me is a great relief. but he has had so much trouble in trying to fix up a new place of refuge in case of an inroad that he has had a hard time. He never complains but is always very glad to get home – I am surely blessed in my children one & all. Sallie is more diligent & thorough I think than Fanny. a gentleman asked me a day or two ago if Sallie was not a very

through going character. She is growing prettier than she was. Dora is still very beautiful though her hair is not of that beautiful gloss & lightness that it had two years ago — when it exactly resembled spun glass. She has rich full curls, a bright color, laughing eyes & black eyelashes rosy lips & pearly teeth —
She is so very affectionate that it is hard to be displeased long with her — indeed she is a very good child — seldom requiring correction. You must not feel that I am so hurried all the time I have no thought or time for any thing. It is not so. I have a great deal of leisure & find that the girls are often absent all day at school, (they go to College) to Prof. Baird, time even hangs heavily. I am not long since, I think you will receive it as I mean it would go to strength —
I have written you several times of Mary B..... having a bad cough & of our fears in her case for alarm. She has had an attack of pneumonia which has left her with a very bad cough. & she feels weak & looks badly. Anne also does not look well. Colds & pneumonia have been very fatal this winter — particularly typhoid pneumonia which is a dreadful disease. Ellen R. suffers a good deal with an acute disease which may be relieved & may increase. She is always cheerful & keeps up. never remaining long in bed — She is a great example of patience & cheerful-

ness. very like her dear Brother in that respect – Oh! could you have known how reduced he was & then imagined the terrible journey he undertook to pass his last moments to his dear ones at home, you would never cease to wonder at his fortitude & unheard of endurance. Yet he never complained & only seemed so happy to have reached here: but I will not dwelle on what only calls up the bitterest distress. He is safe where there is no more suffering no more care or sickness washed in a Redeemer's blood, clothed in a new & glorious body. What a blessing that he was not called to endure such sickness in these terrible times, when outward circumstances would have so burdened his anxious heart for us all –

March 3rd I was about to finish my letter on Saturday last when think of my amazement to hear my Lillie's voice in the back gallery. He was able to give us but one day, but it was so unexpected & he looks so fat & well that I must feel most grateful for that. He has slept in Jenny's sheets & cold & wet yet looks very well. I never saw him look better even when in Minnesota. He will be with us a few days more in about a month. God has been most kind & gracious to him & I trust he feels his great goodness in sparing him midst many dangers – He was greatly pleased to see your hand-writing again. The picture we all feel makes you look very much changed. I cannot bear to think you are so much so. & I do not like the cap so like your morning caps. But we all remember it is our dear loved hand & all love it – There was never one of those pictures. I think that did not make the person look older than they are –

We feel most grateful that your health is so good. very sorry to hear of Uncle Alfred's death. poor Alice, poor Henry & family. All my sisters were delighted to hear from you again & to know you were so well. I must hasten to close in my paper will give out & pen too. your patience in reading all that you require for among the servants are lost — & sorely tryed. Mrs L. Mrs Henry have been to Heath Heath until the last few days. Mrs H. has been very ill. She had hemorrhage of the stomach. If she has no recurrence of the attack she will probably recover — but she is feeble & cannot bear much. They have lost a little grandson recently with typhoid pneumonia who was a great favorite. Mrs Daniell the old lady has frequent hemorrhages but they do not seem to make her sick. her poor daughter Mrs Hale has lost two children with diphtheria. She looks badly. One little children had scarlet fever & sore throat [illegible] in the winter but were not sick very long. They are blessed with good health. Johnnie has been in crutches & bandages up his neck by different accidents, but has not suffered from it. Ben has been with Willie all the time. he remained & went to Kentucky while W. was absent — he is now here — he has been faithful & attentive, all send a great deal of love, & all the neighbors ask for you frequently & with kind interest. Mrs B. & family our neighbors — Mr Evans son Lenzie was very ill not long since but is now recovered he was violently delirious. She has had many troubles. Again dear Mother I hope this may reach you & that it may give you some comfort. I do not think William would come here. Tell him his change was unnecessary. There is no danger of my

Love to Annie. I heard from her
Brother a day or [illegible] since
my Rachel — God grant we may all
meet again on earth, but if we do not
life is short & it may be long. Dearest
Mother keep cheer & hope
which is a world. When God is here
brother & sister [illegible]
more precious than [illegible]
[illegible] thank him for [illegible]
let him [illegible]