

disagreeable things about the consequences that you are  
 concerning the much freedom by expressing the interest in  
 them, is different consideration to always put on returning  
 from home that I am living to have little purpose that  
 I feel much kindly my dependence. Well I have a state visit  
 from a few days before we leave but I do not think simply  
 we should be detained that there will be any more in  
 working on the journey for we shall probably go no further -  
 the friends. Read the letters you please by any letter -



Wm May Packard.  
 Temple Avenue.  
 Mrs Wagon.  
 Corner -

The knowledge lived with the family until the last time  
 you but now has a house of his own about a mile  
 distant. That would seem of the Dr. your father thought  
 of selling out large estate, I fear expensive, I understand  
 of how he has returned younger & more elegant than ever -  
 I have often thought of his visit - what the world so I know  
 in such retirement & making weekly visit to the subject of  
 their health. I am afraid we thought there are many

for me -  
 kind love to all your children

My husband dearest a very kind remembrance. I speak to you of you that  
 anticipated much pleasure in meeting you.  
 are you to be absent  
 I am sure I should  
 not thought I and  
 my self to visit  
 I remember me to  
 I think I all  
 my friends who  
 I am after the -  
 I hope to receive one  
 more letter from home  
 but I am of course to them  
 all I write a large  
 to you for yourself  
 believe me I am  
 that truly & fondly  
 your friend  
 Frances L. Packard.  
 New York May 30 1841 -

The receipt of your delightful & most welcome letter  
 that has not been for my frequent promise to write  
 to you in my letters home. I fear you would have accused me  
 of entire forgetfulness - to not accuse me of empty professions  
 I have much fully intended to write to you for the last six  
 weeks & was certain a letter should go to you after our return  
 from Judge Perkins, but being detained then longer than we  
 anticipated I found the time had come round when they would  
 be expecting a letter. I knew you with all your care &  
 occupation for you thought would not mind a disappointment  
 as they would - Although this will probably reach you only  
 a short time before you I receive a welcome from your own  
 sweet lips yet I cannot think of leaving your kind letter & remain  
 unsatisfied that you may know that truly I value your  
 friendship & affection & how much of mine you have in  
 return. I have been pained to hear in my last letter  
 from home how much you have been confined by sickness  
 in your family. I think your friends must know your good  
 qualities as a nurse & value your services very highly  
 & they would not so often call upon you. I trust the invalid  
 is restored & that you are again at liberty - for I fear you  
 will injure yourself by such constant care & watching -



There seems to have been much sickness in New Haven  
this <sup>winter</sup> & society mourns the loss of some of its most  
valuable members. Mr. Whitthrop particularly I feel  
much sympathy for - they seemed so tenderly attached  
to their Father & he so very domestic in his habits -  
Every one seemed complaining of colds. Many wrote me  
that Mother had one but that she was so engaged in going  
to church that she could not keep her in the house - I  
feel very anxious to hear again knowing how disposed she is  
to sickness at this season - our weather alternates here also  
from warm to cold though generally for the last month it  
has been very warm. Some days oppressively so - yet we generally  
have a little frost in the morning & evening. There is  
a little opportunity for exercise that I fear growing very  
fat & lazy. It is too warm in the morning & middle of the  
day & hot in the cool of twilight - when every thing is delightful  
the dew is falling & it is not thought safe to be out -  
But I generally occasionally take a long ride on horseback at  
that hour when I consider the exercise of riding sufficient  
to counteract its evil effects - I do not go as often - I should  
for sometimes the horses are not right & sometimes my husband  
has been out on horseback all day in the sun & I do not like  
to ask him to go with me for I know he would not refuse  
if he was ever so tired - I look forward to next summer  
when I shall not be without a horse & when in the lovely  
moonlight I shall stroll up the Avenue to my dear  
Mrs. Packard & then we will rest till she gets her bonnet  
& even if she is forty years old we will make her take a nice  
walk with us. I trust we shall commence our  
homeward journey by the middle or last of the <sup>next</sup> week.

Mr. Mundock will write to N. Orleans to morrow to secure our  
passages & we shall be obliged to wait for an answer which  
probably will arrive by the last of this week so that nothing  
preventing & a kind Providence favoring I trust we shall  
be off in the first fine boat next week. I do not talk of  
it half as much as I think for to poor Anne who has  
only painful feelings to be awakened by a return to the  
scene of her woes it has nothing pleasant in it except the  
meetings with her family. We cannot look for us that a  
journey home as we had out, yet the iron is high & there  
will not be in that respect the difficulty there often is in  
the Spring. I think we may hope to reach Philadelphia  
in 15 or 16 days when I hope to meet my beloved Mother  
as they will not allow us to go on immediately - At your  
motherly questions, my dear friend, I was much amused  
but do not think I could be vexed - they manifested too  
much sincere interest & affection for me to have such a  
feeling, or for me to consider it mere curiosity - I assure  
you I do not injure myself in sewing for I am not in  
need of any. I have been very busy in working a pocket  
handkerchief for the last month & it is now nearly complete.  
Today I have sat too steadily fixing a travelling dress as  
we go to Port Gibson day after to morrow & then putting  
cables & on our return all my sister's family will be down  
here - so we go. To morrow morning I must send my  
letter to Rodney by my husband & then attend to  
cutting out the negro clothing not under my supervision  
however, but under that of the old nurse who has  
always attended to it, & who is very much afraid the  
"poor dare craters" will have any trouble with it -



the storm without support. Should they be panned, placed in  
the <sup>flower</sup> garden or in the yard. I wish you would tell me -  
The flower garden looks very well, far better than I expected  
our meeting house steeple is entirely covered by the samaras  
the growth is astonishing. The jillies also appear to have  
flourished finely. The other shrubs which we left so shivering  
& scrubby are bushy & full 2 ft. high. I long so much  
to have you here. Indeed it makes me quite sad to think  
how lonely my winter will be. If Mr. Murdoch is absent as  
much as he was last winter I shall die of the blues -  
Mr. They will come probably, but an assistant <sup>teacher for the</sup> preparatory  
school is engaged so that he will lose that situation. I  
don't will wish to look about for some other -

Indeed when I think of both you & Mother both of whom might  
have spent the winter with me if you <sup>had</sup> only felt so inclined  
I find it very hard to be reconciled to this disappointment.  
I did not wish to stay at the north yet I felt very unhappy  
about leaving Mother when she so much desired my staying -  
Mr. Ireland looks very well. The story of his engagement is  
entirely fabulous, a whisper of his sentiments I have heard  
through a letter to Mr. M. were you here I would whisper  
them in your ear -

Every body congratulates Mr. Murdoch on his improved looks -  
Indeed, he is very much benefitted by the Summers' absence  
the account of the crops is very doleful, but we have so much  
to be thankful for, that I do not think of a passing regret  
or murmur at that -

Mr. Parker has been almost distracted about her daughter  
who has been very ill with typhus fever at Mr. Davis' in  
Philadelphia. A son of Mr. Davis died in the house at  
the same time. She has recovered & is now expected soon -  
but I must close, dear - Even as it is after 10 o'clock - This  
an unsatisfactory letter I confess & does not express one half  
of all the love I bear to you - do give my precious Mother as  
much of your good company as possible. I urge her to shut  
up the house & spend that winter in Rochester - Mr. M. desires  
his love - with mine to Frances & Mr. H. believe me -  
Ever your most sincerely  
Samy

Camden Nov. 2<sup>d</sup> 1849  
Friday Evg -

My dear Etta,

You deserved a letter from me  
from New Orleans since you were the only one who was  
so good as to have a letter then to welcome my  
arrival but as I had written to you from Sandy Hook  
& had not written to Mr. Pritchard since I left I discharge  
my duties to her & dear Mother, meaning to give you  
the benefit of a letter on our steamboat trip up the  
river but the boat shook so much & having only  
one nurse for the four children I did not find it  
very convenient. Here I am seated however on the  
first evening of our arrival having found the house opened  
to receive us & the parlor & my bedroom comfortably  
carpeted & at least several coats of dirt extracted from  
other regions of the house - Anne was down last week  
& ordered this done & also considerable weeding &c in the  
yard, making it vastly more comfortable for our reception  
than it would have been - Our trip from New Orleans up  
was very tedious more so I thought than the whole sea  
voyage. We left New Orleans on Tuesday Evg & did not get  
off until near 12 o'clock last night, too late to come  
out home although the carriage was there waiting  
for us - This morning I paid a visit to Mr. Bronghton &  
Mr. Murdoch. Mr. engaged with interest after you - The  
former looks thin & has had one of her attacks so severe  
that she lay for three days without any perceptible pulse



Mr M. also had a severe illness in the summer & looks then  
has her hair short but says she is very well - Her experience  
with Mary was very trying. She grew very insolent &  
finally left her in the most terrible rage with -  
her father owing to his reading some article relating to  
the Catholics from the Protestant Herald before her  
but I have begun at the end of my story instead of the  
beginning. As you are probably in New Haven & will  
know through Mother & Mr P. some particulars of our voyage -  
I need not repeat. I did not keep my berth - from sea-  
sickness more than one half day though I absent  
myself from the table for seven. The children were all  
sick for one day but soon got over it & I have no doubt  
were better. I, not being bilious was not particularly benefited  
by that, but I feel stronger for the voyage. The sea air  
was delightful to me - we had an excellent table, a very  
clever Captain, excellent state rooms & a very pleasant  
deck - after hearing Mr Chaplain's account of his trip  
on the Ohio I can assure you we congratulated ourselves  
that we had not gone on her. He said he could never get  
a seat but a lady would come along & he would have to  
give it up - the cabin was filled up with the standing  
passage for the Californians they got out of provisions in  
short there was general dissatisfaction & good reason for  
it. The fate of the coat I related to Mr Pichard, I am  
very sorry since Mr Hoyt took so much trouble. He could  
not have done more - Mr Chaplain promised to see the  
clock himself after we left. Mr M. enquired at the  
St. Charles & at the office where all packages were sent -  
but could not hear of it - He went off shopping in New Orleans  
& found some very pretty things but the city was dirty in the  
extreme, such a contrast to New York -  
He telegraphed William of our arrival so that I hope he  
was received in good time. I believe there is some uncertainty

about it however - of Hannah's desertion you will also be  
informed before this - She appeared very indifferent to the  
children & by no means anxious to win or please them  
Very heedless in her duties indeed she would not go on deck  
or look after the older ones but chose to sit quietly with  
the baby down stairs often letting her cry in her lap  
without taking the least notice or trying to quiet her  
I got all the slaving out of her I could & in that she  
certainly was very smart - I asked her if she had expected  
to leave me in New Orleans before she and the difficulty with  
Mr Murdoch - she said, she had not. He had very good grounds  
for reproving her though like Mr Hoyt with Lillie, I suppose  
he might have done it more gently - She professed not to  
intend to remain in New Orleans but wished to return to N. York  
again. Miss Shelden thinks she may get me a good one in  
Hatchery - Should she do so I can telegraph Mr Pichard before  
she could get one ready to start - I am in a sorry condition  
with the servants black & white - Abby is no longer fit for  
the house & Minerva has a child two weeks old. So it  
is not too bad. Anne Davis is with me yet, but Anne has  
her house open, ready for housekeeping & must need her  
I shall go up as soon as I get some washing done &  
let the house-cleaning go on in my absence - a note came  
from Anne this evening, they had just got possession of the  
long absent ones & were in a perfect state of joy very anxious  
for us to come up immediately - Little Sarah greeted Aunt  
Lizzy & Nancy with her warmest smiles while the other  
children were so overjoyed at Cora's appearance they  
would hardly bestow a thought upon them. They are very  
much delighted at getting home & appear to think it much  
pleasanter than New Haven - Willie has earned his  
saddle & is now in a great state of anxiety for a horse -  
The abutels arrived safely. I am in doubt when to  
put them as I fear they will be too slender to endure



review to the crucifix. When you feel able to  
write, will you not give me some account of  
Mr. Mumlocks sickness and death and tell  
me how dear Fanny is. I sat some time with  
Mrs. Peit yesterday. She is confined to the sofa  
and has been, for three months, I presume she will  
never walk out again. She is very cheerful, almost  
gib-like in her manner and conversation. I am  
glad that Mr. Bristol is so well pleased with  
the "Notes on Scripture". They have been very well  
received, and I trust will accomplish the great  
purpose, which this beloved author had in view:  
the promotion of the glory of his Redeemer.  
I feel in this new trouble, as if I should so love  
to have you by my side, that I might comfort  
you. I am sure you could come, I mean so far  
as travelling is concerned; now if you only will  
it would be such a happiness to me to have the  
beloved friend of my beloved husband under my  
own roof. My sons unite with me in love to you.  
Remember me to your family -

Affectionately & truly  
Your friend  
Eliza P. L. May

Philadelphia, March 13th, 1861

My very dear friend,

Mrs. Peit has informed me  
of the removal of Mr. Mumlock; though long an-  
ticipated by those who watched the progress of that  
slowly consuming disease, yet 'tis a shock at last.  
We are never prepared to part with those we love;  
dear Fanny, when I think of her and her fatherless  
group and look through that whole circle and  
see how protector after protector, has been cut down  
I am ready to ask why is it? The answer returns  
needful discipline. Yes, needful discipline, my  
dear friend, our gracious Parents sends not one un-  
necessary stroke, and if we can only see his hand  
and hear his voice saying "it is I, be not afraid"  
we may look up from the storm and the cloud, and  
rejoice in that loving sympathy, which enters into our  
groan and counts every tear. But oh the anguish  
of that widowed heart! full well do I understand



it, but God will comfort him, as he has comforted me.  
How sweet his words "Let the widows trust in me,"  
He will never disappoint their trust. I was particularly  
struck with the humility and appropriateness  
of a remark of dear Mr. Muddochs - Perhaps you  
have not heard it: he was saying that the separation  
from his family in their unprotected state was the  
only burden on his heart, when Eric replied "Why  
brother, the good shepherd who has always taken  
care of us will still watch over us," "yes," said he,  
"but - I was the shepherd's dog". To me, there is  
something touchingly beautiful in this scene.  
I trust he has gone to receive his reward. It is  
several years since I saw him, but my recollections  
of him are exceedingly pleasant. He was so kind  
and generous and noble and so gentlemanly.  
You my dear friend are going through deep waters  
with your dear daughter, for all our children's  
honours are ours. God comfort you in this deep  
trial and make you to see more clearly your  
title to the heavenly inheritance. I have told  
you allow me to say, I have always been struck

with your doubts respecting your own condition. I  
feel my dear friend, that it is your privilege to  
rejoice in an assured confidence. The question with  
us, is, have we been made willing in the day  
of his power? "There are two givings (some one says)  
The Father gives you, and you give yourselves  
Christ; and Christ receives you, and you are saved.  
If you be not Christ's by your own willing sur-  
render, you will never be his, apart from your  
own will, by divine decree. On high, is Almighty  
power, - below, a willing people; and the  
blessed result is, we, disciples coming like the dew  
of the morning". If we have been made willing  
and of this we can surely have no doubt; we  
may I think unite with Moses in the song  
singing <sup>"The Lord is"</sup> "Thou art my strength and my  
song and has become my salvation". I long  
my dear friend to have you enjoy a confident  
hope - and to feel that the joy of the Lord is  
your strength. Do you not look too much upon  
your own heart - Alas! none of us will find much  
encouragement there, but must be driven by each



Miss Gifford

Please give my  
mother directions by which  
she may write via Norfolk  
if possible.

Also I wish her to  
put a X in some part of  
her letter if our property  
is confiscated & a 0 if it  
is not confiscated.

I would be glad to know  
that she does not approve  
of this horrid war if she could  
insert those words in some  
sentence & underscore them  
I would understand it -  
But if she is in favor I do  
not want to know it -

If you can remember to  
say to her that Mr. Roper  
a friend of ours in Boston



whom she knows very well  
gets letters through quite frequently  
to her sister in the Augustine  
Fla. - If mother should fail  
in getting a letter through  
by Norfolk she might send  
one to Mrs. Ropes - It would  
be a long time before I could  
receive it, but would be better  
than not-hearing at all -

With best wishes

Yrs. truly,

H. Muddach.



a cloud - Surely politics  
have no business to  
step between us. Annie  
Chaplain is not in her zeal  
& Jane not much behind  
her - they wrote me like  
two tigers - but there was  
affection enough in the  
letters to live upon for  
the whole term of non-in-  
tercourse. I wish, dear dear  
Mrs. Baiard, that I could be  
a daughter to you, at least  
in the matter of correspond-  
ence, till Fanny can write  
again - I know how her warm

loving heart must suffer  
in this forced silence - to be  
so far separated from her  
beloved mother is a sore  
trial, added to the deep afflic-  
tions she bears with such  
fortitude & resignation - May her  
children be to her, what she has  
been to you! Very affectionately yours  
Anna R. Ropes.

I should have a hundred your letter earlier  
but writing is always injudicious &  
often my little for me.  
were it not for  
this it would be very  
pleasing to write you  
every week.

Dashley Cottage Feb. 16/1  
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dear friend,  
I felt warmly the  
great kindness of your  
letter to me, it was more  
than I hoped for, or dreamed  
of that you should write to  
me, & the affection so  
fully expressed came  
like a refreshing cordial  
to my weary spirit. (which is  
weary only because of my  
perpetual suffering, of which  
there seems no end in  
prospect, tho I hope on) I  
must tell you that we



have no longer the means  
of communication with our  
dear creatures in Missis-  
sippi, who was the occa-  
sion of our correspondence.  
But the rapid progress of  
our victories makes it  
probable that we shall  
have regular mails in  
the course of a few weeks  
or two months. Mr. Rives  
has been to Washington  
& was much gratified  
& reassured by his con-  
versation with different  
members of the Cabinet  
& his interviews with  
our homely honest ex-  
cellent President.

I hope your own health  
is good & that this cruel  
anxiety does not wear  
upon you. I am sometimes  
distressed myself, but  
when things are settled  
the good feeling shd not  
come back in our day &  
generation & I never shd  
afford to lose any of the  
dear Murdoch Cove. They  
cannot see things as we  
do, & the veil of deception  
thrown over their eyes by  
their leaders & others, is  
too thick to be penetrated.  
Choice, rare & charming  
friends, so dear to me & so  
long dear - our affection  
(Fanny's & mine at least)  
began in our school-days,  
& it has never known



Cane Mt. May 21 1863

Dearest of friends,

I have an opportunity to write you a few lines which may reach you at once. I have written you twice since the recent events which have filled you with deep anxiety for us, no doubt, I presume <sup>those letters</sup> will reach you sooner or later, but cannot give you much comfort, & will only add to your deep anxiety. My dear friend who is going to leave us for Ky. has promised to write to you all for me - You would love her for all the sympathy & comfort they have been to us through the trials of the past two years but it is scarcely probable you will ever meet her. In the hours of deepest sorrow their sympathy & consolation have been extended & gratefully received four times has my dear W. received the parting prayers & blessings of his good husband. These prayers & wishes may be like bread upon the waters. God grant it.

You will say why do I not come when they can get away. If my children were willing gladly would I go but to leave any behind you know would make me miserable & you know the impossibility of leaving them safely - I send you all I can in their place & hope they may be a great comfort to you. Keep them carefully for me - Gladly would I send one of them to you especially I. under Dr. Breckenside's care, but he will not consent - Many of the servants have left & are still leaving. Even Bess has gone. Edy also







My dearest of Friends.

How shall I.

address another letter in addition to -  
the many I have written & requested  
written by friends who have left here  
uncertain whether I can receive any  
answer or indeed whether you ever receive  
them - That your fears & anxieties may  
be relieved on our account is all the  
occasion I have for writing. I have little  
to say except that in the goodness &  
mercy of God we are still well & in  
comparative safety - True, we have  
been plundered & despoiled our houses  
entered by plunderers in the grey hours  
of the morning & every nook & corner  
searched every thing taken that they  
wanted, every chicken & turkey killed  
but we have still a plenty to eat & drink  
& are also in good health - The heat  
has not as yet been very great. The  
rich suffer for dainties but & luxuries  
I trust we may be preserved from much  
of it on that account - but it is heart  
rending to see them we love & suffer  
& pine for their comforts - our dear

My dear B. is I have been thinking of  
the two weeks since the first time  
I last ventured to leave home to go to  
the - I have a great change in the  
house to have no power to select  
for other little things myself & every  
where in the house from the  
two days' weather of when I have been  
there for some time of the situation  
our little house of the situation  
the little house of the situation  
that was taken (at least the house) &  
Baker's house but he is expected - He is  
from day but being in the midst of  
things he cannot feel any more -  
But you are not known for the loss of our  
little house - You could find a  
house that is good in all things  
other than his business but from  
him much for a quiet retreat  
on which he is very much  
for a house he was obliged to leave  
the others into a church for refuge -  
of which I have been thinking, saying, it was  
the house of God to be before they would  
have it as they found it. The work  
of him in leaving the house the well &  
have appeared in several places, & some  
brother to - the other than others



My dear friend,  
I am for those comforts - and  
ready to see that we have  
of it in that account - but it is hard  
that we may be prevented from  
giving suffer for comfort - but  
we are not very good. The  
I am also in good health - the  
we are but little a plenty to eat & drink  
to eat, very chicken & butter & milk  
of the economy & every good & every  
interest by pleasure in the good  
we pleasure & happiness in the  
companion what - you, we have  
the only thing we are able to do  
to say except that in the food &  
because I am for nothing, I have little  
in relation to an account is all the  
that - that you have & expect every  
answer as to what whether you have  
an account whether I am account any  
written by friends who have left me  
the money I have written & expect  
address another letter in relation to  
My dear friend of yours

Mary B. is I fear declining. I saw  
 her two weeks since the first time  
 I had ventured to lean home to go so  
 far - I saw a great change in her. She  
 seems to have no power to resist disease  
 poor Ellen will give herself away  
 when her Men is taken from her - & their  
 two boys neither of whom have seen their  
 dear parents for months & I presume  
 are little aware of her situation.  
 Tell Miss Anna Burr was in a battle  
 that was taken (at least the guns) at  
 Baker's Creek but he escaped - He is a  
 brave boy but being in the midst of  
 danger we must feel anxious -

Did you not mourn for the loss of our  
able Jackson - None could fail to  
admire such a grand & noble Christian  
soldier - even his enemies learn from  
him much praise - a friend related  
an incident <sup>which occurred</sup> not long since. Bantam  
by a storm he was obliged to march  
his soldiers into a church for refuge -  
He ~~called~~ addressed them, saying, it was  
the house of God & he hoped they would  
have it as they found it. The next  
morning on leaving he found the walls &  
floor defaced in several places, names  
written <sup>there</sup> &c. - He called those soldiers











what I know to be the truth - one case  
I can tell you of in this neighborhood  
where all were taken out of the field or smelter  
& not allowed to go back to job their children  
or any clothing whatever -

This was done by a set of Sluanders who  
came here & turned the house upside down  
& inside out taking whatever they wanted  
& for nine successive days searched the  
house of a friend & widow six or seven  
miles distant. Subjected constantly to the  
most insulting language - in delicate health  
& recently bereaved she was ill fitted  
to endure it all -

But I must hasten to close - I wish I  
could hear from you & think I may still  
do so if you will write to New Orleans as  
before. - I have had none news for a long time  
& feel intensely anxious about your health  
knowing your anxieties for us will be  
so constant & increasing. It is well or  
was on the 20<sup>th</sup> June when I last heard  
he is not in active duty & I am not satisfied  
with his situation. It is well & still at home  
but will leave in a day or two - I shall  
remain at home & so will all the rest. Be  
in haste what it may.

Perhaps Miss Annie does not know that  
her brother was in the battle of Chancell-  
lorsville & escaped unhurt. If she does  
not know that he is there it would hardly  
be right to tell her. I think her friends  
below are all well. I saw a letter from  
Aida not long since to her Aunt Anne.  
Remember me to all sympathizing friends  
but we do not flatter ourselves that  
we have any. All long & yearn to see  
you & presume a love no dissension can



[illegible]



Mr. Murdoch

August 12 / 63

Dearest Mother

joy that all persons of your different  
 dates to Lansing. I myself, this  
 latest homeward path only left to  
 rejoice that your winter has so far  
 to your own health & comfort & hope  
 the Spring likely to especially so. A gentle  
 man has kindly offered to try to get  
 this to you, but I have many other  
 another opportunity of sending you  
 possibly not just whether even if we are  
 losing. I can assure you that we are  
 reaching you just more than I can tell  
 you. All that comes from us so highly  
 pleased by that it seems like a dream -  
 Thank God all of it is now in a moment  
 -ted; how truly it may be so, I cannot say  
 thing else is, I am sure not if we are  
 not left to receive it, but I am sure that  
 God's interposition is true. I am sure  
 why do I not know it if it were not  
 myself & children of mine & family & all  
 all, but how could I do so. The people  
 knowen & children who have left their  
 & who are suffering but I am sure before  
 them. I am sure they are not  
 I am sure they are not suffering & not  
 family. I cannot say what I am sure  
 but I know they are not suffering & not  
 to go I must have left them many  
 many is too full to endure such terror







3. The first of the books  
 sent to me was a  
 book on the subject of

Mrs. Mary Decker  
 Rockaway, N.Y.  
 Minn.

July 12<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Sir,

I am glad of an opportunity to write a few lines & hope sincerely I may hear from you ere long. We are all in good health - but of course in great gloom & affliction. We have suffered severely in every way but still have much to be thankful for - Neural anxiety is as hard to bear as bodily <sup>distress</sup> - perhaps even more so -

We heard from our friend  
in Virginia since the battle of  
Chancellorsville. He escaped unhurt  
though in a very exposed situation.

Lieut. Owen was again wounded -  
My children are well but suffering much  
in their education - there being no prospects  
at all of any advantages for improve-  
ment. - Our sister Mrs Butler is  
in fast declining health, I am grieved



Eddie was the first of the house servants to leave. She went on a boat where she expected to remain

*Mrs. J. B. [illegible]*



sooner or later in only one way - if they wd only be convinced of it. I wish my dear Uncle could have lived to see peace & union - & to have finished the book he was writing. He was so very much to me, I cannot bear to think he has gone, & yet I can dwell on nothing else when I am alone. He had such noble traits of character, he was in the true signification of the phrase "Nature's nobleman". An unspotted, irreproachable, magnanimous person, who reached as nearly as might be to one's highest standard of a man & a Christian. I grieve to hear of Mrs. Butler's death. I never saw her, but Becky knew & loved her. How very sad about Chaplain. I remember Anne talking of him when he was a little boy & calling him 'Chet'. No - may be that was a Chester. We have lost one of the finest fellows that ever existed in its youngest brother, 22 years old, killed in the battle of Gettysburg. Give a heart full of warmest love to Anne & Jane & Ellen & Essy from me when you are writing to them. Give your dear Mother a long fervent kiss & the dear daughters my blessing & my love to young Mrs Bristol

Monday - March 28/64

What a pleasure it was dearest Fanny to see yr handwriting again! - I cd hardly believe my eyes - I am glad enough that you are safe & sound with your daughters in New Haven, & I wish the other dear ones were only out of Mabeldom or whatever you call it. Secession or the Confederacy. I shall be glad to know where you place the girls, would love to have them near us, so that I could see their young sweet faces sometimes. We would not quarrel over politics, we shd consider them a taboed subject. I think for the reasons you mention you are wiser in showing N. York. You do not tell me when you came on - if your Mother died, I never heard, I never got any letter from her, or I shd not have been so graceless as to let it go

Let my own cordial service to your Mother & give my respect & affection to your Mother & your daughters  
Love  
Anne  
R  
Bros.



unacknowledged - I wondered  
& wondered that I did not  
hear; some little time after  
I wrote to her, I went on to  
Norwich, & the cook, a sort of  
housekeeper who was left in  
charge here ~~read~~ the letters

that came in my absence.  
I said such & such were  
to be forwarded, all others  
kept till my return. Since  
then we have found she was  
dishonest in many ways,  
she probably robbed me  
of valuable jewellery whose  
disappearance can be account-  
ed for in no other way & so  
I dare say she discovered there  
was money in one of the  
letters & helped herself to it.  
It never occurred to me  
that your Mother had written  
& the letter had been lost.

When I saw that beloved  
Lady, she seemed so feeble  
& broken & sad - I just thought  
she had done as I asked with  
the enclosure, & then had not  
strength or spirits to do  
any thing more about it  
& so did not write. It isn't  
a bit of matter, only I am dis-  
appointed that no little speak

of a remembrance from me  
went down there. <sup>I was so ill I did not  
get any thing myself.</sup>  
May God preserve your  
boys, Fanny, you have had  
trouble enough, & I know  
well what a sore heart  
broken & crushed is left,  
to mourn for the slain in  
battle. - Darling Fanny, when  
you can run on here for  
a few days - do - that's an  
angel - we could talk more  
in half an hour than we  
could write in years - let me know  
a little while before so that I can  
save all my strength for that. I  
don't get up to a meal often &  
I suffer for talking or reading  
or writing or doing any thing,  
but I can do things which I  
am wound up to it, just  
for a little while, so I could have  
you here for three or four days  
lying on my bed & driving out  
with me, & I will allow you  
I. all the subjects the universe  
furnishes, except the one of  
the war & the country - God  
speed the end! & before there  
is much more bloodshed -  
You say truly it must end



Mrs. John Murdoch



Ventnor. Isle of Wight

I saw Hampton Court with its pictures & tapestry, Pope's villa & the remains of it & the grotto, & Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill - At the Isle of Wight I rode on donkeys & was drawn by little ponies in a Bath chair, drove 22 miles to Carisbrooke Castle without parasol or veil in a bright sun, because I wanted to get burnt & look brown & healthy for St. P. But when I got home my forehead & nose were blistered & I was well paid for my folly - I wish with a stick my nose being packed. Give my love most

I am not there now  
nearest Sunday, but in London  
on the 31st of August. Tomorrow  
we shall be in salt water in  
our common universal salt water  
and it is a treat, but I can  
bear any horrid thing beautifully  
after this rich treat this afternoon  
for such a loving letter from  
you full of nothing dying I love best  
your warm heart, I would forgive  
you if you'd murdered my  
next friend, certainly I have  
no difficulty - Then about  
such a trifle as a long silence.  
We shall do better when I get

Warmly to your dear Mother  
to your father & to your sister  
I am your affectionate friend  
John Murdoch



back again & try to have the  
mails more regular between  
us. At first glance I felt dread-  
fully about your husband, I  
do not now however, for the  
blood cannot be from the  
lungs. & I have happened to know  
several cases, where the bleeding  
was a relief & a natural regu-  
lity & health was the ultimate  
result. In crossing the Atlantic  
we met on board the Canada a  
Mrs. Wheelwright, "fair fat & forty"  
who ten years ago, had just such  
copious discharges as you speak  
of - She had the most eminent

English Physicians - Sir James  
Clark said she did not live  
a week, that one lung was  
gone & Thers agreed with him  
she recovered entirely & is now  
as strong a woman as you  
will meet with any where.  
It must have been from the  
stomach - I never knew you  
had another baby, I thought  
the youngest was that dear  
little puss who had such a  
raw arm pit in Flatbush. I  
shall be full of interest & anx-  
iety about you dear old Larry  
so if there is any remark-  
ble improvement, try to let me  
know. My affection increases  
in proportion to the distance  
& I shall soon be 5000 miles  
off - I have been able to travel  
100 miles a day with rests  
between, & now I scarcely re-  
quire to lie down unless I  
do foolish things, I can walk  
& don't measure my distance  
& feel proud of half a mile  
as I used to do at water cures.  
We have been over some of the  
Southern counties so lovely in  
their finished beauty, then I  
was sent to the Astorville at Clif-  
ton & spent a charming week  
in the environs of Myrtle &  
for the last few days we have been  
at Swickenham with Mrs Sturge  
who lives in grand style, 180 servants  
& all the men in gay lively like so many  
harlequins waiting in tables.



My sweet Fanny.

A thousand  
thanks would I return you, for your  
kindness in honouring my humble roof  
with your presence — It shall be my  
ambition to make you sensible of my  
gratitude, which shall be done by kisses  
embraces or any thing of the kind that  
you will submit to from yr  
attached friend.

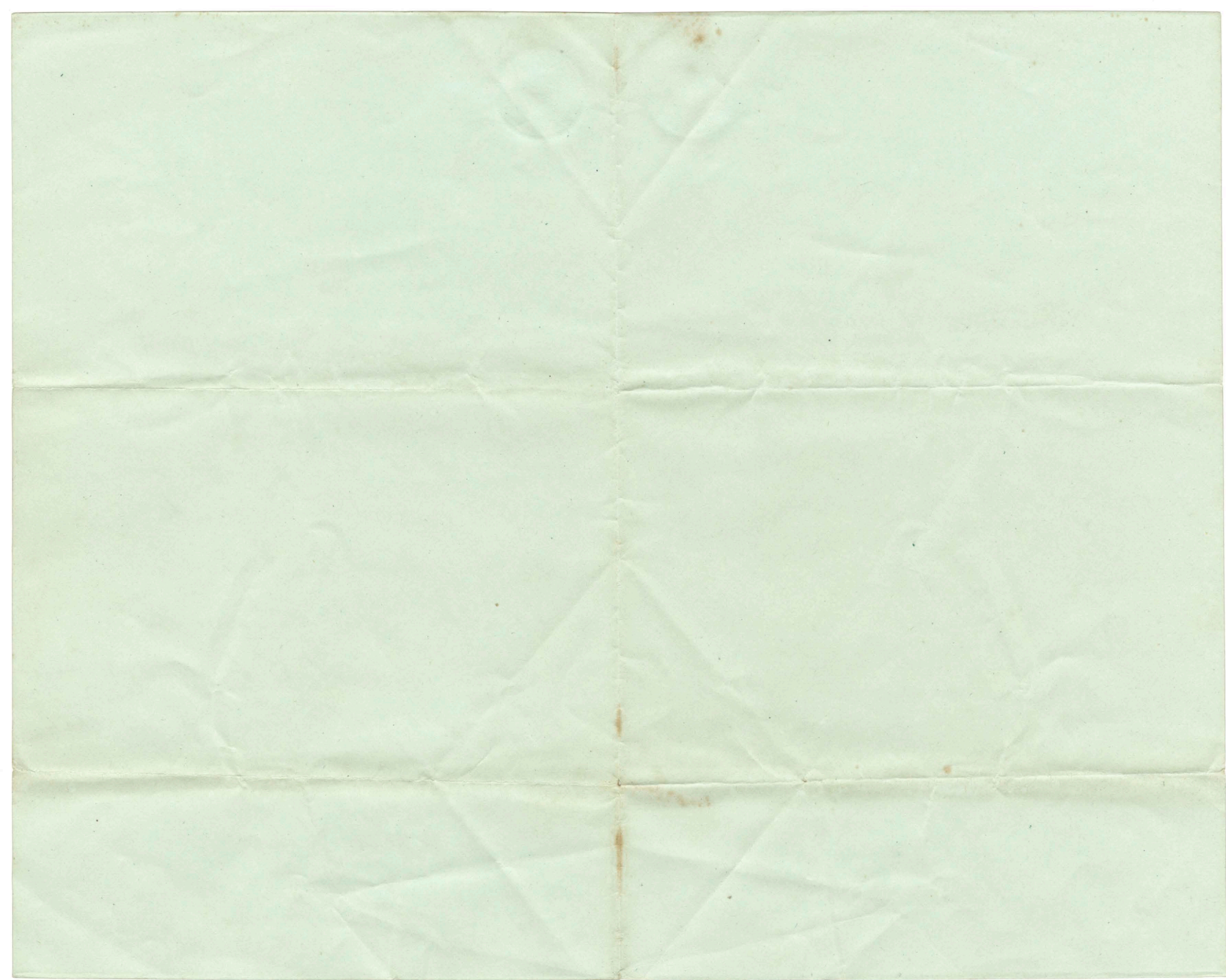
Anna —

Don't conclude that I am struck with  
lunacy —

— Mrs. Murdock

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I very angry with - his son. But all  
that does not help me -

I am seriously disposed to go to see Genl.  
Adams, myself but I understand he is  
in the great jam of the Yankees from  
Hohokum, still I cannot live here  
without my team & perhaps my gun  
may be more affect than Johnnie -

Johnnie is to be at home this morning  
on a furlough of 30 days. I am looking  
for him every moment - I understood  
his papers for not such as will get  
him out of the army - so after all  
this delay & disappointment my plans  
are again to be frustrated -

I hope there will be no difficulty about  
the money. If your house will  
not advance it on my draft you can  
pay I think draw on Duncan, Sherman  
& Co. by a letter from Lewis R.

<sup>enclose the draft in my brother</sup>  
Marshall stating his knowledge of  
my having funds at the north. It  
was for this I was most anxious to  
go down but I hope you can arrange  
it & that I can try & save this property  
so unjustly seized.

Please <sup>show of my</sup> enclose this letter to my brother  
as I have no time to write to him &  
they will wonder at not hearing from  
me from New Orleans - I will

Enclose a list of Groceries - Employ Mr.

I enclose 2 drafts  
on my brother  
for \$2000 a first  
& second sight -  
draft  
I mean by  
I understand in the  
whole sum -  
order -  
I am so much  
in winter  
that I am  
with correct  
My dear Friend.  
Thursday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

I trust you received the  
25 Bales Cotton sent down by  
"Grey Eagle" last Saturday together  
with my letter reporting the same  
to "Duff Green & Co." In that letter  
I requested you to pay the tax to the  
Government & hold on to the cotton  
until I should be able to come down  
or prices should be such as to justify  
a sale - which latter I do not think  
will be the case at present -  
My object in shipping is to get it safely  
out of the Confederacy & also to get  
some supplies - Of the dreadful  
misfortune that happened me I need  
only time to allude to - 24 Bales  
Swagons & 12 yoke of oxen were seized  
by Lt. Paddock's scout. & are now  
probably I suppose on their way  
to Jackson - if not appropriated



sold by the scents themselves - The  
remaining 25 Bales which I sent you  
were got in the night previous & were  
stowed in Brighton's warehouse. I  
perceive I saved them from seizure  
by sending word to Capt. Wright <sup>of Gun Boat</sup> to bring  
out his men & protect it - to the  
Commanding which he did most promptly  
& kindly, sending out 60 men &  
patrolling every corner - He guarded  
it at the shore until night when the  
"Grey Eagle" came down. I saw Capt.  
Wright, delivered my letters & permitted  
to him; but neglected to ask him to get  
me a bill of lading for the cotton which  
should have been done -

This was on Saturday morning. I then  
returned & hearing that my cotton  
had been intercepted on its way out  
the night previous (although it had gone  
under agreement that it should pass to  
Oakland & should be arranged between  
Capt. Blanchard & Lieut. Paddock  
commanders of the two sets of scents  
on the next day.) I immediately started  
to follow the cotton with the hope of  
recovering the teams if possible. I ~~searched~~  
tracked it out the Oakland road to John  
Griffin's place - from there to Dr. Holand's  
It then turned about round (instead as you

were observed) of going on to Head Quarters  
at Fayette, passed through old George  
Dewitt's place & Mrs. Dobbin's to Dunbar  
Hunts <sup>evidently to bring it nearer the river</sup> - I arrived there just after  
it had reached Mrs. Hunts - The  
next morning I went out nearly to Fayette  
& tried to get the teams released from  
Lieut. Paddock, but failed to move him in  
any way, tho I promised him under  
bond that the teams should be surren-  
dered at Genl. Adams whenever demanded  
I urged the impossibility of my doing any  
thing toward getting ready for spring  
planting without them but he was  
stubbornly bent on reporting it to Genl.  
Adams tho his men are known to have  
been getting in cotton all the time to  
the river - proof of this has now gone  
up to Genl. Adams -

You will understand it is all for effect  
They must report occasionally that  
they have captured or burned cotton  
in order to make it appear at Head  
Quarters that they are doing their  
duty - while almost nightly they them-  
selves have been seeing broods &  
winning the blockade themselves -  
Tommy Drake a son of Mr. Drake who you  
know is seriously interested in getting  
it in himself was one of the three who  
seized it. His father I saw at Mrs.  
Hunts & he seemed exceedingly mortified



the South  
into submission by taking away all  
the means of tilling the soil or  
disencumbering it & leaving the slave  
to be an incubus upon the owner  
when he can be of no use to them.  
It is said an emancipation act has  
passed the Southern Senate - I rejoice  
at it & wish the South could at  
first have settled upon that -  
Perhaps the whole difficulty could  
have been settled - but I fear there is  
no prospect of a speedy settlement  
I must hasten to a close as my  
time is short - Perhaps no-one about  
us at last in our immediate  
vicinity has had a greater abundance  
this the war than I have - How  
much longer this may last we  
cannot tell because any raid  
might sweep all edible off the  
place - Flour & coffee & all delicacies  
have always been scarce & high  
but we have never been without  
the two former necessities - all trading  
with Hatcher or Ficksburg is now  
forbidden by an authority so that  
<sup>what</sup> ~~so that~~ we may do hereafter is  
all uncertain -

I, by no means, give up, however,

Cane Mount Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

My dear Sir:

Yours of Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>  
this New Orleans was only recd.  
shortly after Christmas. One  
from Mrs B. however, I directed  
to care of friends in Hatcher (dated  
Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>) was received a few days  
since - From that I conclude that  
a previous letter written Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>  
in Hatcher was never received.  
I consider the mails very uncertain  
my letter of Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> probably  
went rapidly owing to the frank -  
The weather here has been so violent  
that I have found it impossible to  
move from home for the last two  
weeks even if there had not been  
other causes which rendered leaving



have almost impossible.

Elliot's Marine Brigade has been in our neighborhood on the river for several weeks past & expecting from their previous course on the river in countries above that we would be plundered perhaps burned out & every thing laid waste, I of course could not think of leaving home. They have however come out only in small bodies of cavalry who did not plunder but merely took all the prisoners they could find not only those in the army but those prospectively so.

Loken who had just returned from Carolina narrowly escaped being taken spent one day in a passing rain in the woods & thickets to avoid it.

He has had a substitute but now that is repealed & those who have already furnished substitutes will be obliged to go in, ~~because~~ (his substitute was not over 48.)

One plantation near Rodney belonging to the

Hunt estate is entirely deserted of <sup>negroes, cattle, hogs, sheep &c.</sup> every thing. Many other negroes went to them but none from here. To say that they will not all eventually go <sup>not</sup> is far from my opinion. Those that remain are so idle & worthless, so thievish & destructive it is a question whether they were not better absent than present - I view it as an impossibility to raise <sup>another</sup> <sup>(even off corn)</sup> a crop with them in the condition they now are -

of those that went from the Hunt place two weeks ago - twenty are already dead - But I believe it to be an impossibility to give you an idea of the state of things unless you were here to see for yourself - My house servants & many others <sup>on the place</sup> have always behaved well & done all they could but when there are so many idle it is very discouraging to the good - especially to see what they are making, destroyed & wasted - The present plan of the South is to starve



more than your own self  
do not forget it prople  
in friendship with looks  
of steel - I cannot  
give tit for tat... it is  
an ably written letter  
but pray put in one  
affectionate line that  
she may not conclude  
the folk has beaten us

Yours own  
loving  
Aunt

Wm Sampson -

Your letter received  
to night, apologizing in a measure  
for my remarkable reception in  
your house yesterday, has made  
proper an answer to your letter of  
Sunday - Had I received that  
letter before having home of course  
I should have understood your feelings  
well enough to assure ~~me~~ that you  
had no desire to meet me except  
on your own platform. Had I  
known that you viewed yourself as  
a political & public character, endorsing  
every act of the government & a  
catechist of any that might come,  
within Federal lines I should certainly  
have sought Pres Lincoln in preference.

As however, you have in this way  
identified yourself with the whole  
north, I must <sup>with you</sup> stand where you  
have chosen to place me, with the  
South - & as you have chosen to believe  
that revenge, hate &c, fill every  
bosom then, you may take it for  
granted that I am one of them -



It is easy to see that Union to you  
means nothing but extermination of  
the South. If you could thus  
secure one whom you had some  
reason to believe was loyal &  
whose for so many reasons might have  
expected your sympathy, what possi-  
bility could there be of unity with  
the <sup>people of the</sup> South. It is the land depopulated  
& divested of every former land mark  
that you must wish to unite with.  
I have now, not a doubt - that you  
would be pleased to see its whole  
present population drowned in  
their own blood - With such feelings  
I can have no sympathy & I rejoice  
that your position is so fully explained  
Most thankful <sup>at</sup> I that I may  
believe that all the north - are  
not kindred spirits - The north - is  
probably large enough for you & me  
& I presume I may if I wish  
live here & find friends -  
Did I believe that you were the  
chief of the South, then would I  
say to the South - Light on May  
you never submit to such an

ungracious job -

F. L. M.

What do you think of this  
my niece Miss Chaplain.  
Your fond aunt wishes to read.  
Do you think it very lady like  
I think it is fit for her -

My dear Friend

I do not think  
you utter kind enough  
remember the brotherly love  
we have both vowed to  
practice towards each  
other - it is far more  
unkind than her's  
which seek to widen  
the breach - Real it is  
possible even if you would  
love yourself - He has been a  
good friend of your's and  
of the whom you loved



My dear friend I want you to write to  
my dear Mother when you get rested  
send your journey. Tell her I send the  
mineral to her. I fear I may lose  
them. That we are little at any time  
to have every thing taken from us that  
nothing of the kind is respected here  
where parents have begged for the most  
precious remains & being of them but only  
even their dead bodies have been searched  
to get the precious things out.

I want her to keep them carefully as it  
is all I have left her. I want her to understand why I  
cannot leave her because I might be obliged  
to take the path next because I am not  
willing to leave the body I think because I  
do not know that I would have any thing  
to live on should I wish to go north  
because I could take so little with me  
that I hope to get away from this scene  
of danger & strife into a safer region  
where at least we may be free from  
the terror we now suffer.

But I want to see that training some men  
that have remained here are just  
going out with their families. What will  
become of them? I do not know. Many  
will be taken to death or they will be  
incured for - poor deluded creatures.  
I hope you will have your views of  
things because they co-incide with ours  
& because we cannot express them.

If things are as they were  
formerly, I presume you can send  
them.



[illegible]