

those who were used to such a climate.

Oh! how I long to have all our family
united & ~~confiding~~ ones. How are Aunt
Caroline's children now I hope little
Louise has recovered without any more
convulsions. It is so sad poor little
fellow how much he has suffered in
his lifetime. All are well here now
& in Port Gibson also much better
now, about the same. He does not preach
now, they have got another minister
there now to take his place. Aunt
Mary is very very sad. Aunt Ellen &
her children have for Judge Perkins next
week the lives in Columbus in the
Southern part of this state. She is going
to stay there 2 months & then meet Aunt
Pink & Chaplain in New Orleans &
take a steamer for N. York & straight from
N. York to Stockbridge & after staying there
a while they are coming to Mr. Haven.
They do not expect to return home
until November. A very long stay
to make. But their health requires it.

Aunt Anne is looking very sad
& here (one of the children) has been
very unwell all the winter. They have
been very much troubled about her.
But I hope that the trip will improve
them all. It has been so long since
they have been north. Did Louise
spend all his vacation with you? It
was not a very long one. Where does
Engene go to school now: to Mr. Russell?
& Willie & Mary where do they go. I
suppose Mary could not think of leaving
her friend, Miss Talbot. We
are expecting a letter from you in a
day or two as Louise wrote that you
had intended to send one ⁱⁿ this letter
but afterwards concluded not to send
it. I wish you had but I suppose it will
come in in a few days. Maria says the
other day you was so much better
about quilting than she was. But Maria
never seems to get time to write any letters
especially when Papa is away she has so
very much to do. It takes up a great deal

Gone - Mrs. Anna

co. Lallie is at school up here now
she is going with Blanche to her
Daddy's School; a very inferior
school to the one we went to before
when up here. As you have heard before
expect to go to N. Orleans after Christmas
though Ma has not decided on a
school yet. You seem very anxious for
me to go to Miss Grace, I hope though
that I shall never go there. I want to
finish my education at The South
though I don't suppose I shall.

Hattie Lewis is at the "Priory" in York
now; both she and her sister Ellen
very much pleased. They expect to
finish their education there.

Hattie is a fine girl I never met
with one I liked more so good hearted
with fine principles. Aunt Jane got
a long letter from Pa a few days
since. He wrote that ~~he~~ he stopped
Willie from playing billiards
that he had began to give up

every thing for that & so he thought
it best to stop him from playing
entirely. When Pa told Willie that he
must stop it he got very angry and
proposed that he withdraw from his
contract for the \$10.000 which I suppose
you have heard Pa has offered with
the boys at St. if they will abstain
from all sorts of liquor, card playing,
gambling, and the like. Pa & then gave
him 24 hours to consider about it &
after that length of time if he made
up his mind to withdraw from it he could
but Pa says the next day he came
to him ~~xxx~~ in his usual good humour
& told him he would not give up. -
Pa says he is very impulsive though
a noble hearted boy. I admired
his gentlemanly conduct greatly
during my visit he is indeed
a noble boy. - Pa fears the
teacher he has got for him is not
just what I am sorry for that. -

Care Mount
January. 1872/2.

My own dear Grandma.

How I wish you could be here to soothe poor Mother's grief what an unspeakable comfort you would be to her. Oh! if you had been here to see his sufferings. Ma said it was awful to see him ~~struggling~~ struggling for breath. The last struggle was dreadful but there he was at rest. How delightful ^{ed} beyond expression must he have been when he met his saviour the one he had so long longed to see. I think before his ^{death} ~~he~~ had become willing to go. It was a long time before you brought him to that but I think he was so at last. How unexpected must have been the news to you you had I know looked anxiously for the letter containing the news of his safe arrival at home & of our joy at getting him again; but never dreaming of how soon we must part and that forever. In this world though we hope to be a united family above before very long.

had them situated in the room next door to the
did not like it. Ben & Nora have also gotten
through with it. He was very much it would go
hard with these as ~~the~~ Nora is in such bad
Health & Ben just recovered from such a long
& dangerous illness. He expects to leave soon
to go with cousin John. He is going with him
as footman. He goes because the Dr. will not
let him study at all this winter & thinks
a change will be beneficial to him. He will get a
salary of \$50. a month which I suppose he will
help his Ma with. Times are pretty ^{hard} down this
way. I am sorry to hear you are for disunion. I ~~am~~
shall be if the world joined in saying it was best
that America should be divided I should not
think so. We should not think of what is
best for the north or what is best for the south
but what is best for the country. The greatest
exertment prevails here. an army has been gotten
up in Port Gibson also one being gotten up for
here in this neighborhood. Though I ~~do~~
sincerely hope they will never be used. Prof. Lilliman

Dr. Bucknidge who only talked with him for a short time said he had no doubts of his being a christian, he trusted in his Saviour.

Oh my dear Grandma when he died I felt as if I could bear anything then the grief was so great; but our heavenly Father never gives us more than we can bear. I feel as if this sorrow will prove a blessing to us all it brings us nearer to Jesus "Our all." We feel as our earthly props are taken more dependance on him "who careth for us"

She intends writing you soon she longs more & more to have you with her as a solace in her great sorrow & loneliness. Our family are fast being gathered together about many of Aunt Mary's & three of ours. Aunt Jane remarked the day after Pa's death "Oh! Fannie what a meeting it must have ^{been} between John & Mother." He was her only unconverted child at his death & was the subject of many many of her prayers. Have you ever seen the hymn, "How firm

a foundation ye saints of the Lord" Pa thought it was the most beautiful hymn in the whole hymn book. The last verse is beautiful

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for rest
I will not shrink not desert to his feet.

That soul though all hell should endeavor to-
shake. I'll never! no never! no never! forsake."

It is among the hymns sung in the Episcopal church! also. Pa had a hymn book presented to him by all his sisters. & each one of them have marked hymns for him in it. Aunt Jane marked "how firm a foundation" as his mother's favorite & on the ship one day Willie was reading them all over to him & the Captain (not a religious man was standing by. After Willie had finished Pa asked the capt. which he liked the best "Well he said I like them all but I think yr. Mother's favorite is the best."

We have all got through "the measles" Essie Dora & I have been well a week. Willie did not take them so I don't think he will ever have them as he says when Cousin Lewis had

again but it was even so. So strange I should have been too the one that went to Minnesota the only one then Sonnie should have been allowed to see him last summer. and all the children except him & myself were with him the last week of his life but only two allowed to see the last awful struggle. Ma said it was terrible - he gave one agonizing look then fell back & died. We had given him up the day before his death but we were no better prepared for it when it did come. Oh Grandma this is a painful subject to dwell upon but my heart keeps coming back to it and my continues to writhe - why should not weak mortals trust in their Blessed Saviour why can't they & yet they repine under his chastening arm - We have not time for this, soon we be called "let us work while it is day". Bring souls to Christ - & with his help draw them out of eternal perdition - we are but dust. -

I should like to hear you were having as beautiful weather as we are we have been having some extremely cold days but it is now very mild - indeed -

Feb. 3rd 1861.

Thurs. Morn.

Dearest Grandma -

We are now no longer the "United States of America" so the world changes - but perhaps it is all for the best. We hope soon to hear from you - it is almost time, since our last news reached you. Your heart I know is with us. Ma seems so broken hearted she seems to wail the whole time - It is a great consolation & pleasure to her to have one of the ladies with her as one of them have been ever since Pa's death - It is so hard to yield to our kind Heavenly Father's will in such a stroke though it must "be for the best". But sometimes when I think of his last indescribable sufferings I feel almost glad he is now at rest -

I admired his every action. every impulse so lofty nothing low in him. Then our dear ones are taken from us it is so hard to see the colonies of the world. - They look on us so indifferently in our sorrow. But then why should we expect them to feel for us. But still it strikes me most forcibly. We are unprotected & alone. But isn't sweet to think of what a warm sympathy we have in

our "blessed Redeemer" - He looks down
upon us in our sorrow with a truly
pitying eye - The thought is most delightful
to me - "For he careth for us" - Surely good is
good - Ma sent you a copy of a piece
of poetry sent her by Mrs Lannan - wasn't
it perfectly beautiful. It was such a
comfort to Ma too, it came the day after -
Dear Sonnie we all wish he ^{would} have been here
Aunt Anne said he was so distressed
last summer when they told him he
must do all he could for his Pa that they
were afraid it would be the last time he
would ever see him - He little thought
during his pleasant vacation how soon
his joy would be laid low in the dust -
An - Hi - Miak sent us a small photograph
of him which we were delighted to get
Dora who is cooking just came to me
"puffing & blowing" to complain that
Elin forgot the egg (egg). I gave her the
key with the request she would not
return - She had just before come to
complain of Maria who she says
will not mind her - "won't mind anything
I tell her" - I told her the best remedy
for that would be a whipping which she

hardly might administer - She agreed
that a whipping would improve her
but was rather doubtful of giving
it herself - I call her a "Straight forward
Irishman" she is blunt & decided -
When she says she is going to do anything
she pretty generally does it, if allowed -
Ma has ^{not} succeeded in getting a
teacher though is now trying - I do not she
will ever send me away now she will be too
lonely - Though when Elin & Dolie grow ^{a little} bigger
they will be nice little company -
I should hate very much to leave Ma though
that was my only objection ^{to} going to
New Orleans & going without Sallie also -
I do hate to be separated from her we
have always been together you know -
The longest time I have ever been
separated from her was at the time
I went to Minnesota - It strikes me as
so providential that all of us have been
allowed to be Pa for a time before his
death - I don't know how sick he was
after he reached here - I often dreamed as
I looked at him as I passed out of the
library to go to bed that it would be
the last time I would ever set eyes on him

This may never reach you dear Grandma
though I hope it will as I know you look
anxiously for letters. Pres. Buchanan has
or intends to close all the Post Offices
of the seceding States - he is a changeable
comedian half the time for as half the time
against us - we are in the right
though I firmly believe as I have heard
the subject calmly discussed often &
have read about every article that comes
out - The Southerners are a pretty high
headed set and I think discussion
inevitable - Still Providence may
interpose - "His ways are past finding out"
The north is too uncompromising -
Lincoln & Mississ. have sent 2000
men to Florida to aid in taking
the fort at Pensacola - from the Federal
troops who still stand their ground
though several have yielded - This is
most important fort I hope they will
succeed in taking - we must have our
rights or we can't live together -
How foolish this all sounds coming
from me but still I take the greatest
interest in it all & I suppose there is
no harm in expressing my opinion
to you - I have written this page hastily &

though the wind rather cool. It is not
much like winter now -
We have only had two snow storms this
winter one of those lasted three or four
days - but the last one but a short time
yellies continues to be a great help to Mother
he rides about over the place every day
doing a great deal a lady can't do -
He is thinking of entering college here I
hope he will not learn all the badness these
college boys know. They are about the worst
set I ever heard of - St. Bruckenside says -
it is a continual contest which shall gain
the mastery the boys or the tutors. In the
"Preparatory Department" originates much of
the badness - Their teacher Mr. Black (a
most inefficient man I should think from
what I hear) is wholly unable to control
them and they do pretty much as they
please, as an instance yesterday two
of the boys got some spectacles & put some
large paper shades on them & put them on
in school & got all of the boys laughing
Mr. Black instead of keeping them in or
giving some punishment for so small an
offence just told them he would have
them up before the faculty -
I suppose he did not know what to
do with them such a teacher should not
be there -

They are having trouble there all the time
They are to have the whole school up
today about smoking the school house
all such things they are doing
continually. I expect Dr. B. thinks
Southern boys are hard cases and so a
great many of them are. They are not
brought up to obey - You would not be
at all surprised though at this if you
heard some of them how they talk to their
own parents. It is perfectly astonishing
to me how they do allow it - But they
do - My only hope is that Annie & Willie
may not grow up so - and be a disgrace
to us all -

All of us are perfectly well now I have
had no cases of measles on the place
I am truly glad we escaped that trouble
Little Nora though continues very unwell
indeed The Dr. thinks her very sick
Aunt Ellen is most anxious for about her
She is a frail little thing - I am studying
now with Ma I get two French lessons
and a history lesson - I am so lonely
down here as you know Zulu is in
Port Gibson - She goes to an extremely
poor school though I suppose it is
better than being idle - I think I

will leave these two last pages to
Chillie if I don't think anything else to
tell you & Ma has called me to
my lessons - But I will tell you how
nearly we are fixed this winter -

Ma is in the dining room with E & I
that was his room when he came home
and I think that is the reason why Ma
has chosen it for this winter - I am up
stairs in the top old room - I have it all
to myself and I find it so nice & quiet to
"read in" & "write in" & "think in" Willie
has the next room the one you had
when here - We use the library as
sitting room & dining room - as the
parlor is too large for our lonely little
family - Aunt Mary is also left very lonely
Bess & Cousin John are now gone to
Seaneatha. La - & no one is home but
Dad cousin Ellen & her Ma all
day the children being at school all
day - What a small family they have
now to what they once had - They have
always had such a large merry household -
Aunt Mary likes to have all of our
children come up there so much -
It seems to cheer them up -
But I must stop -
Yrs. Lizzie

with shelves all round opening into
the kitchen - It is just such a one as
yours only it is the one for the kitchen &
yours your own pantry. There is one just
above it opening into it. They have sent
to Florence for Statuary. They are going to
have splendid chandeliers. Then the observatory
on top you have a fine view of the river
from it - a splendid airy place to use as
a summer resort. I think I should like
sleeping up there some of our close summer nights.
The bed rooms are extremely large and roomy.
There is a reservoir on top too, full of water and
ready for use. Every thing about the establishment
is splendid - Mr. Daniels thought the worst of all
is very sick indeed. He said to Mr. Suland the
other day he was just as sure of being a dead man
soon as he would be if a bullet was through his
heart. How sad. "God works in a mysterious way."
He has gone to New Orleans now with Dr. Williams to
consult Dr. Hunt there. Dr. H. does not think
he has consumption - Mr. D. is very low spirited
which is very much against him. He never would
have lived so long if he had not always kept up &
taken exercise & he fought against it too -

March. 11th / 1861.

dearest Grandma -

I am not keeping my promise
to write you oftener, very well - I wrote Sonnie
the other day I would not write him so
often but that I was the only one to write as
Willie is out all day on the place and Ma
has her hands full you may know - so you
will take mine when you cannot get many
from other members of our household -
We are all begging Ma to bring Sonnie
home and every person that gets out
Ma thinks seriously of bringing him
home - Judge Farrar from St. Joseph went
on to Troy to get his two daughters last
week and Ma said then she was sorry
she had not sent for J. to come home
with him - but afterwards remembered she
would be not be able to draw on Uncle
John yet. Ma now says she will wait
until things come to a conclusion. Lincoln's
inaugural speech plainly showed he was
in for "war", in that case Virginia says

She will secede, the rumour day before
yesterday was that she had seceded
though we do not know for certain - we
also heard they were fighting at Ft. Sumpter
this I hope will prove untrue - as many
other reports have done - I sincerely hope
though that it is true of Virginia. If she
secedes the other border States will it be
thought - and then we will be pretty
strong - The news to-day we got from
Aunt Anne in Fort Gibson she says all think
now "war", can be asserted - Oh! how I sincerely
do hope that will prove true - When Sonny
comes home, why couldn't you come out
here with him - Uncle Albert wrote Ma
some time ago a long kind letter in which
he offered Conder Bellis services to Ma
as agent on our plantations he said
though he did not know whether Conder
Mr. would be willing to leave the business
he is now engaged in or not. I think it
doubtful though. Ma wrote ⁱⁿ she would
like him very much indeed - I would

be the greatest help imaginable to her &
I hope he will come - Ma only wants help
until Willie has finished college & is able
to take charge of things in general -
Ma does not know yet whether W. will
complete his education here or not, he is
very much averse to going away again & I
don't think he will might be - Home is
the place for me. Miss Emma Buckner asked
me if I did not feel very sorry at the idea
of remaining here all this summer. I told
her no indeed I did not I was glad I was
going to remain here - All that I ^{will} ever want
to go to the north for again will be solely to
see you as I like the South and Southern
people and am content to stay right here
the rest of my life. Mr Smith Daniel's
new house is now completed - and it is
a magnificent building. The parlors are
splendid the whole ceiling, cornice & the
kitchen looks like the shaker's kitchen
near Innisfree Mass - it is so beautiful &
nice nice closets cupboards an a pantry

Mon 11. 2. 1854. On mail -

5/12

They both remind me of the rich man in the bible who intended building larger barns and preparing to spend many a happy day here - They have both been building such tremendous and splendid buildings and now so near their latter end -

Oh! Should we not spend all our time in preparing for death - As Ma said to me the other day just as I was thinking the same. "But it strange people will work so hard to get money and ^{after} all their trouble how soon they die & see no more" the solemn change we should always keep before us & "Prepare to meet our God" -

Dora's little Shetland pony arrived day before yesterday much to the gratification of the little ones - & Ma got Mr Allison a friend of ours to send to Scotland for it -

It is extremely small though Henry ^{carriage driver} says it will grow - Dora rides it quite fearlessly but Essie will not even get on it

Dora is an independant little character

She is more like a boy she looks very much like a boy too.

I said the pony was his I made a mistake it ~~is~~ is Edie's. They done both got a little pair of Miss ^{Peirce's} raised ponies that are quite pretty. Henry got them for them last summer. They ought to be healthy children as they are out all day long with Henry & takes them riding in the wagon with him after wood every day. Ma allows them to go with him as he is so very gentle with, and careful of them & they are very fond of him. I wonder how little Carry and Bonnie would like I don't think little Carry would look so much like a little whif doll if she tried the free southern children's way long, both she & Bonnie I am remember as looking so exceedingly pale, the dear little creatures I wish you would write no more about them. Cousin Fannie thinks often of them. I Mary too how I would like to see them - all -

Now I will stop dear J. as I know I have tired you out. All of us are pretty well though Edie

"Old Lincoln" prisoner and "tar & feather" - ^{him} As the N.Y. Republican
papers ~~say~~ say we do all northerners, Cousin Willie has written
Ma he cannot come now though we hope he will come in
the fall. Both Uncle Albert and he are afraid of coming
here I think. They think a northerner would not be able to
get along here. It is very natural to feel so from the dreadful
stories the papers have of the way they are treated here -

We are glad dear Sonnie is with you now, Ma telegraphed
the day before yesterday to him "to remain in New Haven
until further orders" - He has received I suppose either
yesterday or today as Ma's letter went at the same
time by express. All of the aunts are very anxious to
have him brought home - I am the same. Please tell
him I received the piece and send many many thank you's
to the dear boy. They ~~are~~ ^{are} with his long letter
to Willie yesterday. I will write to him in a few days
I must close now dear Grandma - as Ma has me learn
& say 2 or 3 lessons every day read history and
practice an hour and a half - Kiss dear Sonnie for
me and give my love to all -

Your fond grand-daughter -
L. A. Murdock
12th April - (when finished) -
Friday morning -

Cane Throat
April 7th 1861.

dearest Grandma.

We have just heard of the death of
Lillie, Kida. Oh! how sad & I pray her death may prove a
blessing to dear Sonnie. We were greatly troubled when we heard
she had died of that dreadful disease (dysentery), ^{fearing Sonnie might catch it.} But as Ma
says he is in God's hands and if he were with us we could not
hinder. The thought is sweet it alleviated entirely all my fears. The
dear Saviour Oh! how can we love him enough. Dear Sonnie
must be now with you. There is scarcely a day, that he is not
spoken of here among us all and we long to have him with us
again. Lillie's death must have been very unexpected indeed
Miss Dwight seemed very much attached to her more so than the
other little one. Mr. Danell as you have been written has
been sick for a good while now he is extremely low. The Dr.
says he may possibly live a week. His was last week in
frantic delirium for three days, which was most distressing
to the family, for the last few days he has been perfectly free
from all deliriousness. ~~The~~ Sunday they all thought he was
dying he himself thought. He said. "I am dying bring me the
children" & all were brought but the youngest Charlie when
he said very loud & plain. "Charlie! bring me Charlie." They

then thought he could not be dying with such a strong voice
and told him he was not dying. He said "Yes, Sam". Sam (our
Ireland) thinks Sam". Mr. Sullivan then told ^{him} ~~us~~ he
didn't think he was - He cannot get over this though Ma
says. We hope he is prepared for this great change. He united
with the church Sunday before last. - He has been too sick to
say much on the subject. Ma stayed there one ~~a~~ night. Though
there doesn't seem anything to be done. His poor wife is
heart broken. What is this world but one cup of sorrows.
We can sympathize with them we have taken the cup
to the very dregs and know full well its bitterness -
But why can we not be resigned to the will of "our Father" -
I don't expect Ma writes to you very often. She is always writing
but seldom gets a chance to write any but ~~xxxx~~ business
letters. Willie has entered college. He entered "Freshman"
but gets in the "Sophomore" next month. We tell him he
has got to get the valedictory in this small college -
I fear the influence of such boys will be injurious over
him but they have got to go into the world and must
have the manliness to not to follow such. They have lost
a guide indeed in their Pa. -

You have not heard of the death of Ma uncle & home

(Aunt Eiza's husband) Poor Aunt Eiza she feels dreadfully.
He fell some ^{times} once from a hay loft and broke his ~~xxx~~ ankle
bone, but we did not think it anything serious at first
until it got so bad ^{the leg} ~~the leg~~ had to be cut off just below the
knee. He died about a week after it was cut off not
from the leg but from an injury received internally by
his fall, his leg had begun to heal.

Ma is thinking somewhat of going to New Orleans in order
to get two teachers and get up a school here. We are going
to build a school house and gardeners house together on
the opposite hill. If the neighbors would all join us it would
succeed well - But here there are a good many girls my size
such as the Buckners they are cracked to be in New Orleans
so as they can learn dancing and the like, as I don't care a
snap for that I am not at all anxious to go there though
they are not to be depended on anyhow. - I should not wonder
if Mrs. Snodgrass sent Emma. Ellen Watson is now in
New Orleans and of course it would not be beneficial to
change though if we got the school started I should not
wonder if Mrs. W. sent her, as she says she is very anxious
to get her home for many reasons. It looks, very much like
"war" by the last news. O' how I do wish things would come to
some conclusion, if there is going to be war I wish the Southerners
would pitch in and give it to them on all sides & take

daughter declared she wouldn't
go the church again, she heard
Aunt Essie disapprove of it as
she was coming out of church
and she was very glad to find
there was one, that didn't like
it -

Aunt Nora still
hangs on as a slight invalid
~~but~~ she is a great deal
better than last winter; and
Lillian the Dr. says may get
over her dyspepsia, since she
has had this attack -

I hope we will be able to
hear from you all the time -
Love to all - heaps of love
for yourself from
Your attached Grandson
H. D. Murdoch

Tranny Mur
June 20/62

Lane Mount June 20

M

My dear Grandma -

It has
been a very long time, I must
acknowledge since I took up my
pen to address you, but now that
I have a good chance to send
I will endeavour to make up
for lost time; these letters are
to go by a man, who goes up
tomorrow night to Louisville; it
is the only safe way for letters
now - I wish very much
your people would let us alone
and I have some hopes, that
U. S. Congress of next month will
come to that conclusion, as I
would like to have the war
stopper, but don't think I
want the old union - Uncle Albert

says you are very much troubled
at mother's excessive feelings, I
thought you knew she was a regular
conthermer long ago; she has got
all hands at work for the soldiers.

I have home now for over
two weeks, came over on account of
Sallie's sickness, and now that she
is so well I expect to go back
soon, I want to stay on the
plantation most of the summer
to learn more of planting and
then the negroes like it so
much better.

I am trying
to get mother to up to Fort Gibson
and take Sallie with her I
think she will go, I don't think
she looks well, and a change
would do her good; & she
could go to the La Springs on
the way this summer it would
do her a great deal of good, as
well as the children.

We have been having some very
warm weather and we want a
little rain to make it all right, and
I think we will have it, as
Providence seems to be smiling on
us, we have such a fine chance
for a good crop, both cotton & corn
and everybody has put in so
much corn that we will hardly
have to buy this year.

I suppose that neither Lewis or
Eugene have gone off to the war
as yet, if they do I only ask
of them not to shoot me if
they should meet me in battle
and I promise to do the same
for them. Some of our
sermons on fast day, were more
than anything Mr Hall ever says,
Dr Cunningham in Uncle Butlers
church, preached so hard against
the northerners, that an old lady
from Philadelphia, out to visit her

M June 23. ^{E. D.}₁₁ -

My Dear Grandma - from me
a short letter, may
perhaps be acceptable - as our opportunities
for hearing from each other are very seldom.
Sonnie received a letter today from a boy
in Stockbridge and supposes it must
have come by private hand as far as our
States as this will go, as far as the ~~troubled~~
boundary. We got news today of a
battle at Norfolk. Va. in which
engagement our side proved successful
northern loss - 300, Southern 6. This is a
rumour we do not know whether it is
true or not. I do hope you will hear of
some opportunity soon of writing us as we are
anxious to hear of you from you especially as
Uncle Albert wrote you were not feeling well.
I suppose Ma has written up all the news
in her long epistle -

There is a Ladies Sewing Society for our
poor Southern Soldiers here. I think
I should like to be a generals wife and

go off with him to this war. I think it would be splendid.

There are some very good people at the north, I do not denounce them all as they are done here though surely the north merits the feelings from all she has done -

On fast day we had a very good address from Mr. Keady, Mr. Watsons teacher. Mr. Hull being unavoidably absent. It was a denunciation of all our enemies as some that I have heard of were, but an appeal to us to feel kindly towards our mistaken enemies - I forget though I am writing to you dear Grandma who is so purely Northern in every feeling - "We are fighting for our lives a noble cause and one in which we will be successful -"

Mom wrote you I suppose of Lillies illness we were greatly alarmed about for three or four days -

You heard I suppose of poor Uncle Anthony's sad end though perhaps Mom has not written it - He was talking this sons at night sitting down on a stool and fell over gave two gasps and died. Was it not dreadful?

The doctor said it was heart disease

I have written one long letter today and I feel rather tired!

I am here at work now with Mrs Copland whom I like very much she makes me study pretty I study and practise without any interruption from 1/2 past 4 in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening besides an hour and a half after tea. I get pretty tired - I ride pretty often, Linnie makes himself very agreeable to the young ladies, and thinks more of them I think than William.

Willie seems to be settling up to Miss Nellie Buckner, we tell him if he ever marries into that family he'll never bring her into this house or himself either - Of course though it is all a joke -

Mom waits for my letter so my pen must stop her edifying employment - Love to all, from all -

Ever your devoted Granddang
J. A. R.

If you was only out here with us I think I would be satisfied but to have you so far away from us and with feelings so different it is very painful to me - You seem to feel

of course if we at that time had been in the north she would have been cut off with her sentiment

Dec. 3rd 1861 -

Dearest Grandma.

I take this half sheet of paper to write you a short letter to go in Mama's - I am delighted to get a chance to write to you as we had given up all ideas of hearing from you before the war was over, which from present appearances is not likely to be for some time - It is doleful indeed, yet we are confident of success. I am studying quite hard now, we get up very early in the morning and are busy generally until 5 o'clock though sometimes we do not get out until dark. We do not love extraordinarily well, still I know how important it is for me to be studying hard - Mrs. Copland is a very thorough teacher & I think we are improving. Minnie Copland her daughter a little older than I am stays here & goes to school with us, and we have our pleasant times all three of us together. There has been a good deal of sickness around us this fall - Eugene Hall died about two weeks ago of putrid sore throat. His death is a sore trial to them. Mr. Hall is very feeble and cannot possibly expect to live long, and he expected Eugene to protect and support his Mother when he was gone. But God has ordered otherwise. Poor Mr. H. is almost frantic in his grief. He pined himself on Eugene, and looked up to him - The whole family seem broken up without him & Mrs. Hall said "the light of our house has gone out." a beautiful and touching remark - We can sympathize with all in affliction our own irreparable loss still so fresh in our memory tends to make ^{us} doubly tender to others - Even now I often think "Why did God take our idol from us. How vain how selfish the thought. Yet so is human nature, so prone to pine under the dealings of providence - Essie & Dora are both suffering with bad colds, I have also taken one from going one afternoon without a flannel skirt. I think this climate is so changable it is almost impossible to escape colds - My cousin Lewis joined the army, I hope not. Tell him to look out for these southern sharpshooters or he will get wounded. Jimmie was for a long time very anxious indeed to go, he even seemed unhappy about it. At first I wanted him to go, but at length I changed my mind about it on hearing of young boys.

Coming home unable to stand the exposure.
and then I think as Mamma says there are
enough men to go instead of sending boys who
have not finished their education & after
the war is over will be too old to study.
This I consider true logic. Boys have no
business in the war -

There are to be some minstrels at the college
next Friday night in which Jonnie takes
part. Miss Maria Copland made him
a ~~wig~~ today, and before he went over to
practice tonight he blackened up and
showed himself in the library - the
children said he looked very funny. I did
not see him. Willie and Ben do not
take part. I believe Mr says "h'll be door
keeper". The money is to go to the
soldiers - All of our family are well, the
Port Gibson children are not very well. Noreen
is not well at all and Blanche has been
quite sick with cramp for two weeks -
The doc. put a blister on her yesterday
which they hope will afford her relief.

It is late dear J. and I must say Goodnight
these letters are a mere experiment and
if they ever reach you it will be much
to my surprise. I will not sign my
name as these are to be inspected by
some one in N. Orleans before they leave
the "I. confederacy" - You must try this way
too, as we are very anxious indeed to hear
from you - Love to all and keep a great deal
for you self from you

Your devoted Granddaughter.

Dec. 2^d / 60. -

F. A. M.

enquiring strangers - and with
violent pride say - "that's my
Grand ma"!!

I send this little note in this
letter - it is not much only to
let you know & often think
of you - I know how growing
you must feel all the time about
us - so far off, and unable to
have any communication -

We feel just at same way about
you - Oh for a Faith - to
throw all our cares on One who
says "he careth for us" - If this
Faith give you a goodly share
I hope it is a support to you
this time of need - My much
Faith is of great comfort to
me - what must yours be
to you - Well I will close -
with a long farewell kiss my
dearest Grand mother -
Much love to Uncle Mr. Hunt &

C. Mt - Thursday. Dec. 4. / 1862.
My own dear Grand ma.

I just began to write this
in a very fine hand, but I
remembered you could not read
it so well if I did so and I
do ^{not} wish anyone to read this
to you - Read it all your self
dear Grand ma - it shall be
short & shall not tire you.

Your letter to Mamma of
Sep. 7. was as you doubtless
have heard through Ma
received by all of us with intense
joy. Only one thing distressed
us - to think you was growing
so feeble. We shall all meet
again once more here I trust.
and that meeting we all look
forward to with unbounded
delight.

To be once more with you
is the fond & cherished hope

of my life -

There is but point on which we
widely differ - the great question of
the day. & in a pure better
could you will too agree in
this with me. and all the
rest of us - It makes me
sorry ^{now} at times to think we
differ in this - but I content
myself with the thought -

"it is natural - very natural" -

I have just written a long
letter to Attie Lewis - who
has been a very dear friend
of mine, you know ever since
we first met in Stockbridge -
She is a splendid girl -
I have not heard from her for
a year.

How are all the children -
Eugene & Willie I suppose

can no longer. He called children
give much love to them - I
often think of them -

And the little ones - Mary
especially - my little favorite -
I suppose she is quite a tatt
little girl - goes regularly to
school & so changed "Cousin
Fannie" will not know her
when I see her again -

And the others Fannie & Carrie
kiss them for me & tell them
Cousin Fannie will come to
see them before very long & will
take them now to be
good little Southerners -
Do not let them forget us -

Essie and Dora often speak
of you - always saying
"My gran. Ma" - They point
out your pictures (which hangs
over the library fireplace) to

"Chapel Hill." Ma says it
is out of the question for him
to go to "West Point." He will
take a scientific course -
He will remain at the north
This winter I think though
all of the folks are most
anxious to have him come
home. I do not think he will
though. Goodbye again we
were delighted to hear through
Uncle Albert of your good
health. Ma received yr.
welcome letter night before
last.

Your attached child -

F A M -

Dear Grandma. Thank you for
the little candle stick, Lallie
had it by her bed Tuesday night
with a candle in it. I like it
real well. Lallie knit me
a sou'wag. I wore it two days.
I have had the "measles." Willie
came home. One night I slept
in the bed all by myself -
Every morning when I come
in to breakfast I get on
Willie's knee. The old "Hawk"
came & took all of the little
chickens. I learnt a hymn
this morning. & The hymn says

"Alas & did my Saviour bleed
And did my Sovereign die
Would he devote that sacred Head
For such a worm as I."

This Christmas Mama gave
me a big "dinner set" & Dora
a big "tea set."

I slept with Fannie last
night. Papa came home with
Billie & Papa died & went
to heaven & I'll try to be a
good girl & go to heaven
too. Fannie's gone back
to school & we're sorry she's
gone. Your letter
granddaughter -

Essie R. Murdoch

The little name worried this
& I wrote it for her. I can tell you
she is charmed with that little
candle stick. & Dora with her
little basket. Pa intended
writing you yesterday but his
many cares & sorrows keep him
from doing a great deal. She
would like to do. She expects to
write you soon though. Betwixt
Billie & I you ~~will~~ shall be
kept supplied with letters
this winter though you have
not been before. Billie is a
great help to Mama & takes
much of her shoulders -
Fannie I expect will enter
college next spring in Carolina

much young & old - Young because
they (probably) heard so much
about you from the old - Perhaps
you may feel more like coming
out this fall than you did last
fall. Our new church is completed
& was dedicated Sunday before
last. It is a very pretty little
church indeed. The pulpit
has not come yet, but they
expect it soon - Mr. Wall
(our minister) has been in such
feeble health that he was
afraid some time ago that
he would have to resign but
he improved & consented to
stay another year - And then
will form his plan in accordance
to his health - But I must
close with love to all & of
the children & the boys I
remain -

Your Devoted daughter
Fannie Munchock

May / 66.

Dear Grandma.

Your long letter
together with your picture was
received yesterday. You cannot
imagine how delighted we were to
get your picture it is so good -
exactly like you. Aunt Anne (who
was shown (here) was very much
pleased with it indeed. Mama
likes it very much too, though
she finds some fault with the
completion. It looks just like
yourself & you do not know how
glad we are to have one of you -
we look at it with great pleasure.
Mama wants to hang it in her
room so that she can look at it
often, always have it before her
eyes but we won't have of
such a thing it must go in
the parlor. Essie too is very good
though much more fleshy than

she is now. We have just returned
from Louisiana after a very
pleasant visit to "Durosett" (our
plantation). We staid there from
Friday evening until Monday
evening. I had a splendid time
fishing. I wished we could have
staid longer. Little Essie was
quite sick, & ^{figure we say} Mamma did not
like to leave her long. Mamma
thinks she & Dora have the
hooping cough. I hope they have
& let them get through with
it. Ere this you had received
the good tidings of our dear
travellers safe arrival at
their destined port. Papa much
improved by the voyage but not
so much so as we hoped. Though
Papa says that we would not
know him he looks so different
from the man that left here.
If you could only have seen
him when he left here —

a perfect skeleton. But we have
succeeded so many blessings we
have no right to hate or to
murmur. We hope to get a
note this letter from him in a
few days telling us his plans.
as he was to consult a physician
in Paris. How glad we were to
hear of dear Lennie — so glad
that there is such an improvement
in him. And I hope he will
continue to improve. In speaking
of the Chaplain baby you said
not say whether it could walk
or not. I suppose it does by this
time as it is a year old this
month. Can't you make up
your mind to come out south
Grandma next fall with
Aunt Anne & Aunt Ellen it
would so nice to have you
out here with all the servants
at Durosett inquired of "Old
Mistress" all want to see you so