

1857

Your W, Monroe County, Mississippi, to "My Dear Mary"

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Monroe August 17/57

My Ever dear Mary

This will inform you that I have rec^d 2 letters from you since I wrote to you the first dated the 2nd Inst in which you expressed a desire for me to come for you immediately and at the conclusion of which you stated that you would wait 2 days and then write again definitely as to what you would have me do. In accordance with that arrangement I have sent to the post office 2 things and to day rec^d a letter from you stating that you would remain a little longer. I had arranged things as best I could; and if I had rec^d your welcome letter to day I should have been with you on Friday night would nothing befalling ^{me} on the way.

I cannot say whether I am disappointed or not in your determination to stay longer one thing I do know that nothing on earth would be a source of greater pleasure than for you to be restored to good health and if you can in that particular be benefited in any degree, I shall feel well remunerated for the privations I experience in your absence. To say that I am lonely & do not earnestly covet this idea I would not almost be true to a solitary wanderer in a desert as living as I now am. Let me grow when I will on the promise a feeling as if something was lost is constantly present. I can assure you that it is caused by your absence and I console my self with the hope that these feelings will be succeeded by more agreeable ones when you return in better health. I earnestly hope you will. As to the health of the family I will state that it is about as usual. We have

have two boys ~~servants~~
and James left on Sunday evening in good
health and fine spirits for Mr Harrison
They are well pleased with the school and
are learning tolerably well and from all I
can learn are establishing a character for
industry and good conduct both at school
and at their boarding house. Willis is still
quite thin but I attribute it to his rapid
growth, you never saw any one grow in
height as he does and his beard is making
its appearance quite fast; this is a fact.
James personal appearance about as when
you left except that he too is taller. The
dear boys always seem glad when on Friday
evening they reach home and are quite a
relief to the dull monotony of the house
so long as they stay which is till Sunday
evening. Among the blacks Mom Nancy
Tamar & Adel are on the sick list. The old
woman is about as when I last wrote, if any
change it is for the better. She is entirely
confined to the bed, the swelling in her legs
is slowly subsiding but the oppression of the
chest still continues to distress as much as
ever, I don't say that there is any reason
to hope she will recover. Tamar & Adel down
with the fever, the former on the mend, the
latter quite bad but as yet not dangerous.
Kitty is laid up from confinement, has a girl
child both doing well, her child a week old
yesterday. The balance all on foot and busy
gathering fodder, the weather is favorable and
we will make the best use of it we can, our
corn crop is fine & we will have plenty and to
spare, how grateful we ought to be

What and I will send you my best
love from the moment I see you any day
I hope soon a host of happy & little

The rains of the present and the past month
have caused the cotton to push forward rapidly
and at this time the stalk is large as I would
have it, but the prospect for a good crop has
not kept pace with the increase of the wind
and I am still of the opinion that the crop
will be short, and very short unless the fall
is a late one. On Friday last I borrowed a
thresher from James Randall. (Pardon, having
disappointed me in ^{the} one he was to make for me)
and attacked it to my engine and such
thinking of wheat on any thing else you never
saw. In consequence after dinner on Friday and
before dinner on Saturday had it all threshed
and the greater part fanned. It has turned
out well. I have not measured it but think the
yield will be over 20 bushels to the acre, it is
a first rate article and will make splendid
flour. My Precious One and get well so that
when you return you can enjoy the pleasure of eating
of it. I have not said any thing about my
health, it is about as good as it usually is in
hot weather except that my tropical tendencies
are considerably on the increase, and the dispo-
sition in my clothing to shrink gives me con-
stant annoyances. I wish I would a course in Hy-
dropathy benefit me, do you think, what effect
would the compress have, I was in Aberdeen
Thursday last for the first time since my return
did not see many acquaintances. Saw Bishop Palm-
mer in fine health and inquired particularly con-
cerning your self and Ben. No news of importance
at St. Fortson still takes his spruce. I saw him
in town has all the appearances of an excessive
drinker, his daughter is at home; i.e. with

has to grow well

All I think that Mr Watkins has been sick with fever

As usual she does not stay on the farm
Your Brother is not at home he went below
on Thursday last when to, I cannot tell, I heard
though, that it was to Mobile. I have not been
in speaking distance of him but ever since
you left and that was as I was going into
town when I met him in the stage. I under-
stand that he is about to purchase a tract
of land near the crossing of the M & O. R. R.
& the Memphis and Charleston R.R. near
a place called Corinth, from what I can learn
he is wonderfully pleased with that section
he still expresses a determination to sell out
this fall, all this I learn through others, I stay
at home very closely see the neighbors but seldom
at this time I cannot say how the Watkins
are, Mrs W. Watkins was sick a short time
since but I presume is at this time well
At any time that you wish to have Bilson
write and let me know, I do not like the
acet you give of things there at all, tell my
dear Childas that his father ought to hear that
he has deserted his mother for the company of
smoking men and that so far as the habit
of smoking or the use of tobacco in any other
way is concerned there is nothing but evil in it
and that continually. Tell him if he has any
respect for me or for my advice he will make it
manifest by at once desisting from it. tell him
that I say this in love only. Does I not owe I
think by the time you have deciphered the above
you will be tired enough to take a good sound
nap a thousand kisses to you and a father's
love to Beluchawap, your well
Dear W.