

1858

Willie Lenoir, Marlin, Texas, to Mary Lenoir

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Marlin Texas Dec. 15/58

My Dearest Mary

Again I attempt to address a few lines to you under the belief that you will take pleasure in hearing from one who loves you and whose daily prayer is for your welfare both spiritually and temporally, May God of his infinite mercy spare you with life, health, & peace of mind till we meet again. Since your first letter I have looked in vain for any thing from home, what is the matter? can it be that the indisposition under which you were then laboring has prevented you from writing? I hope not, and that you are at this time in your usual health, and that my dear child is still alive and in better health than when you wrote, I feel all that a father can feel in his behalf and pray that his afflictions may in time, all be healed, and think that if you and he, were both here that you would be much benefitted by the change, from the amt. of cloudy weather we have had I am apprehensive that you have had a good deal of pain, and if so must as usual have a very wet muddy time of it and this must be against both you and Blanchard, Since my arrival here we have ~~had~~ as I have remarked had much cloudy weather, but there has not been much rain and consequently the ground is quite pleasant, no mud at all

and the river is very low and as clear as old
peach river ever was in its purest days, within
100 yards of the house we have a place betide for
buffalo and have caught in the last 4 days 5
nice buffaloes and one cat 2 feet long. I do not
see one taken from the water that I do not think
of those far away and wish that you could
both participate in the sport of catching and
the luxury of eating them. If my dear Blanch
were here how he would delight to go down
to the river and sit and fish, and how his
eyes would sparkle with excitement when (after
the fish had bitten ~~and~~ ^{at} the bait and been hooked)
he saw him securely drawn on dry land
and Dick with both thumbs in his gills hold-
-ing ^{it} up as a trophy of little Mass' skill in
buffaloe fishing. I think buds would like it very
much and the only difficulty he would have
to contend with would be to keep Dick's eyes
in his head as he saw the fine large fellows
come fluttering to the surface. Game is plenty
we have had quite a number of turkeys but
up to this time no venison; on Sunday last
the black boys in company with one of Mr
Whattys sons went in the woods and by
the assistance of the dogs they caught and
killed four Mexican hogs and brought in one
alive which I now have in a pen, which if
it lives I want to keep till you can see it

If I mistake not in my last I told you that
Hiram Fortune refused to sell me the four
hundreds acres which his father proposed to let
me have and which I thought was to be ~~paid~~ on
my arrival out, failing to get this rendered it im-
portant that I should buy the 400 acres which
separates two tracts at this place, and I have
done so at \$8 per acre one half cash and
the other with in 12 months with interest at
8 per cent, It is an excellent piece of land
and adds greatly to the value of this place.
A few days since I looked at Old man Fortune's
farm and if I could get it on such terms as
I could easily meet I would rather buy it than
any place I have ever seen on the Brazos river
it is a splendid settlement and by its present
owner is not sufficiently appreciated (this subject)
Fortune is still up the country but will be
down about Christmas and I will then feel
his pulse and ascertain what can be done
towards buying him out, again let me assure
you that any move I may make in that matter
will be done prudently, I will not embarrass
myself or jeopardize your interest in any thing I
may do. Real estate in this region is going up in
value and in a few years will be as high as it
is in Miss and then those who do not step, them-
selves now will be sorry that it was not done.
A few in this region have I think set the proper

estimate on those rich bottom lands and that
few will make a large fortune by holding
their lands and adding to them all they can at
the present prices, the Rail Road is slowly
working its way up the country and its influ-
ence is felt as it advances, in the increase
in value of the lands contiguous to it, and that in
nearly as high a degree as it was in Monson
county. At this time Nancy is laid up with diarrhoea
and I think is ~~in~~, symptoms seem to point that
way the rest all on foot. The trash gang are now
employed in gathering the last of Whalleys cotton
I get 50 cts per hundred and take it in corn.
The men are employed still in building cabins
we have 2 done or nearly so so and will raise
another tomorrow we must build four at this
place and then I shall go below and build
one on the Coans place, so soon as that is
done I will, the Goods one permitting start for
home and will not tarry on the way; We have
cut down about 10 acres of lands and will
if all keep up in addition to building clear
in time for planting about 70 or 80 acres of
lands. Hope & Fannie send their love to your
self and the boys. Give my love to the children
and tell Blank he must consider this to him
as well as to you and write to me again
It would be a pleasure to be with you all but this
cannot be at present. Peace best with you, Your Willie