

Burnt Fort April 12th 1859

My dear Parents,

I am going to attempt a letter, but whether it will ever be finished, will be shown in the sequel. We are not planting & as usual at such times Everything else must give in, washing, ironing, & scouring &c. The consequence is everybody & thing looks dirty and cross & sour. The Dr. has gone to Ware Co. much against his inclination, I look for him tomorrow in the meantime its Miss Sarah here & Miss Sarah there & then little children must run to Mama & the little black images will be around & I lie down at night tried enough to sleep like a rock & yet cannot till what I have done but trot after the children. Trot after the negroes, trot after the chickens, eggs, hens & turkeys, & trot trot trot all day, & then too I have not the satisfaction in using my hands, as I would like to do. This waiting other peoples motion, is not my will, but it is the Lord's will, & I know I ought to be more submissive & more patient. Today rafts have come down the river with one white & four black men aboard, all to have dinner here, so you may think in addition to a family of eighteen or twenty if there is any more housework, than in the way, you live. The box containing harness &c has arrived safely at Camp Pickney & we hope to see it in the course of a week. The Dr. took Virginia & Henry & they came hoe crying "the box has come, the box has come." The arrival of a box or barrel is a great event in these regions.

It has been a very wet winter, the river has been high & the roads bad, consequently I have not been out of sight of the chimney, nor inside a neighbors house since I entered this last October.

The other day Miss Gerard called & on her return we crossed the River, that is the farthest I have gone. You would have thought her sufficiently dressed for Broadway. She is very pleasant & expressed a wish to be more sociable.

April 18th

The box has arrived, the Dr. wishes me to say he is well pleased with the harness for the dried apples I am much obliged, the stockings will be very nice for next winter they are merino. Such as the one pair you sent in the package with the books are the kind I wished, but I can cut some out of mine for this Summer. Tell Aunt Polly much love that Virginia & Henry were delighted with her books & Jinnie sends her love, a kiss, & many thanks & says she is very glad she sent those books. They are very pretty, the candy was thankfully received & disappeared soon after its arrival. The Dr. has gone to Court at Jefferson today from there the Judge will go to Trader's Hill & we hope we shall know the decision in regard to this property. We hear that Mr. Potter will be there.

Demps is pleased with his wagon harness. My love to Uncle Williams family- tell Julia I have not forgotten her. I have over one hundred young chickens. We are milking eight or ten cows & get about what you do from one. We have the sweet corn you gave us planted & about a foot high, cucumbers & tomatoes in blossom. The Dr. has planted nearly two cares in sugar cane. Several acres in oats, a larger patch of sweet potatoes & more of corn.

With love yours,
Sarah