

Sunny Side
August 27th 1867

My dear Mother,

Yours of the 10th of Aug is received, and I sit down tonight to answer it, you can hardly know how much pleasure your letters afforded me, I think if you could read my heart you would believe that I did appreciate them. The peach season is over with us, but the yield was poor & very wormy. Watermelons too are about done with, I think you would believe the younger members of the family appreciate them if you could see them drenched in the juice from head to foot. At present all are enjoying a Scuppernong grape vine which is yielding abundantly & the fruit is delicious, I have often wished you could enjoy them with us, I know you & Pa would pronounce the fine.

Virginia wants to know if you received her letters with her Father's photograph in? The children are having vacation now & their teacher has gone home, but will return next week to resume school the week after.

I thank you Ma for the wish expressed in regard to your Bank Stock, but I hope & pray you may feel yet be spared to enjoy it many years yourself. I have received one letter from Hattie since her arrival at Shelburne. Mr. Reppard & two daughters went on to Canada this summer & stopped at the White Mountains & ascended Mt. Washington, the Dr. & I came very near making you a visit, so near that I began to get ready. We felt the matter for the Mill-books to decide when the Dr. found that instead of making a draw he was still some two or three thousand in debt to Mr. R. so I gave up the thing of course. The mill is a fine thing for Mr. Reppard but not so fine for the Dr. when you consider the enormous cost of feeding so many mules.

As to hired help, I get along fast, change most every month, three have run away during the last few months that we had clothed up to be decent, they came to us naked but they are an ungrateful race, they drive me to be tight and "stingy" with them. We have had a great deal of rain lately, and although healthy here, there is a good deal of sickness on the coast. Tell Pa with much love that I am looking for a letter from him, and whether he can get anyone to take St. John's Bluff.

The Dr. sends his regards and says he thinks of writing before long. We have new scholars to our Sunday school every week, some walk four miles.

I wish we had a library. We have a few books which we lend, also the New York Observer, American Messenger, & Child's Paper. We have scholar & eighteen years old that can't read, the school is for the whites- we have been talking of beginning one for the blacks too.

Love to all from you Sarah