

Pleasant Retreat Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 1854  
Tuesday

My dear Parents,

I have waited with some impatience for the last few weeks for an answer to my last written a week before starting for Raleigh, and while Ben was absent in Wilmington, but as yet have receive none. In the meantime I have been to Raleigh & spent three weeks, but scarlet fever & measles drove me from there & here I am at my old friend Hattie's who remains the same true hearted friend I knew in Albany. Lizzie is with me as Nurse.

In Raleigh I met some most agreeable people. Mr. Barringer, the ex-minister from Spain and predecessor of Mr. Soule is a member of the Congress. I met him & his Lady & made me feel at home although "a stranger in a strange land". I enjoyed the evening much, far better than I expected, as I anticipated but little pleasure. Ben seemed gratified in my receiving so much attention & of course I was pleased if he was. I received a letter from Ben last night, he is well but says the scarlet fever is still raging & some of the members are becoming alarmed and talk of adjourning until next winter. Enclosed in his letter was one from Luther. If I could have gained Ben's free consent I should have gone North & staid until we were settled & decided but Harriet & her Mother invited me here and received me with open arms. They have ever been kind. I can but remember them with gratitude. Harriet sends love to both of you & says when you come South again she shall certainly expect a visit. I think you would enjoy yourself very much.

Mr. Faison is building a beautiful house & is surrounding it with every convenience. Harriet talks some of going on North next summer to purchase furniture.

I cannot write more today but will try to soon again, we are expecting Ben here Christmas to spend a few days. The Legislature an invitation to visit Wilmington, and I can go with him if I choose. My love to all, particularly, Em Shays, why don't she answer my letter? Also to Abby Grosvener, I hear her Husband has failed, I fear he has not used Abby rightly. I hope to see you and all old friends next summer.

In haste & with love yours  
Sarah