

Monday morning
Dec. 17th 1855

I wrote to you a few days ago, but as I concluded to write more, I have detained the letter until now. And now my dear Mother I will finish answering the questions you propounded in your last commencing at the 8th. Hattie thus far like a kind sister has been sewing for me, she has clothed up Lillie in a way which I think would please you, for every day dresses made of Mousseline de Laine which Lucin & I got when visiting Mrs. Cow for better ones a blue Paramatta & the little red & green one you gave her. The corin colored one is embroidered on the skirt at the top of the hem with white, also the sleeves, a little sack to match. The waists are cut after a pattern Lucin gave & look real pretty with buttons behind she has some little white aprons. Lizzie now does the coarse sewing. I have the Servants now to myself & everything goes much better. I find Hattie's council very very valuable. I am getting so that I can direct about cutting up a beef & hogs- we have had some excellent corn beef since we came home of our own preparation.

10th, All I do for my hands is to soak them in hot water at night & sprinkle flour on them, & pack them on going to bed.

11th. You may fill up the box with anything you choose, anything towards housekeeping, I will thank you for though I don't want to beg, if you have any candlesticks or shovel & tongs which you don't ant. I can find use for them.

I am very glad to know that you are so much better, long may you continue so. Is Pa's health good? I have at last received one letter from Lucin & a yearly visitation I suppose! I do think she might write oftener, she can write as well as most people & as quickly when she gets at it. I suppose by this time she is with you, give her my love & do get her to write about everybody, & please do the same yourself.

Ben sends to Greenville today so I hope we shall receive the apples. My mouth waters for them now. I have not seen more than a dozen since I returned & not over half that number that were fit to eat. Last week we had some very cold weather, but now again it is warm & spring like & I am writing with open doors.

Love to all. Tell Julia Williams to write to me & tell her too that she must not think it strange if I don't answer until I get settled in Georgia. I want to hear from Abby Grosevner particularly, please tell her so & also the same to Emily.

I see by the papers that a large property has fallen to the Gardiner family in this country from a distant relative in England, do our Gardiners get any? I see Mrs. John Tyler has got \$500.00. I wish I could hear the New Hartford branch had got a good haul. Ben sends love & so would Hattie, but she is upstairs.

With love yours,
Sarah F. Williams
Love to Maggie