

Duplin Co. Dec 20th 1854
Wednesday

My dear Parents,

You see I am leading a roving life this Winter, not from choice so much as because I think I had better, I know I am welcome here and at Harriet's and I am not sure of it, at Ben's home. But more of this when we can meet, which meeting I hope for next Summer the Lord willing. I am looking for the Dr. on Saturday. We have much to be thankful for this year as we have been prospered beyond our hopes & far beyond our desires- we have met with reverses in one quarter, but we must not expect all sunshine- we must have some clouds in order to appreciate it. We expect Richard to return from Georgia the last of this week, and I hope he and Ben will meet here, he writes that they have made 6630 barrels of turpentine for which Mr. Haman gives them \$2.75 per barrel, \$12 ,000 they think will more than cover all expenses so you can calculate the profits of each there being there in the company. Richard writes there never was a better set of hands, some have earned from 40 to 50 dollars for themselves. Ben hopes for about \$1000 from his Sandy Run land this year.

I think he would write if it was not so much of an effort, he is as bad in that respect as Lucin, he always is pleased to hear from you and often very often speaks of you.

We are yet unsettled, and by the way don't think about selling "home" till I have one. I am sorry to hear bad news from Demming & Grosvener, I pity their families more than they.

Baby grows a little, is fat as butter, but so little, but she's smart- her father idolizes her, thinks her a perfect beauty, etc.

I am having a pleasant time here, all are friendly. Baby is crying & I must say good night.

Yours ever,
Sarah

P.S. Brother James has lost two children this winter- a son aged about 16 and a daughter about 6