

Burnt Fort Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

My dear Mother,

I promised Pa in my last to write to you soon. Since then I have received a letter from Him & you jointly, also one from Mary. Another vessel arrived at Camp Pickney a few days since, the Dr. has gone down to see about getting the apples (which are on board) & sundry other articles home, he says he wants to enjoy them before he leaves with the hands for North Carolina, which will be in about a week. You'll think I'll be very lonely, but somehow I feel as though it was all right & I'll be taken care of; thus far I have not suffered from loneliness as much as I expected.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

I have not found time to finish this till now. The apples came safe to hand Monday night, we went right to work & picked out the rotten ones & washed & wiped the sound ones & spread them. We got about a barrel & half of sound ones, so you see they well pay for sending. The others I was all day yesterday peeling &c. I preserved them, with nearly a pound of sugar to a pound of the fruit & let it boil for an hour, it made something like marmalade, & will be very nice for pies or preserves. The box & barrel from NH also came safely, one can of the preserves was leaking from a nail driven in it, but no damage done. The servants were delighted with their preserves. The dried apples put by, for further use; by the way those "strawberry tomatoes" tell Mrs. Prescott, grow as a weed here & the negroes call them "ground cherries."

The Dr. bought two pianos one for Jo and one for me, ours has arrived & it is seven octaves, two peddles & is plain rosewood, with a very handsome carved place for music. The carriage I never saw one like, it certainly is very handsome, but more suitable for a city or town, than these piney woods. It is as light carriage with two seats, a top over the back seat, a round ornamented piece behind on which to carry a trunk which lets down, handsome plaited springs to the top & the trimmings to the carriage & harness are handsomely plaited & a tapestry carpet inside. You may imagine with the horses, it don't look bad. The horses are well reported, I have not rode after them yet. Virginia took a ride with her Father & Demps to Camp Pickney the other day & came home delighted. By the way Demps is home now, & the Dr. has hired his wife from Brother James widow next year, with the promise of hiring her next year for a long time if he wishes. The Dr. bought me a beautiful pair of rose blankets at Stewart's.

The vessel leaves Camp Pickney today on board is a barrel of sweet potatoes for you & another for Lucinda, we would have sent one to Mary, but feel they might spoil before reaching them. We shall order Watson & Meares to forward them to you by Express.

In regard to that sewing that is being done up, I gave them their own time to do it in, there is not great hurry for it. There will be vessels leaving New York, every few weeks

for Camp Pickney. Another is expected in January. Should the Dr. conclude to order a harness, he would want that by first opportunity, we need one now to haul wood, to plough &c.

About our ride in the cart, we had a pretty merry time, you wouldn't have thought we were blue if you had seen us. Though at night- I feel rather sober, & then we said nothing, the children were really good. I get along without Hattie better than I dared hope, though I miss her help, society, & council. Yet I find I have more self-reliance, and you must remember we don't suffer the privations we did the first year, we now make our pork, land, we have cows & chickens & now we have some sheep- we raise corn & sweet potatoes, of the latter I should say we had three or four hundred bushels this year. In my pantry & store room I have flour, buckwheat, sugar, tapioca, cinnamon, nutmeg, & am only waiting till the hens condescend to lay to commence making cake & puddings- we treated ourselves to some apple pies yesterday (Lizzie made them & they were good) thanks to Pa for the apples. This morning we had buckwheat cakes & Stewart's syrup for breakfast. As a general thing I believe we have as good a table as people generally. I miss church & meetings very very much, & I would like a little society, but I am willing & contented here, so long as it seems best to stay.

I have no salt-rheum to speak of as yet, I never have been free from it so long before. The children are well Virginia is learning her letters gradually, Henry grows fast, as well as the Baby, is very playful. Lil does quite as well as any girl I had North in taking care of them. The children are in the yard most of the time. Charity nurses Lizzie's baby, whose name is Pleasant-Elizabeth Browne and any day you may see them & Sambo-Lettuce with our Baby & children all playing together from morning till night- it is now warm & the doors & windows are open- Demps is ploughing with Tom, Ann is cutting down the weeds in the field. Lizzie & Fan are sweeping the yard & the children are occupied as I told you. The Dr. has mounted Charly & gone to Centre Village & to the Turpentine farm. My love to Uncle Williams' family & Aunt Polly, tell Julia to send me the paper with that puff in. I wish she would write, I will when I can. I am sorry to hear of Hannah Butler's misfortune & hope she may be speedily restored- please write to me of her. I was in hopes you were much better ere this, but your last letter says not, I would go & see Lucinda, if I were you, you know change of scene generally helps you, & I know they would be glad to see you. Have you seen Dr Paine yet?

Please say to Pa the enclosed is a hill of which he wished a copy. Write often- Love to all from your affectionate daughter Sarah.

Demps will be here while the Dr goes to North Carolina. He will probably be gone a month.

We feed the hogs & cows sweet potatoes