

February 21<sup>st</sup> 1864

My dear Hattie,

I wrote to you several months since but no opportunity offering by which to send a letter it still remains in my portfolio. I have written expectedly to Luther & Mother but receive no letters others hear from their friends North, why may not I? I received two since '63 one via Fortress Monroe the other via Memphis. My Parents are both so aged. I have my fears that both may not be living. Write to me Hattie & let me know of them and you know if you receive this you will go and see them & let them know of your receiving this and write to me immediately there must be a way provided there as well as here for sending letters occasionally there has been the coldest winter I have ever known South, we are still having frosts although I have garden peas & three or four inches high. I had my garden made Saturday and several planted. Peach trees are in blossom but I fear the cold will kill them. If I were you, here what to comfort you would be to me what a blessing any little ones. Hattie I have been almost sorry I made that last visit North, for the Dr. and I think you might have been still with us. We have five little ones, Jinnie, Henry, Hattie, Sammie (Joseph Samuel), Mattie (Martha Lucile), the sixth an infant born the 1<sup>st</sup> of January sleeps its long sleep under an oak in the garden, it never opened its eyes in this world.

We pass no idle moments, we all wear homemade upon the pines. Ann and Lizzie do the spinning and weaving I do the washing, knitting, & sewing. Clarity is music and wanting. Virginia can spin very well, sews and knits a little and I'am set the cooking washing, ironing & cleaning. Henry makes the chicken coops but Hattie, she is not-learning so fast as I would like. I have but little time to teach them & not half enough patience. They talk of you with as much affection as ever the Dr. sends love & hopes to meet you again. The best of love to Father & Mother & tell them to write, that God may bless them & you is the prayer of

Sarah F. Williams