

February 26, 1855

Monday Clifton Grove

My dear Parents,

The legislature has at last, adjourned, and we arrived here last, Monday. Mother Williams seemed really glad to see us, and has treated us kindly. She seems to think a good deal of the Baby, calls her "Mr. Hicks" because she says "she looks so much like him".

I have passed a very near pleasant winter with Hattie & her mother. They prove themselves warm friends. Hattie is just having completed a new house, and thinks of going on North next summer to purchase furniture, if she should, she says she shall certainly want to make a short stay in New Hartford of which she has heard so much. Richard says he is bound to go this year in August, and should last, had it not been for the Georgia business. You will see by the papers that turpentine as well as everything else has had a fall but Ben did pretty well with his selling it for 3.50 per barrel before he left for Raleigh. However, the scrape is still on hand, and at present prices is not likely to be some sold.

The old people say that there has seldom been such an unhealthy & dry season as the past-winter. Fevers have raged all winter, and among children, the diseases particular to them seen raging through the state, viz measles whopping cough & mumps, hitherto, ours has been spared, although we have been in the midst of it.

The 14th of this month was the time for planting and sowing gardens here. I heard some letting of having mustard up, you know they cultivate it for greens. Farming has already commenced. Ploughing about, that is the first for planting, since our return I have seen the first-snow that I have seen this winter, and that hardly enough to call snow. Last week we were out on the piazza with Baby, since then it has been colder.

Richard & John have both been here to see us. Richard thinks of the building. Ben purchased "Downings architecture" this winter, & Richard says he wants us to help him select a plan, & he is going to build, he is determined to have a pretty place, there has been a saw. Mice freed up on his land, & he has a fine opportunity. This is a beginning of better things, and I think one or two making a move of the kind, may arouse a spirit of improvement, even in Green Co. and make the people ambitious for comfort as well as wealth. I want to see a nice little church at Snow-hill & a good settled clergyman, but I must "let patience have her perfect work".

The Baby can sit-alone, & has one tooth, & can bow to people, these are all her accomplishments at present. I will keep you informed of all her improvement...

Pa I hope you will not think we did not appreciate your information in regard to stock, but Ben had already made investments in RR stock in this state, which pays seven percent. I am very glad he is disposed so to invest money, instead of purchasing negroes which I do believe is the most-unprofitable property a person can possess.

I must write to Luther & Lucin this morning, don't forget to write soon. Ben wishes to be remembered. Give my love to Aunt Lydia's family. What has become of Cornelia's farm, & who is courting Julia in Ohio? Mary gave me a hint of something of the kind, but don't explain. Tell Ellen Shays if she wants to hear from me she had better write. My love to all-not forgetting Mag & believe me as ever your affectionate daughter.

Sarah