

February 3rd 1855
Saturday Eve

My dear Parents,

I am now spending a few weeks with the Dr.'s sister in Duplin Co. Harriet's Mother. I should have answered your last kind letter long ere this, but one thing after another has prevented me until now. I have left Baby in good hands downstairs, while I have sought my room to chat with you. Soon after I left Raleigh, I sent Lizzie back to her old Mistress, although I do not expect thank you for it, still I know Mother wanted her, and I wanted to do right, ever if I cannot-please. Harriet immediately provided me with a Nurse while visiting her, and the Dr.'s sister another while I am here, and as I go backwards & forwards you may imagine me with a Servant to drive & sometimes an outrider in addition to Driver & Nurse, sometimes I go alone & sometimes Sister or Hattie go with me but do not imagine I am merely visiting at present but I am making shirts for Ben. Sister Patsy seems like a Mother, she advises & comforts me, cuts out my shirts & helps sew. She is the smartest woman I ever saw in my life- there are 65 or 70 servants here, they are well clothed & fed, and all is made on the plantation spinning & weaving she attends to, besides sewing for all her family. She does more than any Northern woman I ever saw, and I believe she is conscientious in the discharger of her duties. Ben was here a part of two days, and one night a week ago, he hopes to get through at Raleigh in another week, never was a man more anxious to get away from a place than he from there. We heard a few weeks since that Havanan had failed, but afterwards found it was a hoax- however I don't feel quite sure of it yet, "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" is an old saying but contains a valuable hint. You ask for a description of Raleigh- were I to attempt I should fail- the principle street is probably $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long, the Capitol is at one end of granite, a beautiful building and the Governors "palace" (as it is called) faces it at the other end- by the way it gives one a very humble idea of a palace- the city contains about 6000 individuals- as to the Hotels, don't imagine me at a St. Nicholas or even a Bagg's Hotel, although we paid \$4.00 per day. The Governor's party was conducted much as we have parties conducted with us. The Ladies were elegantly dressed but I hope to talk to you next summer and there I can go into particulars. A party in the country at the South is a different affair- there they go to spend the night- and a part of the next day there come about as many servants as people, I had a fine specimen at Harriet's but more of this anon. I hear Baby crying and I must go.

Monday Morning. I have risen early in order to finish this & send it today. I received a real good letter from Mary, not long since which had laid in the Post Office at Snow Hill for sometime and more wonderful still one from Lucin, a week or two since being the second since I was married.

I have been permitted to hear some most excellent preaching since I came here from a Mr. Sprint- a Scotch gentleman his history is rather interesting, he ran away from Scotland, to arrived becoming a Clergyman, as his Father designed him for that

Profession- he came to this country a dissipated young man- finally he became minus money, and bethought himself to teach, he applied to a Mr. Hall residing near here, the whole family objected but one daughter who said "we had better give him a trial" he succeeded as a Teacher- she died for the ministry. Married the young Lady who wished to give him a trial, commenced a select school, and is proving a blessing to the community, they have built him a nice Church and School House and around these is springing up quite a little village- verily Education & Religion are twin sisters, alike tending to make us wiser & better, and ever pointing us to Heaven. Mr. Spring sent for his sister who has since married his wife's Brother, she is said to be a well educated woman. How often I have wished that some Mr. Spring might come to Snow Hill but I am too faithless too unbelieving.

Mr. Sprint says that on his way here he stopped at St. Domingo, he says he there saw the effects of Emancipation & became convinced that servitude is the suitable place for the Negro, be that as it may the Lord deliver me from any more such property. I speak with all reverence, for I assure you it is an honest prayer.

Sarah

The Baby has fair skin, brown hair & black eyes. Green Co. people say she looks like Pa & sometimes I think so too.