

Burnt Fort Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 1860

My dear Parents,

Yours of Dec 31<sup>st</sup> was received on Monday the last newspaper I have read was dated Dec 29<sup>th</sup>, so you see I am quite ignorant of late news, the Dr. however got later as he returned from Ware Co. on Saturday- he likes his place there better & better & if he can arrange his business will remove us there in the course of a year.

The Dr. has forty-five hands now at work in Ware Co. he & Mr. Baker are now working about thirty-five hands at the old place. Eight miles from here, these hands are from Georgia & Virginia-those in Ware Co. besides the Dr.'s are owned by his relatives in N.C.

Jane Williams' husband Mr. Hooker has purchased a cotton plantation about sixty miles further up the same Railroad, paid ten thousand dollars for it & no building of account on it, they purpose moving from NC this month. Mr. Hooker's brother was here not long since, he has lately purchased a turpentine farm thirty miles below the Dr.'s on the same road.

Joseph is left a widower with one child he buried his wife a few months since, he writes to me in deep & honest affection, she was his Idol, & he feels desolate & alone. John & Richard are farming in earnest. John made between fifty & sixty bags of cotton on the old plantation last year.

Mother Williams is better than for several years.

We keep talking about our house but we do not expect to build in sometime, the Dr. talks of putting up what will be our kitchen for us to first move in, as it will be for our interest to go there as soon as possible, besides if we are there we can have trees &c arranged to suit us the last time he had about four hundred & fifty fruit trees engrafted. There are several good situations for building.

I did not quite understand Mr. Millards window, does it open in the middle like folding doors, or does it slide or raise by weights, & does the ten inch panel at the bottom open, do we step over it on to the piazza?

I am glad you invited Hattie to visit you, she wrote to me that you had, & that she intended to go sometime, but could not say when. The children & Fan & Let have been making molasses candy, they have now gone to bed & Virginia & Hattie are asleep but I hear Henry's little tongue still busy. Hattie has been sick but is much better now. Demps wife has a daughter about six weeks old. Write me of Lucinda, for I hear from them now only through you. I suppose Pa you will favor the Union party?

The Dr. wishes to be remembered & says he intends to write to you when he gets his business all straight. You will see by the papers that my prophecy about the formation of vigilance committees through the South was correct, what else could they do?

Write soon to your daughter Sarah