

Burnt Fort March 25th 1859

My dear Parents,

Yours containing bill for harnesses &c is received, enclosed you will find an order for the balance due you of twenty-three dollars & eight cents (\$23.08). I have now to acknowledge the receipt of two letters since writing to you. I cant write as easily as I used to up in the old room at home, my mind is so filled with the eating & drinking & "where withal shall I be clothed" of our family of sixteen here & five up in Ware Co. & over thirty getting Turpentine though these latter do not come to me for clothes, or food, still they call this their home & several of them always are here Sundays.

We have lately had a very singular death of one of our own servants- viz Guilford ("Mose's oldest son) you know it is against the law for them to go without a pass from their master or overseer nevertheless they do go & some of our turpentine hands will work all day & then walk eight or ten miles to dance all night. Well Guilford undertook to go, got lost in the woods & wandered for nearly six days, at last found his way home, almost perished with hunger & exposure, imprudently gave him a full meal of homing & meat, fever followed it was the last the poor fellow ate, he lingered for about a week & then died. We did not know that he was missing until he had been out there for days, he worked in the Turpentine. We knew there had been no cause for his running away & so concluded he had been stolen. He said he ate nothing from his supper Tuesday night until Sunday morning.

We hear from Harriet occasionally, her letters breathe the same honest hearted friendship that she has ever exercised towards me & mine. I hope she may return next fall, she has been more than a sister to me & her influence with the children was incalculable, we could not hire anyone to do as she did, she is guided by religious & Christian principles in all her acts. She writes that her health is much better. I am glad to Aunt Polly is with you. I wish she would write to me, my warm love to her & thank her for her kindly remembrance of the children. Virginia remembers her with pleasure. The children often speak of you & their visit North. I expect there will be a great time over the box. Virginia is learning to spell & Henry knows quite a number of his letters, little Hattie stands by a chair & can say "howdy". The same mail that brought your letter brought one from Mary, she mentioned having had a delightful visit with Lucinda.

There are two hundred & fifteen acres in Mr. Hannon's place & about thirty acres cleared, the growth is principally live oak, water oak & some orange trees, the land is adapted to raising corn, sea island cotton, sweet potatoes & all kinds of vegetables.

We have had asparagus & radishes, but it has been too rainy & wet for plant, the cornfields, the sweet corn has come up nicely in the garden the River is very high & it has been rainy all the week. Just now I am spending a good share of my time in looking after hens, eggs, & chickens. We are getting a plenty of eggs & I don't mean it shall be my fault if we don't have plenty of poultry for the table next year. We have about fifty

fowls & I'm ambitions for two or three hundred. So I've put up sewing & gone into it & every day you might see me, sometimes with one of the gires & sometimes going a half dozen times to get eggs, set hens &c &c. I find I'm getting much interested in them, & all the children black & white also if a hen cackles, you'll hear the cry "my Hen's nest" & a running for the new laid egg.

In about three weeks we have court again & as usual hope we shall know the decision in our trial, but expect nothing but postponement as usual. My fingers & hands have been sore for the last four months so you may think I have not played the piano much. I hope however to rub up my music enough to entertain the Dr & children occasionally. We need a little something to entertain us here in the woods. I have not been a mile away since I returned six months ago. My love to all friends. I received Julia's letter & was very very glad to get & will try to answer soon.

With love your affectionate daughter,
Sarah