

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1855  
Tuesday Eve

[To Lucin & Luther]

Do not imagine my dear Brother and Sister that I have lost my interest in you in failing for so long a time to write, but imperative duties are my excuse, occurring, to be sure in the daily routine of life, but perhaps the more necessary for my immediate attention, for that very reason. The news in your last did not surprise me, for ever since these hard times commenced I have felt anxious for S & McF having had a peep behind the scenes but I believe Luther you have done your best so cheer up my Brother, take Excelsior for your motto & "try, try again" always remember that it is a slight thing to be judged of man's feeble judgement but see thy conscience is clear and that God regards thee as an honest man.

I regret exceedingly that the money for the watches has not been forwarded. The difficulty of collecting is felt here as well as with you. I fear you may not want the sum. You took me quite by surprise in sending them. We had not the least idea of receiving them until the money was sent.

We have been in a melting mood all day, the weather is like the middle of Summer and no rain for a long time if it does not come soon the crops will suffer much.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I have just come from the garden, by the way it is the custom here for the Ladies to attend to the vegetable garden. I am trying to learn & with Ben's assistance this season, I hope to be able to superintend it alone next year. We have radishes large enough for the table, Irish Potatoes as large as a Hickory nut. Corn ½ foot high & Sweet Potatoes growing nicely. The Peach trees are loaded with fruit of which we have a large orchard, also an abundance of plums, nectarines, crab apples, cherries, apples, etc. How I wish that they were ripe in a season when it would be pleasant for you to come & enjoy them with us. We shall soon be housekeeping & then I can truly say I shall be glad to see you in which I believe Ben will join me most heartily.

The woods are full of flowers & the trees festooned with jessamine & triumphant honey suckle. The spring is beautiful here. The air filled with the medley of birds, by the way I have told our Servants up on Sandy Run to secure a mocking bird and tame him before I go North. I intend him for you Brother Lu, there is some difficulty in getting them, at least the Negroes say that if you can cage a young one, the old ones will bring poisonous berries to them to kill them.

I have nothing to write that will particularly interest you. Baby grows and of course we think is a remarkable child. Ben excuse me, Ma writes that she particularly wishes me to call him "the Dr." well then the Dr. declares she is the prettiest baby he ever did see, so show up your Alice.

Remember me with love to all inquiring friends & write soon to yours truly,  
Sarah.

Mrs. & Mrs. LW. McFarland

Love & kisses to all the children.