

Clifton Grove, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1853  
Monday Morning

My dear Parents,

You see I have taken a large sheet of paper this morning for the purpose of answering Mother's numerous inquiries in her last which arrived safely four days after it was mailed. Before this you have received another from me, but as I have forgotten now what I wrote, I shall answer your questions in order. You say I gave an account of journey to Montpelier. We remained there over night and early the next morning took cars for Boston, through Concord. It rained in Boston, of course, in fact it was just such weather as we found there five years ago. We remained a day, and seeing no prospect of better weather and time hurrying us, we left for New York via Hartford and New Haven, where we arrive in just a week after leaving home. The weather was quite unpleasant most of the time we were in New York. We were met most cordially by Lucinda and Luther, who had made the addition of two handsome paintings to their parlors, besides quite a number of plaster of Paris brackets. Friday we went over to New York, Lucinda accompanying us. Luther went with us to the cabinet makers. There I purchased a large easy chair on castors and one smaller one, two bureaus, one whole marble top & the other half, two towel racks, one across bedstead, one whatnot, one cane seat rocker, one marble top center table. Then we went to the silversmiths where I purchased one dozen silver forks, one dozen teaspoons, six tablespoons, mustard and cream spoons, one pair salt spoons. That evening Mr. and Mrs. Davenport called and Mr. and Mrs. Ward and Truman Porter. The next day (Saturday) we went over to New York again and I could get it within a shilling as cheap as ingrain. I also got me a silver basket and castor of Mr. Ward. My basket is exactly like Mr. Shay's \$11.00 and my castor the same price & very handsome. I also got one dozen dinner napkins & one dozen tea, and some linen for pillow cases. Here my funds failed, and I was glad of it and went home contented. Ben got my bonnet for me, which is very handsome and left an order with Luther (who intends getting one for himself after the first of January) for a piano and stool for me. He has also given me a handsome long gold chain since my arrival here and a ring in New York. In Montreal he purchased a card case in the shape of a heard and worked with gold thread and spangles worked by the nuns. It is really a beautiful thing. Well, Saturday evening ex-Mayor Smith and Lady and Nelly Casahan and Mr. Squires called. Said if it had not been raining Tuesday morning they would have gone to our wedding. Sunday we were too tired to go to church and towards evening Henry Sanger and wife called and Mr. Will Bose in the evening. Mr. Pomeroy and Mr. and Mrs. Bogart, neighbors of Lucin. As you may imagine, it did not seem like Sunday. Monday morning we left for Philadelphia. At the depot in New York we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Pomeroy and Mr. and Mrs. Squire and James Abbott. Mrs. P seemed very sorry we were not going to stay longer as she would have given us a party. Mrs. and Abby called one day we were out. I am very sorry as I should have like to have seen them. We intended visiting the Crystal Palace but did not find time. In Philadelphia we stopped at the Girard House, visited Fairmont water works, which are arranged most beautifully, Laurel Hill

Cemetery, which is much smaller than Greenwood, but quite as lovely a spot, Girard College and old Independence Hall. I could have wept as I stood in it and recalled the illustrious spirits of those God-trusting men, who there signed the Declaration of Independence Hall. So different is the spirit of politics now from that stern principle of right which actuated them. We did not stop in Baltimore but passed through. In Washington we tarried for two nights and a day. The Patent Office is equal to any museum. It will repay one for a long visit. The additions which are being made to the Capital render visiting it not as pleasant as it would be otherwise. The grounds are beautiful there is some fine statuary both in and around the Capitol. Our travelling South was entirely by railroad. We passed through Richmond and Petersburg, stopping only long enough to get dinner and tea. We came by cars to Wilson, twenty miles from here, where the Dr. expected his carriage to meet us, but was disappointed and so hired a carriage and came within seven miles by plank road. The rest of the way is a good common road. In the whole of that twenty miles I don't think we passed over half a dozen houses. The road on both sides was bounded by woods, mostly pine, and the trees are much taller and larger than ours. Well, Mother, you would like quiet. If you'll come see me I'll promise you a plenty of it. Ben was gone eight days with Richard to Beaufort on business and there were just three persons in the house besides Mrs. Williams, myself, and the servants. These were, John, a nephew and niece of the Dr's. For a week after we came we had company a plenty in the house. Mary and her husband, Dr. Blount, Richard, John, and Joseph and their sister, Harriet, and her husband and child and nurse, and their mother, also Brother James and wife with one or two almost every day. But since the first week we have been very quiet. I ride horseback quite of ten and enjoy it much. Have been twice to the Dr.'s brother's and stayed all night once. Have also called twice at Mr. Dowell's in Snow Hill, the teacher in the Academy. I find my wardrobe quite too extravagant, I assure you, but Experience is a good teacher and I don't intend to cry over what can't be helped. You have no idea how entirely different everything here is. If you call Long Island behind the times, I don't know what you would call North Carolina. It has been rightfully termed Rip Van Winkle. I am a regular curiosity. You can imagine how thickly the country is settle when I tell you that in the whole of Greene County there are only about as many inhabitants as there are in the town of New Hartford, and more than half of these colored. There are only two hundred voters in the county. If you want to know about the country and people you must come and see for I cannot give you a description. The servants are treated better in most respect than I expected. We have one that can read. I asked her who taught her "my young mistress before I came here". She told me she had four and they were all kind to her. As for religious privileges, they enjoy all that their masters do. I should say more, for all the preaching I have heard has been more suited to the illiterate than the educated. What would you