

Friday Evening Oct 19th 1855

My dear Parents,

I sit me down this Evening to answer your kind letter which was received on Wednesday. I need not tell you it, made me glad, you know it afforded me much heartfelt pleasure. While I write Ben & Harriet sit by the table the former reading and the latter sewing, Sis is asleep on the bed, she is indeed a source of much comfort & amusement to us, she walks almost entirely now & seems to understand most everything we say to her, she takes her little pail on her arm and starts for milking, calling Boss- tell Mag she has improved in her dancing, she calls Bapa & evidently makes a distinction between that and Papa when she calls her Father.

You ask Ma in regard to our purchases, we think we got our furniture very low, indeed the whole cost but little more than I gave for what little I got first.

For my room (the sitting room) we got a Bedstand (\$10.00), Bureau (\$20.00), Mattress (\$6.00), couch (\$6.00), wardrobe (\$20.00), Marble top table (\$12.00), ½ doz chairs (\$1.12 each), carpet (68 ½ cts. per yard). Dining room extension table (\$13.00), ½ do chair (\$1.12 each), Matting on the floor (31 cts per yard I believe) A set of crockery for Dinner, Tea, & Breakfast, including three chamber sets, a Bed pan for sickens, a Spittoon, a set of Goblets & preserve dishes, a butter dish, 1 doz. Preserve plates, 1 doz. Little salt sets half were given me by the merchant, our bill with him was \$42.00. For the kitchen we got a nice cook stove (\$20.50) in addition to the common furniture we got an iron boiler or pot which fits the two front holes of the stove and in which I can boil a large ham if I wish. For the parlor we have a carpet different from the sitting room but the same price ½ doz. Chairs (\$1.25 each), table (\$13.00), Rug (\$2.50). Upstairs in Hattie's room there is a matting on the floor and a set of cottage furniture included a bedstand, bureau, washstand, table, 3 chairs for \$25.00 For another Chamber I have two bedstands (\$3.50 each) bureau (\$6.00), washstand (\$1.00), boxing & dartage was \$21.00.

In regard to the things I have at home, Ben thinks best not to send them until we get there. If you are a mind to send us a barrel of apples, we will be much obliged, please send at once and direct to the Dr. at Greenville care of B.F. Havens. Washington NC. We found things about as we expected when we returned. The servants had done about nothing.

We have harvested about 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, and the corn is coming in well. They have suffered much for want of rain here, but it is now raining finely. Harriet is making way with the sewing we have two comfortables finished, besides other sewing done, my fingers are still crippled but I hope are getting better. Richard & John have been to see us, like good friends as they are, they inquired particularly after you so did Mother Williams. The pears did not keep. Ben sends love in which joins your daughter Sarah

Write soon. Love to all, particularly Abby Grosvener where is she? Tell her to write.