

Clifton Grove. Monday  
Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1854

My dear Parents,

Yours was received on Saturday & I hasten to reply today that we may have a chance of enjoying some of your good apples before going to Raleigh, or at least before Ben goes. They will be very acceptable I assure you, please direct them to the Dr. Care of B.F. Havens Washington N.C. Ben is sending or going to the turpentine to Greenville & can get it more easily than from New Berne. I wish as surely as you possibly can that we find means to you, what changes the next few years make in our arrangements is impossible to divine, I could wish that they might find us in a pleasant home at the North and yet to gain that end I should be very unwilling to sell our Servants, I know that they are kindly cared for now, and they might easily fall into worse hands. The recent discussion upon the Slavery questions have reopened the smoldering fires of animosity both North & South. How I wish the Abolitionists in the North could see these things as I see them, if they knew what they were about they would act differently as they are doing, they are lighting the bonds of the Slave, and putting farther off his Emancipation. I do not doubt the sincerity of many of them but more of this when I see you. We have not received the papers of which you spoke, but hope to the Post Master here is such an "ignoramus" that more than likely he has overlooked it, I receive some of my letters a month or more after they are written, and I have no doubt that many I shall never receive, fortunately yours have all come straight, but those from Ohio are always tardy. I received one from Mary, a few weeks since a month or two old. If it would do any good I could almost envy Lucin the ease which she can visit you. We are anticipating visiting you another summer if we come we must necessarily make a long stay. I sometimes fear our Baby will worry you Mother, by the way we have changed her name to Sarah Elizabeth, Ben always wanted her called that, but I hesitated as I had named Lucinda's Lizzie, but I don't like Virginia, and am perfectly satisfied now with the name we have chosen. It has the merit at least of not sounding strained. I received the cloak and bonnet from McFarland they are very pretty & not extravagant I think, but at present the bonnet is most too large but it will be all the better for by & bye- she is very small I think for her age, but has always seemed well so I shant worry I don't believe she would weigh over ten pounds. Several of the friends here says she looks as much like you Pa as a little Baby can look like an old person, her eyes have turned black 7 sometimes I think I can trace a resemblance, there is no mistaking the underlip, it is all Hicks, anyway she's as pretty a little Baby as I ever say. Ben declares her the prettiest.

Brother James has a son very sick, which will detain him from visiting the North at present. Baby is crying & I must close. With love in which the Dr. joins I am your affectionate daughter

Sarah.