Rutherford County, North Carolina
August 21, 1858

My dear friend,

To clearly convey my intentions with my thoughts of my work, I obtained of you and the Ford to gather last night. Often I think during the day my dear cousin will think of such a letter. You and to our far corned thoughts I must write to-night - I hope, but can hardly think so, that my letters have something of interest in them. At least, it seems that they will be welcome if they only tell you that I am possessed with an unbreakable degree of health, and associate of good spirits as could be expected of me, when separated so far from the dearest being on earth - I have not had the pleasure of a letter from you in a week, but attach all the blame to my mail - I could not think.

you were doing wrong if you did not write; for it would not suit you to do so unless it was an agreeable thing, and not a duty.
I am not entirely forgotten! There is one who is constantly present in my thoughts, and whom I am convinced gives me many a sweet thought. In this I feel all confident and can never think I am forgotten, not on account of any great appearances but because I am dear to her. Of course I know, if my heart was not wholly devoted to my own, if it is yours, my own will lie anywhere. To know how to love you enough to allow you any consideration, attachment is my affection, my greatest desire to make you happy. Do you know I have something by which I think it can judge of your more or less account—your cordiality at times toto cheerful, as you see it in a happy, glad, sentimental manner. Then, again, all your spirits are gone your cheek pale with sadness, and you can be thoughtful, fearful of the future. I must think there is something of a spiritual connection between you and this picture so this could not be so. I take courage with about it and the smile it was on my face at the
What concern can you have in learning that we are working away at the rate of one mile a day over those mountains, and returning to camp at night rejoice that another day has passed just because it brings night. What can it mean for us to rest for a few short hours? And what else can I write to you about? -- to know we are courting a Road that cost $40,000 per mile in a State you care so little for with not a single interest to you, and besides it will cost quite substantial for us to be making you aware of such facts. Don't laugh at me for such -- for you know I am a "very matter-of-fact" kind of a person. I don't know what is going on in Harriett as no one there cares enough for me to consider writing. What little pride need I want of what I am cared for than the silence? They all observe towards me what away -- I write sometimes to let them know. They are not entirely forgotten, if I am in my wanderings over the cold Heather earth.
time; but if this was so you would see glad every time I looked for it gay and on that face with as much pleasure and joy and as if there was some sort fascination with just the same interest as when I was first struck with its peculiar beauty. I am more one love you gave me, the its was in an unhappy moment that will cling as long as life shall last - so lonely and gently, as fond and interested that cannot lose - you remember the evening Dr. cathedral and we all went over to raspberry Belle's, and after we returned you told one of the cause of your unhappiness, while standing in the piazza. That cause when you asked me not to mention to me what you told me! it was exciting but that had more influence over me than any word that another could have spoken. But so it has been from our earliest acquaintance. That one glance, one word from you, often decided me. So it shall ever be, Thine, the voice to cheer me on or check me.
I dislike to mention that disagreeable thing but so many things are connected with it that it seems impossible to not refer to it. I am sorry you look so gloomy and sad because of those things. But know how hard it was for you. You said in one of your letters that you thought Mr's opinions had changed concerning you all. I am glad I can differ with you in our opinion. She spoke very frequently and always kindly and affectionately of you before I left home. She loves you, Sidney, as a friend, and as the choice of her son. She can appreciate your worth, merit, and knows you to be just what she told me when I told her of our engagement. A good, affectionate girl. Be happy, my dear cousin; all this will, one day, brighten him, though it looks so dark now. He will be happy together, and others will be so because we are and that our end in more supreme. My mother will be another to you and know your welfare at least as much as that of one of her own children.
Cousin's feeling will settle towards you all I think; but I cannot deny that she appears a little displeased— I think, as she is an old friend and has business so much interest in you, an old and dear friend of your father and now urges that anything unpleasant has ever occurred, by your writing to her she would change her opinions and in a short time too. The same as ever, I know she is a person of very strong prejudices but has equally strong affection must overcome her ill feeling for a heart as true and pure as Thine. May we not wish this to be all her former yel for your good natured and your forgiving, gentle spirit the medium by which all that has brought about? All this while I am confident to amicably settle and only teach us who to trust in future— If it is not, will a letter, an advance from you the injured party, be any sacrifice of honor— will it not tend more to a communication certainty of having done all you could to restore the former good feeling.
You asked me if you ought to write, and I have
given you my opinion why candidly, because I
found you would like it better than any other.
If I have said too much pray excuse me, and
take one of it - Tell me if you do say anything
you dislike and I will make half another
in my power, and can you soon for direct-
ing me in the proper course - You shall "tie
on in the way I shan't go" - You are my
guiding star whose light shall one day lead
me to the Savior.

The time is passing away very rapidly and
I hope before many months to be able to en-
gage - When I go home which will be in a
few weeks I will try to again at some definite
closure about going to Spain - I must see
you until winter and will you not give en-
ough hope that this is the last long separa-
tion we will have - Will you not write within
To Carolina until winter as my happy bride -
Your shoulders are folding the time - One year
now will have the same difficulties that now is.
all I do is for you, and I have been told by all
my friends and have learned by observation that
while a man is married he will do nothing.

Why should we delay an event which is
so important to both of us? Come with me
then and be happy—we will soon have a
home of our own when we can live in
peace and be an example of contentment to
the whole world—let yours ours will be a happy
home and for that reason am more anxious
to say when you are here this is home to me
wherever you are it is content—Your another
and sister will part with you as freely then
or at your leisure—Come Home, to stay own
my three sides must number

I wrote to you soon, will to our often, write all
your thoughts for to know your heart strength of any
subject makes it dear to me—I have some till
for want of him—I must inform myself how
now much read more—My candle is about end
and I must close My love to your Mother—

I have written to both of them lately—They have been
my friends to write to me—I will write again soon

Come think with true and eternal affection—Jim Turner