September 15th, 1858

My dear Jane,

You say my letters are welcome and pleasing and for this reason I write again this morning. Many thanks for the two pleasant letters I read from you yesterday, dates Sept 1st & 6th. They show at home several days before I got them, being about at the Camp Meeting. I turned home for them to me, greater of all pleasures - I knew there would be two for me when I came. Rather sad did I imagine you to be when you wrote though you said your spirits were very cheerful. I hope you are not beginning to look darkly into the future. You have always been so 'bright', so cheerful and shining, with nothing to trouble your bright heart, oh! it would be a sad thing now, if you would become melancholy and despondent. Do you remember your promise to be the same little Convinced Maria? Rush it!
I have written you some back letters since I came home. I hope you will make allowance for this and not think too hardly of the persons mentioned. You see the proof of this. I am in hair much to do with my thoughts. All will be right and will work out yet, and that before many more months. Forgive the letter; I will try to do better. Almost there persuaded me to be a Virgin. Your last two letters made me think a great deal about my Maria's happiness, and that probably by my faults showing a further degree of indecision and that my own will or to whom it will fall. I am regarding that which is of more importance. I do think there ought else in this world. Why do you want me to promise to go to Texas? Why do you endeavor to frighten, to try me by proposing to remain (and) always. as now with a few suit...gulf between us. Don't you know I would never bear to anything of the kind unless forced to do so by you, and this I cannot believe you ever intend to do. No. I trust in my Maria through the Gulf is between us.
Although I am too anxious you should come with me this winter, after due deliberation I am inclin’d to think you know best and we had better wait—Then if you still think so when you receive this it will be a comfort to your mother; but if you are willing to return with me I hope you will not hesitate to say so, and you will find a response ready in my heart. You know, I hope it is not from any fear of your sensibility that I pricked me should to return this winter, and now that I find you and those who have such a due interest in you would be made unhappy by the winter scheme— I am willing to forebear any further entreaty. All will be better by another year’s prolongation, then you must be happy and not let this thought disturb you any more nor your poor mother and sister.

I am afraid to say what I think of this letter, and will let it go, trusting my opinion to myself—but I hope you will not do so but tell me when you are not satisfied with what I write— and the manner.
But that letter from Hatherfold I said too much about the fagpaper and cousin Sally.
He told me last week he loved cousin, but that he could never think of saying anything to me for the way to noble a lady for
him to utter such thoughts of addressing.
He came very near declaring himself once,
I answered him "I go to Miss Milton again
then he says he is too proud to do that - Then,
do you wish to go to Texas, (I am telling you all)
not seeing me for it would take him ten
years to be here ready for such a thing, and
now he will not think of his dying so. I shall
talk him the next time I go, see him to think
no more about it - Cousin Sally will go over
next term after I will write to them
for days to days and tell her what I can think of.
Old ages he is a poor hand for letter writing
and you could not think hard of his not
writing. I will write again before Sunday.
Your "tea-time" letters as you choose to call them are
just as I wish you to write for it is as you think
I have not been able to discover the person who thinks you will not come to Carolina. Jim Williams says he heard such might be. The end of your engagement, Mr. Elder so too, and I have heard that Mr. once feared you might break all our hopes for happiness — I pray God their expectation may never be realized — Nor have I doubted you. Yes! I can confide anything to your care and keeping even more as I do. This you know, my loved one, and need not be added that thousands of times let the world think as it pleased, tiny cares will not change one little bit. I hope for a change in me, however. She knows has loved her from the first with the purest and most ardent affection.

That hour for meditation, pleasure of all, to me, for it is so quiet, nothing to distract but sit and look out upon the undulating hill by the time a few moments ago hinting in all its splendor to set among the clouds, to see the twilight starstake forth, the drowsy tinkling of bees, and songs of the woodland homeward coming.
The soft light of the half-grown moon, seeming
to kiss into one's heart, and soften all
hard feelings. I say this hour, with all
its gentle influence, has come, and I must
spend a few minutes to think of my dear
while the candles are being lit. Yes! I gazed
on the stars by and thence of my couch
over the Gulf. Then except the other
coming to the rays of vision coming from
the star South and gladly traveling along
to mark mine in a little star I was
looking at—could they have been you?
So I thought—yes and it is too dear
to write straight

Now I will try to finish this letter.
In thinking what I should call this letter
I was wondering how often you have reproved
me for, as you say, abusing your correspondent.
And it never occurs to you that you have
often made yourself liable to accusation on
the same point. And that too without being
in the least deserving the base name you
give yourself as a correspondent. Will you not
Then oblige me in one request. Don't say
any more that your letter, are uninteresting.

Now have I read anything you can't
cite that I did not find something
interesting to me - I can't agree with you
if you say you write a bad letter. Each
and every one of this are the best I ever
read from any one. Another
thing I amaddled for, complaining you
to saying "Engineers and gentlemen are two
different and indisputable classes of men"
I say it is generally thought so and in
too many instances is alas! too true - I am
going to quit the business and turn gentlem
and a"worthy citizen" as one Mr. Bliss told
me, and do you know by whose influence
this is bought about? - So you can throw me
my position in the same as before. - Ask
Laura what she thinks of Engineers, ask
any lady who has had broad acquaintance
with the profession of many things. They do.
They drink, carouse, flirt, play cards, care
about without much care for themselves or other
or, and would you call these the attributes of
a gentleman - Will you not give up the right.
There was a strange and curious thing occurred near him last Monday evening. He was shot with a rifle. The ball going into his right breast and passing entirely round his body and coming out on the right side again. It did not kill him, but made a severe wound. Can Texas have that? I am going to Summerville tomorrow and out this week with a crowd of young folks going to a large Camp meeting up in the upper end of the county. Back home — We will have a jolly time — I guess — Cousin Brat may go. She hadn't concluded today — Dr. Brown is here. He has gone down the country to see his lady-love. They will be married soon. I guess. He has gone to Fayetteville to consult the Physicians on his case — will spend some time there. I can't said all my wish is the time may pass quickly and happily until we must all that we may never again be tired by so long a separation. Your dearest love your own affectionate Cousin Jennie