

12 Mar 1861

My Love.

Your last letter I received yesterday. It was dated March 6. I have had three sinical eyes left and thank you for writing so often. I hope in the next I may hear when I shall see you. Cousin will say I ought not to go to Statile for if I do you will not make any money. But if I could live away from you it might have spared you ~~the~~ ^{some} expense long ago.

Aunt Mary is here today - else I should have gone over the River. I did not intend staying here so long when I came but every time I set to leave something happened to prevent. To avoid censure for coming at all would be impossible - it is always the same if I come here on a long or short visit. But I had rather always do what I think is right that I may come off with a clear conscience. I have an idea that any

of them: care to see one but they will have room
to accuse one of indifference if I absent myself
altogether. I trust I shall not have to be there
long. None of the family have ever mentioned
my leaving. I suppose like some others they
think it very foolish in one to want to go.

I am anxious to hear from Mother - if she
can help me in any way to go to Texas.
Perhaps I may get a letter today. I began
this letter Monday - this half page I wrote
this morning before breakfast, this is Tuesday.
I am going over the Review this morning.

Cousin Jimmie came with his
Mother yesterday. He said he would
attend to those little notes for you this
week. Instead of dining here he went
over and spent the day with D. W. Burnett.

Aunt Mary says Old Cousin is
sunning down soon to stay. Has married
off Mrs. Sarah McLean she finds her
"occupation gone". Cousin Jimmie
says there were fifteen old maids

at the wedding, but I reckon that is
only one of his stories. Say tell you he
has found a bean for Lemmie - a saddle
maker who lives between here and Raleigh
I forget the name now.

Danahie is up long ago and
gone with Leanna. She is a right
good babe now. Especially at night which
you will be glad to know. Sometimes I take
her with me - other times she sleeps in the
crib. If I go to Lucas this summer
I shall be in Stateville for so short a
time I shall try to do without a nurse.

As long as I am not sick I can do very
well without assistance. I know it is
tiresome. I tried it last summer
when my strength was all gone. Unless
I go home I don't know how I shall do
this summer - but I must go some had.
I do not feel light hearted when I think
of all this. But it may or may not be
my last earthly trial. Sometimes I think

it would be well, then again with the child
of earth say "I am willing to die
But not now."

If you stay away much longer you
will not know your wife she will look
so lolly -

I heard
David M^o Dugald was very ill. I hope he
will recover soon. He will not be able to attend
Court this week. M^o M^o Dugald has
lost some progress, who died of pneumonia,
since you left. I trust Cousin David's
case is not so serious.

I am sorry to have written this so
hastily - When I go over to the District
I shall have an opportunity of more quiet.

It is so cold here now and has
been for several days.

With devoted love I am
Faithfully yours

Abner

Tuesday

March 22nd

[1861]