

Tuskalooza, Ala. Dec. 22^d 1876

Hon. G. F. Caldwell,

Washington City, D.C.

My Dear Sir -

I return you, in behalf of self & wife, many thanks for the packages of seeds, one rec'd a few weeks since, the other last week. But especially are we indebted to you for your very friendly letter, which proved to us that we had not entirely passed out of your mind. My wife appreciated both letter and presents very highly. You were right in your conjecture regarding the first package of seed you sent, for they were not rec'd by us, & therefore an grateful recognition thereof was not forthcoming. And now come my good & sufficient excuses for not having acknowledged the two last installments sooner. When the first came, I was on the eve of leaving home for my St. Clair farm, & when the last arrived I was in much domestic tribulation. In your

words, we had the misfortune of loosing Tom's son, Monday last, a dead child, who had entered the world one month too soon. Doubtless you can appreciate our feelings of bitter disappointment at this, the third consecutive mischance of the kind within the last three years. For months - commencing at the Springs - my wife has been a great sufferer, & it does seem hard indeed that all was for naught, & so near the time when a safe point in her pregnancy had been reached! But it is gratifying to be able to tell you that she is doing much better than could have been expected, & I see no reason why she should not be up in a couple of weeks. One of my main reasons for removing my residence to the mountains was the hope that finally she might be cured of what has become a habit in her constitution, for numbers of women have been cured up there of similar complaints. Providence permitting, we will move up to St. Cloud about

The wisdom of delay, & shall be
delighted to meet with yourself
& Mrs C. during the summer.
I intend to give the seed a fair trial,
& shall be stimulated thereto by the
hope of seeing you enjoy some of
the products. You have done more
than enough for us, & must look
after your other moral commitments
in the further distribution of valu-
able seeds. Yet, should any more
production come within your share
of distributive "parasitism", I will
experiment with it should you find
the seed. If you have yr. wife with
you, extend to her our kindest re-
-membrance. Mrs R. wishes espe-
-cially to be remembered by you &
to thank you in her own name.

Very truly yr. friend
R. Randolph

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



Hon. John W. Caldwell,
(House of Representatives)
Washington City,
D.C.