

January the 20th
1856

My Dear Child: You see my letter has been on hand near a month, but I have been so perplexed and angered about a great many things, that I have neglected in finishing it. To day is the sabbath. We have a sacramental meeting in Town, Dr. Ross of Huntsville assists Brother Marchal. I intended going but the snow is very deep this morning and Liza is sick, I cannot leave her. Rebecca and John are there, Kate is at home with me. Mat is in Ala. John left here the day before New Year's, (I got Dr. Bonners Affidavit; he swore positively that the child was dead some time before its birth) and sent it by John. He reached Old Man Davis's about 10 o'clock the same night he left, The Negroes were there, and not hired, Mat wanted a division, this she expected him to do as soon as he got the Dr.'s Affidavit but he would not do it but hired them the next day - and wrote to Mat that

he never would make a division until my affidavit

was given, I wrote him a long letter by John stating that my belief, that the child breathed, was founded alone on the circumstance of its mouth falling open

when placed in the water; I stated to him alas that I would be qualified that the Dr. told me some time before the child was born that it was pulseless and also that he said it was useless to put it in water or use any other restoratives for it was gone."

I also stated to him that after conversing with the Dr. on the subject and understanding fully the unnatural presentation of the Child at its birth I was fully convinced of my error in believing it breathed; I told him I was alarmed excited and desirous above all things that the child should live, that my mind was not in a proper frame to make any just conceptions of any thing that transpired and if I was forced to give my evidence it would be that after understanding as I now do, all the the attending circumstances in relation to the childs birth corroborated by the Dr.'s positive oath I would say I felt assured I was mistaken in supposing the child breathed notwithstanding this letter which he could make any use of to justify him in delivering up the property to Mat. He still persists in holding it. He cannot run any risk I am satisfied, he is either influenced by the Craig family or he wishes to hold the property as long as possible to get as much as possible for his trouble. I like Old Mrs. Craig she treated Mat like one of her own children, whilst she was sick, but I have no use for Mrs. Jones (Mr. Craig's sister) she professes great love for Mat, and writes to us very often but I believe she would take the last dime from Mat, if she could. John went to see Eliza while in Ala. and staid two days with her. He got home Saturday the 4 day of this month. Mat left here on Monday the 6th she went in the Hack to Huntsville and there took

the Cars, I received a letter from her a few days ago. She reached Eliza's without any accident. She had not seen Mr. Davis. The weather had been so bad she could not get there, I wish Mr. Caldwell had been near us so he could have attended to Mat's business. If he had, Old Nat Davis never should have had a hand in it. Indeed Mat was so low at the time he administered that, she did not know or care much for any thing. Mr. Craig had been dead just 2 days when the Old Lady wished me to name to Mat that it was necessary that some one should administer immediately and she knew that Mr. Davis would have been Rankin's choice had he made one, of course Mat consented to it. Mat still says she knows that he will do her justice. Perhaps he will but I think he is very anxious to hold the property as long as possible. He says in his letter that he can hold it 18 months. The law does not require him to divide it until the end of that time. Notwithstanding this he has hired the Negroes 12 months.

January 27th

Here I am again Sabbath morning your letter still unfinished. We have had a dreadful spell of weather. We are all well, Liz is still on her feet. I am looking every moment for her to be down. Sam is a fine big boy but can't walk yet. The sickness has abated

Mr. Marchals Daughters are on the mend.
Do you ever hear from Eliza? I am glad her
health is improving. John says she looks well.

Mat's health is only tolerable. If she lives until
next summer she will go to see you. If you
know of any one coming from your part of the

country here - let us know it in time and we

will have some clothes for the little Boys made
up. For I know the making would be something
for you. We could and would help you in that way
if you were only near us. Rebecca has a star quilt
in but the weather is so cold we can't quilt so we
have hung it up. We have nothing to do in the way
of the needle, we are cutting carpet rags and crocheting
a little. Rebecca's beau has gone to Texas to
bring his Mother and family to Fayetteville. His Father

died not long since. He will be gone some time. He
has to wind up the business of the estate. He and
Beck appears to be on very good terms. They don't
let me into their secrets. Julia Greer (report
says) is to be married shortly to Dr. Ivans of Shelbyville.

I believe I wrote you that Elzira Greer had a
deformed child. It had no upper part of its head.

I was there shortly after it was born but did not
see the child. It was boxed up and I would not let
them open it. Kate has caught a rich beau (Mr.
Steel) a widower, he owns three or four fine houses
in town - servants without number. It is true he
is somewhat advanced in years, but that is nothing
he says (he knows Mr. Caldwell). He married Mrs.
Timmons daughter Mrs. Robinson, he came out
here a few days ago in his fine buggy and match horses
to see Kate. Rebecca sends her love and says I must

tell you that she received a present of a fine gold watch
and chain a few weeks ago, she says she is a little
awkward in wearing it but thinks after wearing
it a while she will become accustomed to it.

My love to the little Boys. Kiss the babe for me

Do take care of your self. May God bless you

my child. L.D. Greer.