

Fayetteville July 25th 1857

My Dear Mary

I did not think when I finished Walter's letter of writing to you but I find I can write you a few lines before Rebecca and the Dr. comes out, which they do every Sabbath evening. I received your letter dated July 8th and was glad to hear you were all alive. I was sorry to learn that little Eddy's health was so delicate and hope by this he is over the effects of the measles. We are

getting along about as usual. Kate's health is still delicate, Rebecca is better than when I last wrote you, hers was not a dangerous disease. Liza is still on her feet, but don't know what moment she may go to bed. I heard from Eliza a few days by a Gentleman who staid all night there. He said John would be to see me in a few days, I hope Mat will come with him. I suppose John has laid by his crop until picking out cotton time. I will have him with me a few weeks and then he will return. I am undecided yet what to do in the future. If I was entirely clear of debt I would remain where I am, but I owe some debts that must be paid this Christmas. If I had rented out my place and hired out Liza this year it would have nearly cleared me of debt. As it is, the interest is still increasing and I am anxious

to stop it. If I could pay it without breaking up I would still keep house. I know so many Old Ladies that have broken up and are so unhappy on account of it, Mrs. Mclin, Mrs. Smith (Cousin David's Mother) and Mrs. Medcalf. I saw Mrs. Medcalf a few days ago in Town. She made a great many inquiries about

Mr. Caldwell. The Old Lady has just returned from Missouri. She has a sister living there, but she was not satisfied to remain there.

She is now staying with Ann Smith in Town. George Smith is Clerking for Mr. Goodrich, Ann is scuffling a long with four little children. The neighbourhood is quite healthy at this time.

Nancy Smith is still lingering along, she cannot last much longer. Lou McElroy has 5 boys, Mrs. Dickinson has 4 children. She never visits, nor has visitors, Conaway's family is all the associates she has. Aunt Mary Ann is now in Ala. at Baily's Springs, she is nearly blind. One eye is entirely gone the other is

failing. Julia Evans is living in Shelbyville, Jake is on the Old Lady's farm, still not married, Lou Steel is in bad health has had a cough for some time. Kate is going in this morning to Rebecca's room (this is Monday morning) so I must hurry through with my letter. I was glad to see even the pieces of your dresses and much pleased to know you had so many good friends.

Who was Eliza Wyly? May Wyly's Daughter, I thought she had but one child. Do write to me and let me know what relation she is to me. Give my love to Mr. Caldwell, and say to him that I am all anxiety about his success, and hope he may be elected. You must read my letter to Walter and make him understand it. I am looking for Mrs. Medcalf this morning

to stay several days. I still have a great deal of company and situated as I am it is a great deal of trouble. No one in the neighbourhood entertains as many as I do. Liza children are

very troublesome, tho' Sam is large enough to bring in chips and keep flies off the table and mind Bell and keep her out of the fire. But when Liza has another I don't know what I shall do when company comes in. I believe I have given you all the news. Write

soon and let me know all that

concerns you. My love to May Wyly's family and may God bless you and yours is the wish of your mother.