

1814

To Ed G. Caldwell

Bingham School

Mebanesville, NC. [Mebaneville, NC.]

Washington D.C.

Dec 13th 1874

My Dear boy,

We have just received a Postal Card from you and are truly glad to hear that you are “thriving.” We moved last night to our boarding house and are beginning to feel settled. I spent four or five days of last week looking for board and consequently saw a great deal of the city, and many things to interest me, I have not been to the Capitol yet; but have been to the Botanical Garden where I saw plants from

various portions of the world. The prettiest Palms Trees with their beautiful foliage and the Spice Tree, and the Orange and the Banana growing and ripening upon their Parrot branches walking around in the tops of these trees were Parrots that would look down very graciously upon you and say “good morning” as you went in, and “good evening” as you came out. One of the Parrots was about twice as large as any you ever saw, and as white as snow, I wish you could have seen it. The King of the Sandwich Islands is here now, I will send you a paper containing a description of him and of his reception here. Papa sent you a paper yesterday. I want you to send your numbers for shoes in your next letter, and we will send you a pair in your Christmas Box. I hope my darling your will be a good boy and will be very careful about those horrible guns, you know how much afraid I am of them. Let us know if you need any more bedding. Mr. Bright is here, says the Bingham School is the best in the country; he will send Buckner back, he is a nice boy and I want you to make him your friend his Mother and I are old school mates. We had a letter from Gen'l Forney [General Forney] today

he says Joe Goode is married to somebody in Dalton Ga. At least he had telegraphed as much to some of the boys. If this be so, he certainly has less sense than I gave him credit for. He is really not able to take care of himself. Let me know in your next how you spend your time, and what you are reading or studying. Read your Bible daily and pray that God will make you a good boy. May the Good Lord bless and keep you from all evil is the earnest prayer of you devoted mother

M.D. Caldwell [M. D. Caldwell; Mary Darthula Caldwell]