

Cropwell Ala.

Feb. 27th. 1876

My Dear Mrs. Caldwell,

I may have told you that I was writing to you when my precious little one died; and when I seat myself at the same table, with the same pen addressing the same dear friend, I am so strikingly reminded of that "saddest of sad days" and feel such an indescribable pain at heart, that I am tempted to lay aside my pen again. But fearing that you may misinterpret

my silence into indifference I address myself to replying to your kind letter of Jan. 24th. From my heart I do thank you for your expressions of loving sympathy. Next to the holy, comforting influences of God's Spirit, I prize the friendship and sympathy of good men and women. - I am entirely alone this "rainy Sunday." Charlie is on the lower end of the circuit and has been since Friday

morning. Yesterday I had a house full of company all day and they seemed so engrossed with the frivolities and vanities of life so much, so entirely I might say, interested in the "things that perish with their using" and

so oblivious of things heavenly and divine that I didn't enjoy their company. So I betook myself to the kitchen not only to prepare dinner but to indulge in thoughts congenial - to shut out sounds to me unpleasant and lift my minds eye above to feast on things invisible.- Dreary as today is without, I am enjoying it more than yesterdays

sunshine. I am recovering my strength

rapidly since I commenced my tonic. I am going to prescribe the same for you and you can use it or not

I think 'twould strengthen you wonderfully. I can't find the prescription to give it to you exactly but it is made of Sulphate of Cinchonia and Tincture of Iron.

I was so glad

to hear that your Sister was with you with her to divide the care of the baby you can have some time to devote to others, and can sometimes go to church and Sabbath school. Then the society of a good, loving Sister makes time pass so pleasantly! I was rejoiced to know that the baby is growing. John wrote tantalizingly of her sweetness. He has an idea that I'd like to see her I think - and 'tis quite a correct one. You must consent to Johns fulfillment of his promise to bring the little darling to St Clair this Spring. And if you will allow it I

shall be delighted to take care of her while you are gone to the bicentennial - and if you desire I'll go into a written agreement not to spoil her. God bless the dear baby!

I presume you hear from Col C- Ed and Walter regularly. How is Miss Kates health now? and above all how is your own? Remember me affectionately to Mrs Woodward and Mrs. Forney. I will be glad always to hear from you. There is no one on earth for whom I have a higher regard and no one on whose counsel and fidelity I more implicitly rely than yours my dear friend. I shall always be delighted to serve you in any way and trust that you'll never deny me the pleasure. With a shower of kisses for little Jennie and much love for dear John and yourself I am

Always your true friend  
E.W. Allday