

Cropwell Ala.

March 27th 1876

My Dear Mrs. Caldwell,

I am so very anxious to hear

from you all that I am persuaded to write a second time hoping thereby to elicit at least a line concerning the little darling. In my sorrow and loneliness (for I am much alone) good news from you and the precious baby would be as cheering as the rays of sunshine which sometimes gladden us when the winter days are dark and

dreary. The little one is now about five months old and I know she has many winning ways. I would be so

glad you, or John, would tell me all about her. In addition to the recital of all her smart, sweet little ways be sure to tell me whether she has black or blue eyes for you know that important question wasn't decided when I last saw her.

I have had a very severe cold for the last ten or twelve days. There are several cases of Pneumonia in this vicinity and there have been several deaths recently There is to be a burial this morning - a Mrs Grisholm who

died of consumption, leaving several small children - Mrs G- has a sister expecting to die every hour of the same dread disease. I was visiting a sick lady not long since - a lady who has been confined to her bed for two years - and while there the lady's father an old man of eighty three years, died in the room adjoining his sick daughter's. His death was unexpected and the lady was very much excited and shocked of course I tried to console her but she told me to "hush! hush!

my father has always been so wicked - a blasphemer till the day of his death - I loved him and how can I bear to think of the unending torture of my poor fathers soul which is just now beginning." Then I thought of the Scripture that says "If a man beget a hundred children and the days of his years be many and his soul be not filled with good I say that an untimely birth is better than he." Then I thought too of the deaths which I considered untimely - of dear ones stricken down in youth and health and beauty - of dear ones whose hopes and prospects were bright, whose lives diffused joy and good on all they met and I thought of Gods goodness in taking them to himself while they were innocent, not leaving them to be tempted and probably like that poor old man

grieve God's Spirit until they'd be given over "to hardness of heart and reprobacy of mind" and be finally lost.

The Birmingham Dist. Conf. is to be held at Blount Springs the 23rd to 25th of April. If I am right well I think I shall go with Charlie over there. Bishop McTyeire is to preside. Rev. Mr. Renfroe made his Centennial speech in this Valley yesterday. I didn't hear him - was too unwell to go out - I am looking for Charlie home today - he's been gone four days - I hear from bro. Will occasionally - he and Sister F. have been

visiting Mrs. Brandon in Tuscaloosa.- We expect John to see us this Spring - hope you will let him bring Jennie to stay with us awhile. Hoping that you'll write often and prevail on John to do the same I close. My kindest regards to all my friends. Much love for yourself John and the precious little one I am ever your devoted friend

E.W. Allday -