

Dear Josie,

I am not able to write you a letter this evening for I have been walking in darkness for several days past having lost my strongest glasses, but I must say to you that one of the greatest trials of my life has been the giving back to God our dear little Carl and I want to say to you my dear child; that even in the midst of sorrow my heart was made glad to know that you bore this greatest trial of your life with Christian fortitude. God's will must be done. What strange creatures we are; we pray daily "Thy will be done" and when our prayer is answered and He chooses to do his will, a great lamentation is sent up and we refuse to be comforted. To be resigned to God's will, is to be perfectly willing for him to do just as he pleases with us and all that we have, if left to ourselves what could we do for we cannot see a step before us; but if we live by faith in the son of God when trials and bereavement come we can call to remembrance the many blessed promises he has left to cheer and comfort us. "Fear not, for I am with thee," "My strength shall be sufficient for thee," "When thou passeth through the waters they shall not overflow thee," "When thou walketh through the fire, thou shalt not be consumed." I know by experience how helpful these promises have been to me – like balm to a wounded heart.

This life after all is but a training school to prepare us for the higher and the better life above. There are some hard lessons to learn, and every rule must be obeyed they are all laid down in the great Text Book of Heaven and made so plain that "He that runneth may read." Hoping that we may make diligent use of every opportunity of advancement in this our earth work and that when our [term] closes and we are transferred to the higher and better life we may receive the welcome plaudit "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

With love from Grandma

I would not send this blurred sheet to anyone but yourself, but I have not found my glasses yet and am trying to write with two pairs that suited me twenty years ago and when one isn't falling off, the other is.

Remember me with much love to Mrs. Lay and Carl

[front of envelope]

Jacksonville

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[1912]

Mrs. Carl Stanton Lay,

Gadsden;

Ala.

[back of envelope]

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