

Tuskaloosa [Tuscaloosa], Ala. Mar. 22nd 1876

Hon. J.H. Caldwell [John H. Caldwell],  
Washington City D.C.

My Dear Sir-

I return you, in behalf of self & wife, many thanks for the packages of seeds, we rec'd a few weeks since, the other last week. But especially are we beholden to you for your very friendly letter, which proved to us that we had not entirely passed out of your mind. My wife appreciated that letter and presents very highly. You were right in your conjecture regarding the first package of seed you sent, for they were not rec'd by us, & [?] are grateful [?] was not forthcoming. And now come my good sufficient excuses for not having acknowledged the two last installments sooner. When the first came, I was on the eve of leaving home for my St. Clair farm, & when the last arrived I was in much domestic tribulation. In few

words, we had the misfortune of having born to us, Monday last, a dead child, ushered into the world one month too soon. Doubtless you can appreciate our feelings of bitter disappointment at this, the third consecutive mischance of that kind within the last three years. For months commencing at the springs - my wife has been a great sufferer, & it does seem hard indeed that all was for naught, & so soon this time when a safe point in her pregnancy had been reached! But it is gratifying to be able to [?] that she is doing much better than could have been expected, & I see no reason why we would not be up in a couple of weeks. One of my main reasons for moving my residence to the mountains was the hope that [?] she might be cured of what has become a habit in her constitution, for numbers of women have been cured up there of similar complaints. Providence permitting, we will move up to St. Claire but

the middle of May, & sure be delighted to meet with yourself & Mrs. C. during the summer. I intend to give the seed a fair time, & shall be stimulated [?] by the hope of seeing you enjoy some of the products. You have done more than enough for us, & must look after your other usual constituents in the further distribution of valuable seeds. Yet, should any seed production come within your [?] of distributive "[?]," I will experiment with it should you send the seed. If you have your wife with you, extend to her our kindnesses remembrance. Mrs. R. wishes especially to be remembered by you & to thank you in her own name.

Very truly your friend  
R. Randolph

Tuscaloosa, ALA Mar 24

Hon. John H. Caldwell,  
(House of Representatives)  
Washington City,  
D.C.

If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to