

1855

Valley Front.

March 19th / 61.

Dear Aunt Betty,

I have always endeavored to make the Golden rule my rule through life, and although it is very cold and snowy, I must try to answer your very acceptable letter to night. When we awoke Monday morning the ground was covered and the snow still falling; it continued to fall till about twelve o'clock to day, then it was several inches deep. I never saw a more unexpected or unwelcome storm for, the most of the fruit trees were in full bloom, and consequently the fruit must be all killed. We have put up no ice, and if we don't have fruit, summer will not appear like summer. You don't know how much distressed I was upon the reception of your last letter to learn that you had decided to leave your pleasant mountain home for the one in Arkansas. Since Virginia has acted so ridiculously I almost wish that I could forsake her borders and

accompany you thither. What will Uncle Rufus do with the farm; and how will you make up your mind to leave so pleasant a spot? Please persuade him not to go, I fear I shall never be able to visit you out there, and then shall almost wish I had never visited you at all. I think from the last accounts, that the Old Dominion she is endeavoring to throw off the galling yoke of old Mr. Lincoln; and I almost wish that if she does not act quickly, the Southern Confederacy will not admit her. I become more and more excited about secessions every day, and heartily wish I was close a man, so that I might take the secession stamp. The abolitionists certainly can't flourish among us, for last week the mill owned by Bushman & Landes was burned to ashes. It was thought to be set on fire by some of the hands owned by the firm, but they have no proof as yet. Haily was in the mill when it took fire, and takes delight in telling the story of course. Their loss was valued at twenty thousand dollars. We went to church Sunday, but had no preaching, and when we got home Aunt Harrietta and children were here. Aunt Martha is

hus is still begging for the Proctor family, who are
up now almost in a state of starvation, we tell
her she'll soon be like old Mrs Leman with
be her "how is you off". Cousin Sallie Nelson as
all in Williamsburg staying with cousin Hannie
I think who has another little by Charles Carter Page.
now she will remain in Williamsburg till Dr
Ed Nelson is ready to go to Matthews, where he in
is out. Tends or intended to settle. Brother is very
sad much pleased with Lexington, likes the
two county people, and has fattened out of his
I was clothes. In his last letter he had been to show
tump. some young ladies ~~then~~ to act characters; cutting
my quite a splurge I've no doubt. Jeffer acquitted
himself admirably well on the 22^d I have no
to be surtold, and from that fact, Brother thinks
him he will supplant him and be the orator of
the family. I am sorry to hear that darling little
tell the Willie's face is still sore, and as I can't send
entry the case by mail I will send you the receipt
but for making it. Kif her for me a dozen times,
Has Mrs Letitia Fitzhugh gone to housekeeping yet?
what or is she going? Will Miss Julia go with you all? and

if not when will she live? My task gets larger
and larger I have ten music scholars now; they take
me two days in every week. Mother was quilting
all last week and yesterday, but it is some
now and I am truly glad, for cold weather
and quilting should never in my opinion
come together. I am sure I never write a more
prosy letter than this, but indeed there is nothing
of interest transpiring among us, so you will
please excuse me this once. All well in the
family. Every body joins me in much love
to you. Love to Uncle Rufus all the children,
servants, Miss Julia, Mattie, and all my friends,
Aunt May particularly. I need not say write
soon for you treat me very kindly.

Your devoted Lucy Stubbs.