

Springfield Tuesday April 20 52

My Dear Child

I need hardly say how welcome your letter was, I could not account for your long silence, and had concluded you or some one of the family were sick, untill Sarah showed me one to to her, asking what was the matter with me, I had written as you learned on (the receipt of one I think in April) the first of March with a ring for Lucie and some snaps, which weighed half an ounce and payed double postage on it, that saw it mailed, so I suppose some one thought there was money in it and stole it, they were disappointed though, the ring was so small it would only do for a little child, I thought I could see the sweet little finger with it on I hope you will get it yet, but these things are past I must write about the present time, we have had for three days the most disagreeable kind of weather, raining almost constantly, the circuit court is in session and lasts the whole week, that is summoned as a witness in some case and is going every day, your father & Mr Senclair, are gone to Washington, as a last effort to get his claim allowed I think I wrote you before of his first visit, how he returned, buoyed up with hope as the chairman of the <sup>com</sup>mission told him, he did not see any impediment in the way at all & that he would report favorable of it, in some short time he received two letters one from Bailey and him, stating that searching the Journals of the Legislature, he is mentioned leaving the army before the end of the war, and that he was not entitled to commutation, but he went on to try and remove that difficulty, having certificates to prove he did serve to the end of the war, whether or not it will avail any thing I cannot see, Mr Senclair is a claim from his wifes father and he is trying to get it for his children, they have been gone a week to day, we expect them Saturday to come by the boat runs from Urbana, Lucy will write you after their return she is living with us now untill they can buy a place, she brought provisions with her, although I insisted on their seeing a much as possible to relieve them from debt, I think the sold nineteen negroes the have only some old ones left, the both very cheerful, she is quite well

and will soon be the mother of three if nothing happens, Ann Sotells  
has had a very sick family the hooping cough and scarlet fever.  
two of the children have had both, it is quite bad about several  
children are dead in the neighbourhood, all are well at M<sup>r</sup> Street  
now, Lucy went Petersburg with Mr Tangard to spend the holidays  
I do not know whether they have returned or not, I have been afraid  
to go there for fear of catching the fever, I have not seen Maria  
for nearly a fortnight, she looked today then, the Dr gets a great  
deal of practice, he can seldom come with her, a boy drives  
her with one horse to their carriage, and lately the horse has taken  
to running away and made her afraid of him, Sarah Weston  
left us yesterday she has been staying a week here, she had a  
little ice cream party wednesday had a few beaux to spend the  
night, they had custard and cream and cake, after tea and coffee  
and small cakes had been handed, it is too cold for such business  
I think Sarah came over and returned home at bed time, I was  
sick from just tasting and could not get up till late next day  
after being dosed with camphire pepper mint and tea made of pepp  
which I did not take, these remedies and a hot brick soon relieved  
me and I have had nothing of it since, Eugenia has taken your  
place and gives me sea doses, she is very unwilling I should die  
I suppose Mr F is doing planting even we have scarce begun  
and have been obliged to stop the quantity of rain has made the  
earth so wet, they are now grubbing, the garden looks quite  
well considering the backward spring, old John has planted  
more vegetables this spring than ever, in addition to our usual  
stock, we have saffron or as some call it the oyster plant  
we have a quantity of peas some of the sea water forward  
pea seed bought in Baltimore, your father supplied himself on  
his way home from Washington with a variety of genuine seed  
so exceed I wish you had some, but I think they will not  
let me send you any by letter, as I never lost but the one with  
snaps in it, well according to custom I am so tired I cannot finish  
my letter now you see how bad I write I can hardly hold the pen  
it will go tomorrow, and I will rest a while, all around me is cold  
damp, dismal, melancholy, in the sitting room fire all gone out

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the room in confusion I will put it by untill evening  
and now after having rested awhile and finished dinner I again take  
the pen to finish my letter, I had just put away my pen when <sup>we</sup> were  
surprised by a pedlar appearing at the door, and asking if we wanted  
any thing I had heard there was one who sold cheap goods and asked the  
girls if they wanted to see his things, between us all he got ten dollars  
Lucy chose a blue lawn blouse a yellow Indy a pink they are very pretty  
he sold them for 28 cents a yard Indy fees quite independant having sold  
the baggage you saw us making for fourteen dollars, she has made two sack  
coats two for fifty cents a piece, sold a pig for half a dollar, and among  
us we have sold seventeen pair socks eight pair gloves & C how do you  
come on with your fowls, Indy has fifty chickens goslings not hatched  
yet, had one little duck but is dead two turkeys setting, I deviated from  
my general rule of setting all at once, I thought perhaps the eggs  
would hatch better when new laid. I do not know any of the news of  
the country I hear there will be a gap electing persons for different  
offices as clerk commissioner of the revenue constables sheriff & C  
the quorum people have brought out Jefferson Stubbs for Clark and it is  
thought he will stand a very good chance to be elected, I must now conclude  
my dear child by sending love to all white and black and always to  
Aunt Mary I was very glad to hear uncle Jack had been to see you  
I hope he will yet become happy before he dies, I will not believe you  
you that Lucy is not pretty you wish to surprise us when we see her  
kiss her again and again for me, Kate is very much improved in manners  
and features two & Marnie who is very fond me one of the most interesting  
little creatures in the world, I must now stop Farewell my dear child  
your affectionate Mother

L T Baytop

P.S. this wednesday the sun is shining beautifully  
it is quite raining I cannot send any more snaps  
for I do not know where they are I think in  
Mr B's book case of which he always keeps the key  
L T Baytop

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