

Springfield October 5 52

My Dear Child

I received a great pleasure on last Thursday when your letter came to hand, one of greatest sources I enjoy in this life, I had been anxiously expecting it for some time, & should have written sooner, but Mr B was from home & I could not for want of paper, this is Monday and can't say and there is always a little fluster, some company has just left T Armotest & George Booth, I have been busy too. but have taken the pen, I hope I shall write cheerfully, I have been tolerably well lately, but we have had more sickness this summer than usual Rowena Eugenia & Lucy Ann have been sick Lucy Ann was ill we feared she would die, she is now better but very weak & low spirited Thomas & Sarah have been sick one with bilious fever & Thomas with affection of the lungs both are better now they were at church yesterday, to hear a Mr Fort preach a gentleman that brought his daughter to teach at Henry Hughes. Miss Pargoud has returned & brought a sister with her to stay untill Christmas her name is Cordelia a pretty girl, they say she is. Martha was to see me Saturday she is looking quite well now & in fine spirits they are building an office at the place he bought & she hopes to be at home in six weeks, she is so tired of boarding, she says she would rather be in a room only six feet square than not to move, they will then go on to build

this evening house, she will come here one day this week to carry me to see Clara Field who has a fine daughter a week old, Martha Waceer has a daughter too born on Friday night one of the largest children ever seen, it is supposed to weigh ten pounds Sarah will carry me to see her too this week week so you see we are in fine business Lucy left yesterday to dine at Tom Tacciaferro and from there to Wilsons Creek Mr Sinclair cannot be satisfied any where else, he has not heard from this yet, Moley Stevins mother is dead and it is thought that place will be sold Lucy is very anxious for him to buy it if it does not go too high, Jack Sinclair has bought William Ap Jones place & will move over before long, they say is fixed for T Geo & Julia Henry Daves to be married some time this month, T Banks is driving about the girls in a buggy with a horse costing ~~so~~ but it makes his mothers heart bleed, the Beechey Seminary is not begun that is to go up the bricks Mr Stubbs had made proved unfit & he has to send to Norfolk for them, every thing is some waiting for the bricklayers work to be done, I must now reply to your letter you must not think about giving out your trip to Glaston that would make me low spirited indeed I am living on the anticipation of it now, I made some one goap freey for Mr T especially knowing he is so fond of it dear good Aunt Mary I hope she will not be called upon to part with her good daughter I trust she will be well again

I am sorry Mrs Lane Conway is going to leave the neighbourhood on your account, what make Mrs Mary Foushee dissatisfied with the place, I am pleased Mr F has a larger farm to cultivate this year and you will a friend always with you Mrs Julia Conway, you must bring Perlanda to with you when you come, so you have fine turnip. we sent you a bag of seed which I suppose you never got never having mentioned them, so you are a better sower too not like me sometimes a buyer, Old Melford is stee in the land of the living and growing more usefull as he grows older better late than never, Esther is very well Bob has a better master this year, he has been to see her twice since Christmas and his misfortunes sends old ~~ones~~ to his children, I must now draw to a conclusion as I have changed my posture two or three times and stee my back aches so bad I can hardly make a letter love to all my dear child L S Baytops advised Cousin Lucy to take the trip for her health the merchants are all going the same day and Cousin Mary Taliaferro will go also. so they anticipate a very pleasant time. My best love to Mr Fost and tell him I can never forget him also he must not disappoint us this winter we want to see you all more than can be expressed Tell Miss Mary I wrote the last letter and not receiving a reply concluded she must have forgotten me my love to every body white and colour and a kiss to the children Your devoted M. Provena

Dear Hetty A long time has elapsed since you received  
a word from me & if you will consent I will interrupt  
you in your domestic affairs to peruse a few lines this  
morning or evening. I am now seated in the dining  
room before breakfast every thing silent around me  
the sun just presenting his cheerful face above  
the horizon I must tell you why I am writing so  
very early Ma wishes to read this letter <sup>to the office</sup> by the  
first opportunity and after breakfast we have to  
go to singing school so I would have no other  
time to write Ma ~~mention~~ wrote I had been  
told I had only one bill and that was from  
imprudence being in the prison a very idle  
day at Wilson Creek with this exception I have  
been very well all the summer but you would  
not recognize me as the same fat mountain  
girl weighing an hundred and thirty six I weighed  
in August an hundred and six pounds every  
person thinks it a great improvement <sup>to</sup> fall off  
but I am fatening every day now and by the  
time you come down you will need no introduction  
Cousin Lucy and Wan are going to Baltimore next  
Friday and Eugy is very anxious to go with them  
Father will let ~~them~~ go if he can raise the money  
Cousin Poppy will <sup>pay</sup> pay Bunn's expences Cousin Walter