

Dayton O. April 13th.
1864

Dear Luther,

I received a letter this morning, postmarked, or rather dated the 6th.

That enclosed to the boys was quite amusing to old and young; I was quite mystified as to who the mother was told I found her carried under Jack's arm, and her children in a basket.

Robby is worn out with hard play, and is fast asleep, but the rest of the children are listening to Mary playing. - Aunt Mary and Mary Effie are here, having come yesterday and we are having a pleasant time with them. Uncle John runs in very often; today he got \$150 from Ogden and says he will pay off Jewett himself and take the note he gave me \$50, wherewith to pay Dr. Webster for I had to use the money you sent for the Insurance; ^{instead of paying him} - Nine of my coupons were

due \$23.72) for which I received \$39.10.

I am paying off debts big and little as fast as I can. — Boyer told Uncle John that that bill had been settled, so Will Howard has it for collection!

Will! How have I been trying to trace my box on its journey to you, hoping it had reached you, when lo! Robert makes his appearance in our parlor, and says he has not even started to Washington!

He came in last night with this announcement; she had been absent twice last week and said Eliza was to let me know but I heard nothing from either of them till it was too late to do any thing, as he said he should start this morning.

Had I known in time I should have used the cake at home and baked a fresh one for you. I am very sorry about it; and although I couldn't help laughing at Robert last evening, I can't feel quite pleased with the thoughtlessness, which

has made my little present much less palatable than it would have been if fresher. — I told Robert to buy Hannah Thurston for you in Washington. I didn't give him any money for it as I knew he owed you.

He asked for a memorandum of the book and request, which I gave him, but fear he will forget it. — Aunt Mary made the same remark about the "Friends" in it. She says Taylor was well acquainted with them in youth.

We had a letter from Howard this morning nothing new from him. — Mother asked Madison if he had any message to send Mr. Finner.

"Yes Ma'am, tell him I'm more than pleased — I've found a happy home up here".

Poor fellow his book is in his coat pocket when at work, but in his hand in leisure moments, and he is really learning.

Father has brought up little Mary, and I have undressed her and put her by a chair; the ambitious little puss climbs

up already, and laughs delightedly at
the performer. It is too bad that
you have to miss her babyhood; she
is growing quite interesting. She is a
tyrant however and drives her Mother a
little too much.

I think from what Mrs. Williams said that
there has been no second Mrs. Ball ^{and} that the
first one still lives. Mrs. W. said the daughters
had married wealthy persons. Of the son
she knew nothing save that he had called
three times to make her swear to her taxroll
and she wouldn't do it! — Speaking of
Cincinnati people reminds me that
Emily Price's husband is a son of Dr. Marsh-
all of Cincinnati; perhaps you may remem-
ber David Marshall, a son by the first wife.
Mrs. Williams pressed me to come and see her; to
write to Sallie to meet me there this Fall.
Being too far in the distance of course I could
not promise. — She said that she wanted
to see Sallie after Granville's death, but felt

too nervous to have another child in the house, and knowing that Hannah Thomas could be well taken care of without her mother, she requested ~~her~~ ^{him} to come, but to leave Hannah at home; whereat Mr. Thomas became angry and said "if she wouldn't have the child she shouldn't have the mother" consequently the mother staid at home too!

Aunt Mary, who perfectly idolizes her Grand children, says Mr. Thomas was right, and cannot excuse Mrs. Williams at all.

If you were here I could make you laugh over a number of Mrs. Williams's peculiarities as I did her this morning; but it seems foolish to write such things. - I do like ~~her~~ very much, and think she is a kind hearted woman, and yet she can be exceedingly bitter and can say things that I could not even feel about my ^{personal} ~~worst~~ enemy; perhaps I could, ^{with} feel and say just such things about our country's enemies, for ~~that~~ treason seems a stupendous wrong, causing misery to thousands

In capital punishment I cannot believe
and if the ringleaders in this rebellion
could be taken, I would rather have them
die natural deaths and leave them to
God's mercy.

Time to stop that strain, do you say?
Even so, and all other strains for tonight
for I must try to make up about two
hours sleep that Mary's fourth tooth caused
me to lose. Goodnight Dearest.

Wednesday — We are waiting for breakfast
and if there was any thing more to tell
you I might have a few minutes for it.

Uncle John and Aunt Ann have just gone
out riding on horse back; he says if he don't
do something she will be off to California
or some other place.

Father says there is nothing new in the
morning's paper, I put up yesterday's for
you, but it will not go till this morning
Goodbye dear Husband