

Dayton O. March 15th.
1864

Dear Luther,

You are learning to get more letters, by writing oftener than formerly yourself. Today has been dismal out of doors but rendered quite happy within by the reception of a good long letter from Howard and two from you. Yours of the 10th. reached me this morning, and of the 12th, containing Sella's letter, this evening.

Mary brought me the latter, and informed me that if she found another tomorrow she wouldn't bring it to me. Two letters in one day were outrageous!

The young lady wondered if you really had any hens down there to fill the basket with eggs! Thinks the whole undertaking rather too uncertain to risk much on it - I suppose.

I was quite delighted to hear that you

had been so well treated by Mr. Wokes, and can readily understand that something fresh and green is a great addition to your table. You must be this have received my letter, telling you that the seeds had come, so you must give the man credit for fulfilling his promises.

You fear the Washington project will prove a disappointment; doubtless it will, and yet, to get it might prove as great a one, for it is something new and untried. My great desire is to have the war close, and then I have hopes that some steady employment will show itself, and we may let politics hold a minor position; live quietly for our children's good, and be comfort to them and each other. — If you can come to us before the war closes of course I wish ^{it} yet scarcely dare hope for it. — If Mother's house is finished soon (it will be begun before long) I cannot ask her to stay here so uncomfort-

ably cramped up, yet how I am to get along without her and you too I cannot now see, and am almost-certain you ought to come home then at any rate.

But enough of speculating and wishing. Sella said I should tell you that she liked your last letter "ever so much" and was going to write you several in return. Poor child! she listens to them with full eyes and evidently means to do as you tell her, but like her Mother, she is always sinning and repenting. I feel that I can expect little change from either her or her brother till there is a great improvement in myself. Too little patience is my fault of faults, and Oh so much is needed! Then my mind and heart will fly off to the Potomac Army and I find myself amusing unprofitably, doing neither you nor them any earthly good, only a selfish pleasure to myself.

Perhaps your good letters to her may help me, as I feel more earnest after reading

them, and wish to be the Mother you
would have her think I already am.

Frank sent some message to you, but got
it sadly jumbled, I think he wanted
a letter, and know that he and Robby both
sent love. — Little Mary pats cakes at
an astonishing rate, and is a good baby
with a good appetite, the latter I try to
keep within the three hour rule. She could
rather keep within it than without it by
the way!

I have forgotten to tell you of the addition
to our neighborhood! A Mr. Pitz of Spring-
field bought the Dryden house, and is now
fitting it up. He is said to be very wealthy
but what do you think of his marrying
his wife's daughter? He married a Mrs. Ferris
I believe, they disagreed and were divorced
after which the daughter ran away from
school with him! The three concluded
to make up and all live together! That
strikes me as rather amusing, never the less I

don't care to interest myself any farther in them, and will not make them again-
tance. Mrs. Saret thinks the present wife
is an old schoolmate of ours.

We hope Bessie is permanently better, but
as the membrane often forms anew after
being entirely removed, we must wait
further developments. Elliott had a crop
last night, - Robby also had a wumpy
attack last Sunday night. As he had
been kept within doors all day on account
of bad weather I was at a loss to account-
for it. - There was but little of it last night
and I am none as yet this evening.

Little Mary has wished so good bye.

Later - It is quite late, and I am not
yet well of my cold so will close soon.

Mary just left me, she says Robby asked
her if she wasn't sorry the Devil had
made so many rebels. I don't know
where he gets all his funny ideas from.

I sent two Journals today; one had
the Traitor's last letter to his friends
a pity it is that it couldn't be the
Last indeed!

Really dearest I must say goodnight;
perhaps morning may find me better able
to finish this page.

Morning — I feel better both in health and
spirits, dearest, because if I am firm enough
to carry out a new plan, I think there will
be good results. Tell me what you think of it.

I am to keep a record of good and bad.
The bad marks are restricted to not minding
me quickly, and the good ones are to en-
courage the avoidance of peculiar faults.

Each one is to have a good mark for dressing
quickly, ^{and then for} good behavior at each meal, one for a
good report from Grandfather, Grandmother, Aunt
Mary and Betty individually. Then for undress-
ing quickly at night. These are faults common
to all, but each child has ^{its own} peculiar faults
and for avoiding them the good marks are

increased. I find they are already looking
of chances to increase them.

I think to this ^{nothing} ~~nothing~~ will add
a private record of her own failings
in temper and gentle firmness.

What think you? I am afraid of my
own steadfastness, but thought that
if you were told of the plan and
were watching me too, my desire to
go on would be increased.

Help me with advice and excellent
letters and I will try to make these dear
little ones what God intended them to be.

Breakfast is about ready so I will
have to leave a vacant page.

Goodbye Best One.

Augusta