

Ashland 7th July 1895

My dear Son.

Nothing very material has transpired since you left us. Our family and Mr. Erwin enjoy good health, with the exception of your mother who continues pretty much as you left her. James has been gone these three weeks past to Missouri and Illinois, and is expected back in 8 or 10 days. Mrs. Prather, William and Catharine are gone to the W. Sulphur Springs, and it is said that Catharine is to marry Mr. Bullitt. At Maplewood, Kottman has not behaved very well. He has cultivated badly, and has had some disputes with Harriet. I threatened to dismiss him, and he will leave the place in September or October. I shall then I think put Beverly there, who appears to be a trusty boy.

Prosperity continues high and is advancing. There is great apparent prosperity, but I fear it is unsolid, and to be alleviated largely to the Banks. The Stock of the Northern Bank was sought with the greatest avidity. There were many more names as subscribers than shares. Telford is appointed President, and the officers of the B. Bank of the U.S. officers. T.W. Pendell is appointed Teller of the State Bank's Branch at Lexington with a salary of \$1200. Your note was continued, and I do not apprehend any difficulty in its further continuance until your return.

The demand for Cattle and Cows is not so much abated. I sold Harriet a few days ago with a calf only a day old to Spence Cooper for \$500; and Harry's bull calf about nine months old I sold to Genl Thornton for \$200. Mr. Erwin sold his Suck for \$600, and his Jenny in foal for \$600 more; but since she has had a Suck colt by Warrior. I think you would do well to import some good rate Cows and Durham Cattle. If it should not be too late to send two or three kepers in calf by Genl. Garrard, who would probably select them for you, I would take an interest of half