

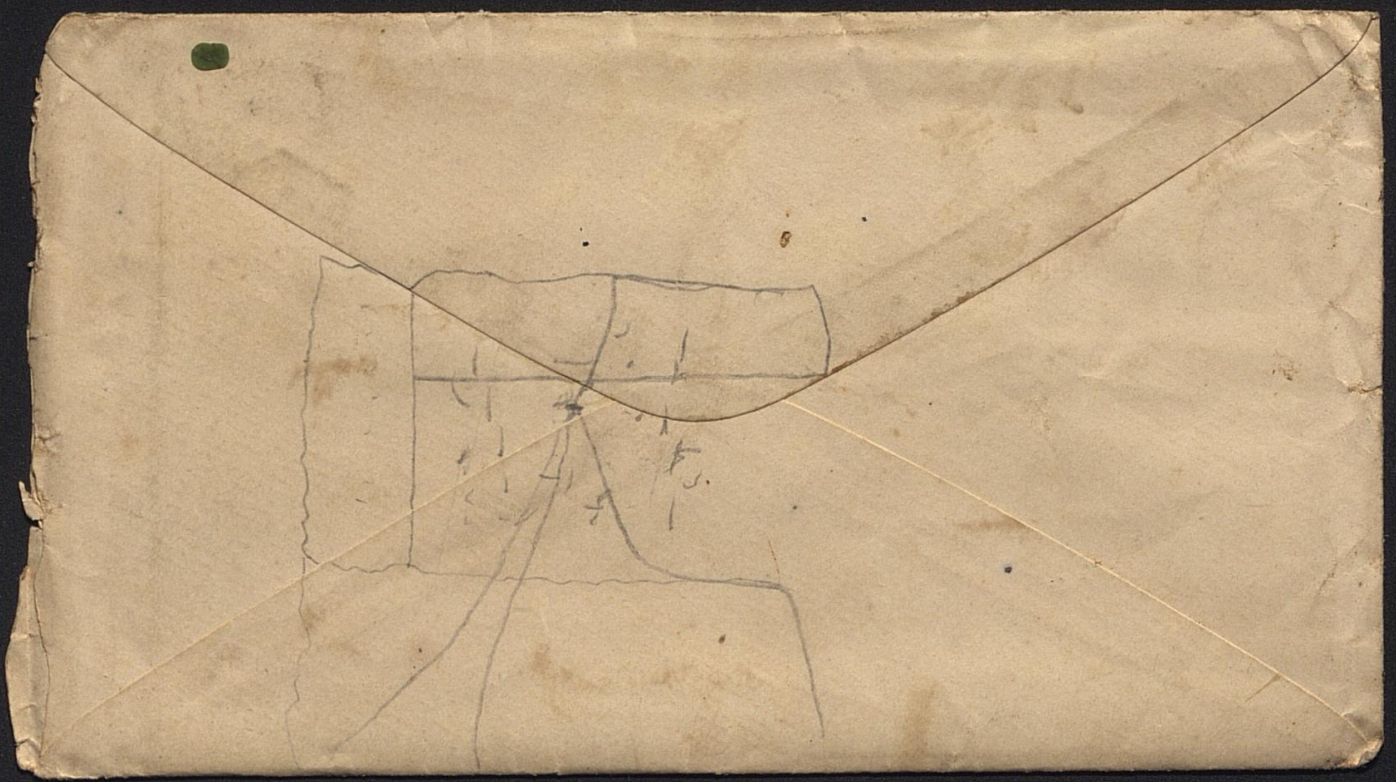
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Miss Sarah G. Humphreys

Versailles

Ms.



trustful, hopeful - We are going in for the ballot, the abridgment
ballot before the negro comprehend us -

If you should determine to quit your home
Lomb had better come directly from St. York, and
you should write to her to that effect to send her at that place.
Mr. Norton is coming to St. Orleans with his family to live
Mr. Stewart is getting every thing ready.

The opinion South is to be very poor if the
policy of the radicals is carried out: all States heretofore enjoying
the benefit of Slave labor - but if the States have control of
Recognition is affected, then it may be different - we know
nothing certain - but know enough to satisfy us that with
abolition we can do more than we could have done with
America.

Write to me often & fully - Tell your Aunt that
I have not been in a fit mood to write what would be
any comfort to her so I thought it would be better to bid her
she must write as usual till I am in a better condition. I have
seen R. G. Higgins who is determined to live - and was in Boston but
did not think I was there - He went to Mobile to be married - I have heard
nothing since - Lizzie & Helen were in St. Orleans soon to leave for
Mobile the day I left - Miss Sara & Miss Fanny were going
with them -

How glad I would be to see you & your dear Aunt & Uncle
Aunt - I want to see Master Joe with his modest beautiful face indeed
all - I hope he & the rest may enjoy some quietness - I want as
much to see Aunt & Uncle's hearts as I have seen either of
them - but I am sure of the sweets and may God bless you
all -
Your ever devoted Father - 49 -

Oak Forest 5th July 1865

My Dear Sarah

Your welcome letter of the two dates
21st & 22nd was rec^d last night & one from West of the latter
date, both from Lexington.

Since this morning the more readily
because I yesterday sent off two barrels for you, one of
Sugar and one of molasses, which have been on hand
since last winter & not sent, for various good reasons -
First the forms which were wanted for required & the expense
and then the winter & stoppage of the cars all conspired
to prevent - Now they happen this being approved I have
sent the articles off and directed all expenses paid
up to Louisville - Both barrels are large double
barrels - but the Sugar not first quality, but the best I made.

I beg you will offer my kind congratulations to
Allen & Willie - I don't doubt they will make their
way in life happily and successfully but the road has
been made far more difficult by the want of the past
four years: still the present state is by no means stereotyped
& its public opinion which governs all law & all things
is proverbially unstable there is no telling what may be
the condition of things a few years hence when parties
have been changed so as to include the Southern States
as a party - I am not without hope.

Your letter is well as Harriet calls for a word
of suggestion, if not of advice, & so I will offer a suggestion

or two as equally applicable to both of you.

If you could see the situation of things here, not alone in the coalfield districts but every where you would I think settle down contented with your variable condition - I know mining in that region is always profitable but one can always live well even in a cabin - Comparatively you require but little manual labor because the grass grows without cultivation & the stock of every sort feed most of the time live & flourish upon this great staple - you must be content with minute savings - piecemeal savings, so to call them - You need no horses, your soil is too good for life of land & no capital - Still for you to do as we think would include a change in your nature, in your social feelings & mode of life - Thus much if you kept your property and managed yourself -

Now as to teaching - In this case which may be the best for you - I would not break up. I would keep my horse - my cows, horses, enough pasture, garden, orchard &c. I would keep my home & free myself of the care of governing. Sell every thing I could & economize in much as possible - be & keep our eye on your letters but a teacher if possible or you & heart with & keep your eldest children together at your house or at their. You must do what you can, that what you would. I do not think I would venture abroad - it is too hazardous at present, it is time enough you have - fundamental if not complete education is better gotten at home - You ought to get a good teacher for 250 \$ a year. I see, strike at the certainties - I do not perhaps I see all the difficulties - the point is to have a home near your interest - practice self denial - learn to

make in small things & save on all. It is a cruel lesson, a hard greater affliction - a deplorable invention to humiliate and to degrade the Southern people - and would they have achieved their object - but this is a lesser height yet for us at which they live - Negroes & Slaves - but enough of this.

I suppose going to the Cotton County, to Mississippi - My son has chosen to leave place, hire hands and make Cotton - I want to look out for them - The Negroes place would probably receive to advantage your \$1000 to hands - then one good place depending it. I want to survey the ground. Every man is here for a while, the most successful planter would be those who can get the best fellows & the best hands with the best management.

If the real world, or in order I may extend my hope to you - I don't promise - I don't promise anything certainly my heart would lead me to go on but as we are in a crisis and God has given me health & strength I must use my faculties to the best advantage to put my son to work.

I must to stay on these places in order to be able to dispose of them in some way by labor or lease or sale to make something to live upon & to keep things together and in proper condition, and to have a home to live upon. It is bad, very bad, to be without the comforts of a home & home where you live with late expense - I receive & read & write without being hindered.

I am in constant intercourse with our own authorities - The Gov. is a poor thin planter - is hard & cruel Southern - is in the confidence of President - I think we have better things before us, but must be patient - Acting Virginia