

Oak Forest 25th Nov. 1860

My dear allary

Would like to congratulate you
on the entrance of yourself & the West into your own
home. I trust it may prove a prosperous and comfortable
a happy one - you mean to let the old saw run in a
"Cottage" - It is a true one as I can attest from first
experience - There is really no place like home and when
in a few years you have emerged from the Cabin to
the Castle you will feel like the better by the contrast
& the improvements that you will make -

We have been much retarded in
our Sugar operations but I made out to get off
a barrel of Sugar for you & Sarah & Eliza in
four days ago - the two first described to ^{Lebanon} N.Y. - but
not the quantity is not as good as could be wished
The West I hope will be better - this will do to begin
on - We have had two severe frosts which
have stopped the growth of the cane effectually &
I hope prove an advantage - we start with increased
force tonight & with preparation for work and
hope to get along pretty rapidly -

I was gratified to hear of the wedding
to take place so soon at Duncan and regret
that we can not be present to participate in the
feast - but I can at least tender my felicitations
and my best wishes that a union so auspicious

Dear
Went a hunting hoping to catch a few more than with the
game birds and with some more than with the
game birds I have always appreciated for his long
life & carelessness - I trust the families are
all satisfied which adds much to the happiness
of the flock, I should think -

I wish you and Hart with the team
would come here - Randall has become a very busy
and important and he has often expressed a hearty wish
that Hart were here to take care of the
that he could leave something of the duty of sugar
making! There is nothing like experience to give know-
edge unpleasant as it sometimes is -

The 14th doctor for all sleeping
around - Dudley is doing a little at the same time
just to give a little exercise - I hope the winter will
bring him out as he has no disease, has a good
appetite and takes no medicine - Randall has
planted some cane at Abbeville and has put up
seed for a crop of his own by next season - intending
to make it up at Greenwood so is not to be obliged
to build a sugar house the first season.

The excitement in consequence of
Simons' election is on the increase - Tomorrow there
is to be a public meeting at St. Helena - Randall
will go up & make a strong protest for disunion
& the Southern Confederacy - I am out and out for
a separate & independent government of people

I loath the very idea of a further connection with
Northern slaveholders with their vile administration of wrongs
the least of which is their sinning of the South which
we could not disregard - The Governor has called the
Legislature together in extra session on the 10th inst. to
when I hope a Convention will be called to act defini-
tely on the question of disunion - In consequence
of all these negotiating matters Sugar & molasses at
present have no market but money must come to
St. Orleans soon as the people must have our products -
The "Water wheel" first rate but we have had trouble
with a few engines - Always something

We count on having some company
this winter Mr. Higgins probably and probably some
New from Michigan - Did I write you that Miss
Mary Estlin was married? Dr. Beall of St. Helena
is the favored man - Randall & I were at the ^{wedding}
the "School yard" -

I am afraid in things now stand my
trip to Europe will have an indefinite postponement
Important matters are before us and grow every day
pressing enough to keep all Southerners at home for some
time yet to come -

I will write next to Hart - I can't
I hope you & he both will have time to tell what
I know you are doing - a kiss to Amelia and
love to Hart - Your most affectionate
J. H. Wilson