

Peatt Farm July 20th 1870

My Dear Lily

Since my last letter to you all things were as usual. All are well - and the hot weather confines us to the house or rather the shade of the house - we have the campstoves, and camp with the shaddow - there is at all times - day and night - a delightful breeze day and night. At night the house is entirely open - doors & windows and we enjoy a delightful breeze - No thunders or noises about - all quiet - no noise - no street hurra or rumbling of waggons and carts - It is as cool & refreshing as the Ocean breeze - add to this a house full of good company - cards and other pleasant pass times - this with our delightful table - where all the comforts in fine fat poultry - house - ~~France~~ ~~France~~ ~~France~~ and Ellis success in raising poultry is perfectly wonderful - think of 4 or 500 chickens raised at one place - with turkeys ducks &c. - brown in - with the mutton of the finest quality - now that I'll be a fine cook - we go on swimmingly - You may smile when I tell you that my summer climate is equal

To New Port & then Ell completes her
veranda - shading thoroughly 3 sides of her
house - adding all the modern improvement
to the way of Maths & her establishment
will be complete - and expect that your
Mother & myself - adding your
good company to joins us - will spend from
2 to 3 months in summer here - ^{at} the western
Lakes - The lumber is now decreasing and
carpenters at work, to have every thing
completed by Ell's return in the fall
This is my dear Lily no fancy sketch - I
have never before visited this State at
this season of the year - and all my
favorable impressions are more than
confirmed - at this writing $\frac{1}{2}$ after 11 the
thermometer stands at 90 - and we are
fanned by a delightful Southern breeze
making it most comfortable - Your Mother
Sister Brother Henry George & John
boobies - Willie - Mary Harwin - and
Ella Duncan - are all in the dining
room where - I am writing talking laughing
- my - running around - and making
not a little noise - Mary at my elbow
with a slide - so that I scarcely know
what I write - ^{you} can read to it is more
than I can do myself

Since your Mother recd your letter
informing ^{me} that "All was quiet on the
potomac" - I feel more contented - we
shall take up our line of march for
home next Monday I think - take the
stage in the west - spend there a day or two
take at that place the night train for
home & hope to reach there, the following
evening - so you may look for us on Thurs
day or Friday of next week - shall
keep you advised of our movements
in due time - ^{to} much love to your sister
Mary & Lily and all the children
with much love
Yr Devoted Father
H. L. Duncan