

and learn him to work, the best part of a boys education
not greatly amiss for girls. Henry must learn a profession
Allen has settled for the present in Filton; drawn
there perhaps from early recollections and associations.
The early home of youth, has an almost magnetic influence,
and it should be the effort of all parents to throw as many
charms around it as possible. I have received several
letters from Eugene this winter, he and Joe enjoy good
health and seem anxious to visit us, but say they cannot
until their situation, or success in business will justify
their return, which they think may possibly happen
sometime this year. I often feel very anxious about them

Yesterday I received letters from Mrs. Allen and Aunt
F. Ireland. Mr. Allen was on his way to go on horseback
to see poor Annie Black, who he thought would not
be living by the time he could get there. All were in their
usual health at Aunt Irelands; she stays altogether with
me; she mentioned that Eve would be confined very soon; she
has not had an infant since she has been in this country.

I was at Mrs. Campbells when your letters and invitations
arrived; they seemed very much pleased to hear from you, and I
had supposed had signified it before this time; Mrs. Long
was there; all in good health. John was a very large boy, whom
they call Isaac Alexander. Betty and Mary, Robert and his
wife were well. I have been closely confined all winter, now I
should like a trip very much, the last two days, has been delightful
the breaking up of the coldest spell we have had this winter, but
like a poor caged bird, I am bound fast. Margy increased her
family about a week ago, with the largest female child I ever saw, and I
am now acting prime minister. Give my most sincere love to every
member of your family, not leaving out May and Mrs. In some happy day
I hope we shall meet again at one of our homes, if not permitted; then about all
things, I pray to meet in a happier home in heaven.
Mrs J. L. Ruffin

In dependence.

4th March - 1855

My dear Sarah

Your very kind letter I had the
pleasure to read on yesterday, and two forcible reasons
urge an immediate reply; first, my determination always
to observe punctuality in my correspondence with
you, and the second, that my husband may possibly
hear from me, whilst with you. You are greatly
mistaken however in thinking it no trouble for me
to write letters; my aversion for writing is so strong,
that nothing but the strongest feeling of affection,
and solicitude concerning my friends, could ever
compel me to draw a single line with a pen, -
no ones opposition can be greater; yet when assured
that I had a single friend on earth that would
be gratified to hear from me; it creates a sympathetic
feeling of love; - warming the heart with pure affections,
that moves sluggishly, from the many vicissitudes
through which it has passed; - still in all its you-
thful energies, never more true, than at this moment
when resting confidently on its object.

To say that I
am greatly disappointed in not being able to meet
my husband at your house, when he had anticipated so
much real happiness in your society, and his love of "native