

respectable I was well pleased I only regretted the length
of time we should be separated — we have had no letters
he as yet except the one sent on by you I rejoice to hear
that he is in good health and spirits and long for his
return I will write to him by the next mail you must
all write often to him — what is Bell and Caroline

About that they have not time to write to the old people
at home and Sarah too she is so happy now that the fire
is past tell her that Caroline has a fine daughter
call her Matilda, tell the ladies that I have been very
busy this summer trying to make ready for their ^{and} reception
and if they do not come on next summer I shall be sadly
disappointed Caroline has already given me a promise
that she will come I have been flattering myself with
^{the} idea from Mr. Sherman as I heard it was likely he
would go on to N. Y. this fall Oh how much I would re-
joice to see him and to sa all — I have just made my
citron I wish you were here to help ~~as~~ eat it is so nice

You will say Ma. is getting very fashionable when I
tell you that I have dressed myself in a new Jack rapper
and have another to make they look so much like an old
Ladys dress that I expect to wear them as long as I live

this letter has been on hand some time I took my seat
last Sunday to finish it but Ann Morris and a crowd of
young Ladies kept in so I had to put it by for that day
ann send her best love to Ben and Emma says mine
too tell him to hurry home — May the blessing of health
and prosperity attend you all is the fervent prayer of your
devoted Mother Maria Cox

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my best respects to Mr. Lynch and all friends
Leaven. Va. Septh 30.

My Dear Len.

Lori you must write often and I am determined to do
so often myself and I have only one thing to have here to help me
children for me tells her ^{she} you write again & you must tell me all about church
how often you have been here you may go and go often

your letter of June the 10th was
received in good season and which afforded me so
much pleasure that I determined to answer it without
delay but having commenced one to Caroline which
I had not finished I concluded to wait a few days
before writing to you for when I write to one it is
intended for all and knowing that Pa. and Uncle
Stephen were writing so often and of course
informed you of all the news that would interest
you I felt at a loss for something to write this you
will say is a poor excuse for a mother to make and
I must confess it is — when I wrote to Caroline Mrs Prentiss
had just taken her bed with the flux and two day after
your pa was taken with the same disease they were very
ill for a week and kept us constantly running from one
room to the other day and night which nearly broke
me down indeed I have not entirely recovered yet
but well enough to go about and to make a visit
occasionally — as I have but little news to write I will
entertain you by telling you how ^{recently} I have spent my
time since the sick folks have recovered I made a visit
to town not long since staid several days at Maj. D.
Lucketts very agreeably I assure you they are all so
clever that I feel perfectly at ease and at home