

Talbotton, Ga.

Feb. 24th /61

My dear Ralph

After a tiresome journey I arrived here safely this day week ago I met with delays at every change and the weather turning colder all the time I felt as if I were going north instead of south. I wrote to John on Tuesday last and hope he will let you know of my well being. We had quite an exciting time from Chatanooga to Atlanta, Mr. Davis our southern President came on the same car from the Memphis Junction. He was called out at every station and town and on our wait at Adairville the town was illuminated and the transparencies near the track one representing the United States flag and the other one large star in the center (South Carolina) and fire in its angles representing the fire of other seceding states. The Cadets from Marietta received him at Atlanta and gave him a grand salute. He took the cars at ten o'clock for Montgomery and I had to wait till two. Asa Beule (?) Eli and Janny were all at the inauguration Eli belongs to the Columbus Guards. They went down on Saturday. They are all for secession. There is not a shadow to hang a hope on that there ever will be any reconciliation the parting is final and Time alone will tell what the result will be. Everything here seems to be moving on as usual. I heard yesterday that the merchants from Columbus were going on for their spring goods to New York as heretofore.

While at the Hotel in Atlanta I met with Mrs Clayton and her three youngest children Lucy, Coan and Augustus. The girls had grown so I did not know them. They are quite grown Coan (Lizzie) is very pretty. They asked after you and seemed very much surprised to hear that you had a family. May was in Montgomery at Captain Teals who is living there.

I shall often wish myself back with you and dear Mollie and the dear little baby and shall be impatient till you get settled dear sweet Mollie I know that I shall always be happy with her and I hope my dear son that your constant aim in life may be to render her happiness. Let her be your counsellor in every act of your life She will never give you wrong advise. She is not as impulsive as you are and she will be a safe counselor. Oh how it would grieve me, if I thought you would ever bring sorrow to her heart. I want you to cherish her as a precious gift from your Heavenly Father. Never do anything dear Raph that she asks of you not to do no matter how small the matter may be but show the same disposition to gratify her now that you did before your marriage. Do not be afraid that she will ever abuse her power and ever want to control you except for your good.

Give a heart full of love to her and many kisses to the dear baby for me. Tell Sallie I will be thinking about her all of Wednesday. Had I known of her marriage a few days sooner I would have remained to it I wish now that I had as I found them all very



well here. Give my kindest wishes to her and Mr. Strange. Remember me most kindly to Mrs VanCleave. Tell her I shall never forget her kindness to you and dear Mollie. Remember me to Mr. VanCleave and all the family and to Mr. Carter's family when you see them. Tell your Aunt J. will write her very soon.

I forgot to tell you in the right place the Mrs President Lincoln had two sisters at Montgomery at the inauguration. A Mrs White and Miss Todd from Louisiana both secessionists and cousins to Vice President Breckenridge. So that as in many other cases the house is divided against itself.

Give my kindest love to your aunt and John and write to me soon and often.

Remember my dear son that the habits you form now will stick to you through life. Then let no day pass without imploring the assistance and guidance of your Heavebly Father on your knees. We need this assistance in small things as well as in great ones and be assured we must seek this aid constantly if we expect this blessing.

That God will bless you my dear darling child and ever have you in His holy keeping is the unceasing prayer of your devoted Mother

Sis sends much love to you and dear Mollie