

[1863]

Dear Bud:

I received your letter, written from Newtown, last week, and would have replied to it then, but as Charlie expected to have gone to Texas last Monday, I concluded to write by him, knowing my epistle would reach you sooner than by mail. Charlie decided to wait until next Monday, & I hope he will have a more agreeable trip owing to the quantity of rain we have had during the past week. I shall miss him so much when he leaves me, especially as he says he does not expect to return here until November. I do wish your visit to Mansfield was at this time, instead of the time I was sick, as I feel as if I had not half enjoyed your visit, and want so much to see you now. Charlie is almost making himself sick, he is so desirous to get into business & be making money. According to his account, he is so poor, he can hardly afford to eat a piece of bread & meat. Please help him, and for my sake, let him into some of your secrets of getting rich. Brother Alfred wrote Charlie, that he had become nothing but a hewer of wood & drawer of water, and I fear Charlie will be in the same sad condition. I am trying to improve Charlie's fortune by turning my attention most industriously to spinning & weaving but it has not the good effect on Charlie's spirits, I thought it would. I had a pair of pants wool for you, but am unwilling to lend them, as they are not what I wished them to be. Mrs Smith did not understand that I wished them dark, and put so much white in them, that they are very ugly. I was sick & could not attend to them. I send you a little sample of horse-spun, and wish you would let me know whether you think it would be pretty for Lillie.

Mrs Smith was much pleased at the prospect of being paid in silver and readily understood to spin & weave the dress for Lillie. I have not been able to bargain with her yet as it regards the price. They all charge as much for their cloth as you would give for calico. It would be cheaper if you would let Aunt Selvy spin nine hanks of very fine warp, & nine of filling, and you would then only have to pay for the weaving. Please let her spin me a dress too, as she can spin so beautifully, and Charlie will return the same quantity, which will do for your negro clothing.

I was much surprised to hear of the quietness among our relatives, but know it is the way of the fashionable world, to forget those who are gone. Even our friends near Keachi, seem to have forgotten the respect due to their Aunt, & their Mother's sister, as Major Ashton and the Prescotts, have received invitations to a dance there next Monday night. I do not suppose they intend having much of a party, but know nothing about it, as Cousin Anne only wrote to the Major. I expect it is given in honor of Frank Conrad Dolgan who are both there. Cousin Anne, Lyman, & Sidney, were here for a few minutes last week on their way with the Prescotts to Col. Offerts to a fishing party. Sidney & Cousin Anne have both been down making quite a long visit here since you left. Sidney staid most of the time with the Prescotts.

Judge Moore is quite well. A grand dinner was given here at Ben Prescotts to celebrate his seventy fifth birth day. It was entirely a family party. Charlie was the only representative of the Welles family. I regretted I could not go, but my baby was only three weeks old, rather too young to visit. The prelate made a speech on the occasion.

The gallant young Major's pride has had rather a severe blow, as he is now under arrest & in danger of being cashiered for leaving his command without permission.