

Wood Park July 4th 1864

Dear Mary,

I reached here last evening, and found all well - ~~that~~ my wife is a little low-spirited, in consequence of her rapidly approaching frolic - her letter caused me to return from Texas, sooner than I intended. I was quite surprised when she met me in the yard, looking as well, as when I left her - but I suspected it ^{is} woman's way, and therefore said nothing. Pollyanthus is better, there is now but one place, on her side, all the others have healed up - Maria tilda carries her about ~~now~~ ^{she} goes to ~~the~~ ^{cow} ^{her} now, to see "Old Eatten" milked. Pinks is a pretty, frail little child, but looking bad by just now, as she is having boils. Johnnie is ^{the} finest fellow in creation, and as good as his possible for him to be - I got him a saddle & bridle in Texas, & brought him home with me, & he now rides all about. I had the pleasure, this ^{letter} morning, of perusing your ^{of} May 16th & June 17th. I was sorry to hear of Charlie Palfrey's loss. You I hear, have another Gal baby - how can you women be so ~~inconsiderate~~ ^{inconsiderate} as to have babies at all - but of all things Gal babies, such times as these, if majs is a Gal, I'll choke it ~~but~~ you

wish, or know of some one, who wishes
to adopt a fine, healthy female baby, now's
a rare chance - to find one besides a chance
to do a charitable act, to a poorly afflicted Father
I suppose Lillie is now a young lady
turned out, it receiving the parlor & grand
I suppose she plays the piano, and sings
Tell her she must learn all the pretti-
est pieces in "Aunt Maggie's" music book
which I lent, & asked her to take care of them
I was last in New Town, ask her, if she had
not already done so, please to learn them, &
take great & good care of them, as I have a
large crop of "Gals" coming on, & I spec after
I buy the piano, there will ^{be} no money left to
buy music, & that will do to fall back on
when I was last in New Town, ~~me~~ gave
me some of my brother David's clothes
for Johnnie, which he is now wearing,
but I can only bring a few, if you have an opportu-
nity, please send me some more, Cottonades,
shirts & whatever you think would be most
useful at the season you can ~~send~~ keep
it a secret or they will disappear during
some of the "raids," from - to New Town
I wish you to keep the seventy Dollars
Greenbacks, you mention having of
mine, I see no other chance of your getting
paid; for all the nice goods &c you are sending

up here for at ~~at~~ usual - I am flat broke - I fear
this time beyond redemption. Coming to this
poverty stricken country last year, & supporting
my negroes in idleness had run me up.
My negroes are now hired at good prices
but I fear Dr. Smith, who attends them, will
get all the hire & have me in debt to him be-
side. Then too the wild animals run
may. Since Bud left two of them went
to his Gentry camp - from ^{Stout} I have
been to the camp & had pickled
How are things getting on below, in
the neighborhood of "Acadia" well I hope. I
hear the bridges have been destroyed, at which
you doubtless rejoice. I am not stand in
your shoes; for something pretty when
communication is resumed. Should the
Yellow-Fever compel you to leave N. Town
you'd better retreat to "Acadia" - as it is now
an isolated spot - as there can be no inter-
course with the gay, nor the infected regions.
Bud has, no doubt, given you an account of Texas
& Texas life & adventures - so I ^{will} not repeat it.
With loves to Aunt Hannah - Lane, Touroute
& all, Mary, & Fannie Weeks & kind regards
to Dr. & Mrs. Stubinger & all inquiring friends
much love & many kisses to dear little Lillie
& the "Little Stranger" & much & many of both
for yourself I remain As truly C. C. Weeks