

Near Richmond Apr 20. 1852

Dear William

Last Saturday brought us your kind letter of the 13th & I take this opportunity as it is a short day to answer it and cannot find leisure any other day as the business of the Farm requires my constant attention & especially as it was a good deal out of repair particularly the fences. We are endeavouring to get our Spring crops in, in time but I fear we shall hardly be able. The Season is so backward, yet I have ^{no} doubt but that He which has promised the Husbandman seed time & Harvest will graciously bless our feeble tho honest endeavours, I bear the labour of the Farm quite as well or better than I expected, my health is as good as ever it was & my appetite is as when I was a youth & your Dr Mother has enjoyed very good health until within a few days she is rather unwell, but is able to get up & is better. Yesterday brought Him to witness that 70 years had passed over Her & the 30th of next June will bring me to my 69th year, ^{thoroughly} ~~fully~~ we can say with the Psalmist, "Behold thou hast made my days as a hand's breadth & mine age is as nothing before thee," & we will add his prayer, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom." Thomas is doing the best he can. We have an acre of potatoes planted, & about 10 acres plowd & 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ for corn, & we shall put in about 5 acres of 3 for small white beans, two we hope to plant of sweet potatoes & an acre more of Irish potatoes & 2 acres of Carrots, We have growing 7 acres of Meadow & one third of 17 acres of Wheat, in a former letter we gave you a description of the Farm so that I need not add any more on that subject, we hope ere long that

you & your Dr. May will come & see for yourselves, we are
sorry that Joseph has been so very unwell we hope that the poor
fellow will ^{soon} be restored to his usual health & come & see us,
& indeed all of that can come we shall at all times be glad
to see, we were much gratified to read the specimen of poetry
~~that~~ by dear Willy that you sent us, Oh that he may ^{remember}
that it was from God that he rec^d this talent, may he use it
to ~~his~~ glory & praise, with all the endowments of his mind so that
he may answer the great of his being, may the Lord save him
for vanity & make him a shining & shining light, some of us will
write soon to Dr. Joseph Henry was here last Sunday with us
shall conclude with dear Love to all not forgetting the
little stranger & remain your Affectionate Father

as usual, blinders
I am tired of writing
Thomas & wife desire their Love

Joseph Howells