

Centreville July 30th 1855

My dear William

I have been going to write to you several times but one thing or other prevented me, and receiving your paper, which you are so kind as to send us weekly, as made me more easy about you, knowing if you were sick we should find it there, we have had so much wet weather for some weeks that we have lost more than half of our young Chickens with the mopes and rats, so that we concluded we would not set any more this year, our place around our Town is so flat, that the water stands in pools for some days after heavy rains. But it has been fine growing weather for the corn, it looks better than we have ever, for years, the Farmers have got their wheat in and have had good crops, every thing seems to be very plentyful, all over the Country, which is a great blessing to all, particular to the poor. we got a letter from Joseph he says his health is improving but he had to give up Densitry and his book store as he could not bear confinement, he is doing what he can at out door work improving the House he built, so that he may sell it the first chance he w. his 2 step sons are married and, Seldon is gone to a trade. Joseph went last week to see Mr. James Pitt, who is not expected to live, he brought back Corinne as Margaret is married to some Doctor, in Chillicothe, and there is only Sarah left, of course she is not fit to raise so young a child and he wanted her home, poor fellow he seems as tho. he cannot settle his mind as to what business he will go at, they keep borders at present we are looking for Myrtilla, and Anna, home every day, as we have had no letter from her for sometime, we got a letter from Henry yesterday saying ^{he} heard that Myrtilla was going to live to Oxford, with her Mother to keep a boarding house for young Ladies, but Henry as not seen her for sometime, she went down with Mr. Gibhart, with his little girl who as been nearly blind all the winter, to have some operation done on the eyes, poor little Clara, as been very much afflicted, when Myrtilla wrote last she said Mr. Gibhart was sick, and the both children were sick, Clara with her eyes, and little Myrtilla was teething so she had been confined to the House all winter, Anna, was in school study, Henry's folks are all well, little Harrie came up with his Father & Mother to see us, he is a fine boy quite large for his age, and as much like Henry when he was his age full of what Ellen as a Relation, of how poor the South, a kind of half-breed, going to spend the summer there Tommy and Joe are getting along very well, they work hard they have their House finished, Joe is a study, industrious Lad, he comes up to see us often on Saturday even and home on Monday morning by the Cars in a Quarter of an hour, I wish it was so that your dear children, could come to see us so soon, I long to see them ^{all}, we have so much

to do during all the wet weather, in working with the chickens and doing all
our House work, and sewing, that Ann was taken very sick for 2 weeks with
something like Flu, which as left her very weak, all the hot weather ^{was}
she was getting better, I was taken with vomiting from over working myself
that straining with it, brought my old Complaint on in my Back, that I
was obliged to keep in Bed for 4 days, but I am thankful to say I am able
to help her a little more now, she looks very thin, we should be very glad to hear if you
think you could come and see us this Fall, and if any of the children and Mary will
be able to come, we would be very glad to see some of you, but when you have to go home again
I feel very bad, it is almost more than I can bear, but I know I ought to be thankful
you are doing so well, and that you are all blessed with health, give my dear love to
Mary tell her we often talk about her, and how glad we should be to see her again it is a
long time since we met in Richmond, your dear Father enjoys very good health, and
says if he could leave home he would like to pay you visit, at present he could not we
have a payment to make ~~in~~ in September in the House we live in, and it will take all
we can get to pay it, we have not wherewithal in debt for any thing since we came here we
keep no Store Accounts but Pay for every thing we buy I think I have given you all
the News I know of, we shall be glad to get a letter from some of you soon, my dear William
you must write soon we long to hear from you very often I expect the dear children are
all grown out of my knowledge I wish I could see them all again I must close my
hand gets the cramp in writing

Remaine my dear William
Your Affectionate
Mother A. Howells