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Raleigh.

North Carolina

Geneva Co. Ala Dec 9th. 1845. Tuesday

My dear Father.

I received by the mail of last Thursday your letter of the 25th reporting the return home of Anne and the children all in good health. I am not less rejoiced than yourself that our Dear Mother has taken no steps of improvement towards her former good health under Dr. Jackson's treatment which had just been commenced when I passed through Raleigh.

We have great cause to congratulate ourselves upon the recovery of Uncle - as you report him "as well nigh restored to good health." I trust he will long live to enjoy his useful and active life - a model of prudence and patience - which I will try hereafter ever to keep before me. I had received from Messrs Smith Stewart & Co letters informing me of the intelligence brought by the Steamer Britannia, it is well calculated to depress ones spirits and to ^{make us} anticipate the worse. They however think that the intelligence will not materially effect the price of cotton - or that ^{the depression} it may be of short duration. They express the opinion that the amount of the crop is over estimated. I have not been able to comply with the advice of their first letter by sending across any portion of our crop for the want of safe navigation in the river. I learnt on yesterday that a large boat had been sunk with a load of cotton on which my acquaintance Mr. Beahm had 100 bags. We shall now have a full River & shall soon have boats enough up where I shall order the Keeper of the lower house to ship the cotton in parcels of 50 bags - by the best boats on the river. I have just written Messrs Smith Stewart & Co of my intention to ship all the crop at the Landing.

We have done very little cotton picking for 10 or 12 days - for five days the weather was so cold that we could do but little - indeed for two or three days I requested the overseer to keep the hands in the house as I never saw people suffer more from cold - The cold & shut has been followed by a good deal of rain - indeed ^{for} the two last days & nights some it has rained steadily and sometimes very heavily - We had gotten over nearly all the cotton most likely to be washed out by a long rain - The overseer & hands cannot get into the fields to day - The cotton is too wet together & it is nearly knee deep in mud - The women & children are engaged in shelling corn & the men in packing cotton & repairing cottons - By tonight we shall have out 250 or 50 bags - I mean packed - The quantity in seed now in the gin houses equal to 25 bags - I still think & hope we shall get out a crop of 300 & no more - ^{but} I should not be surprised if it fell a few bales short or went a few bales over -

I was disappointed in obtaining Hays last week at the sale attended by overseer - A western Tennessee man was here last week offering me Pork at the same that I paid 5 cents - That seems to be the price of the country. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that our people with the exceptions of Joe & Standigan are in pretty fair health - Sandy looks badly - but is much improved since I gave him whiskey - fish & a blanket shirt over the skin -

I will try & have a finish made of the cottons crop if we can get 10 days of good picking ^{weather} ~~days~~ - it

it may take a little longer - The corn is all housed - & the owner reports 273 wagon loads in the stack - he says he has ~~the~~ ^{about} 20 bushels to a load - I can't think he has made so much corn - Mr Ruffin made me his first visit on Friday morning the 5th dined with me - visited the gin house - & invited me to go home with him - I rode home with him that afternoon & was detained at his house Saturday & Sunday by rain - returned home yesterday in the rain - He is making a fine crop - has now packed over 400 bags - He is very anxious for me to purchase the 180 acres of land belonging to Stalen wreck - I feel but little inclination to file another dollar upon so hated a place one that has cost so much of money & feeling - all of which ought to have been saved me -

I hope you have received the several letters from me I have written you some 3 or 4 times & have as often I have a dull time of it - Home - Home - Home is all that I think about when not engaged in some business - I have had no letter from any one but yourself - I hope that others will write me -

The probability is that I shall not go from this to Mobile or else where until the crop is all made packed & shipped - letters from home of all things most acceptable - I am in receipt of no intelligence except by your letters - the Register - an occasional letter from Mobile - God bless & keep you all -

Ever your aff son

P. C. Cameron