

57
Fayette N. C.
Oct 24th 1846.

10

Hon Duncan Cameron

No 19. Sanson St.

Philadelphia

Penn.

[1846]

Wilmington Delaware Co. Oct 24th

My dear Father.

Saturday morn

Your letter of the 19th being 49 10 came to hand by the mail of last night: as I was not at the opening of the mail and have not seen Mr. Phipps I don't know what letters came for uncle - his boy was here and carried his letters over home.

I have written you twice every week but the last and uncle wrote in my stead - my last letter was to Margaret. Our white family are all again in pretty fair health - Thomas had but the one child - again on his horse - little Anne has a very ugly hurt on her left eye - caused by a fall over the fence striking her cheek some against the underwood which was not hot enough to burn.

The general health of the black family is better - yet old Aunt Esther has but little chance for a recovery: she is old - her illness has been long - is much wasted in flesh - and strength and her fever unbroken - Old Mariah may recover - old Simon at S. Hill is quite poorly - having been in Prison for the last two days I know but little of the sick hereabouts: I don't know that any one on the plantation is ill - it will take me all day to get around to see them. In Prison I found no one ill - some quite poorly - and others looking worn by their late sickness. The Tobacco crop all in the house and from what I saw and am told a better crop

as regards quantity and quality there has been made
for some years - if not now secured in the House
but be it good or bad it will be worth nothing.
We should go to work with a fixed determination
to get clear of that probability - it don't pay one
percent of profit and I have spent 10 of the best
years of my life in failures upon that red clay -
Some 8 or 10 persons have died just around us
up there - chiefly old persons - killed by the Doctor
I have very little doubt.

I shall not go South without seeing you;
if not in Raleigh when I leave home, will find
you in Philadelphia. I have this one thing
to ask that my going from Home, may in no
way enter into the judgement you may form
as what is best to do in regard to dear
Mildred's return home - Tho my health has
not been as good as I wished yet no one has
struggled harder to accomplish his wishes than I
have in regard to our domestic matters.

I wish to be on the plantation in Ala' some 10
days preceding the 11th of December when Mr
Searlly's time of service expires.

The mail of last night brought me a letter
from him - he reports the death of a child and
speaks of the illness of a little boy, a great favourite
with him, whom he says he will try and save by
good nursing - no one else much sick. For the
first time he expresses an opinion as to

The quantity of crop he will make. His letter is written on the 11th of this month, when he had out 120 bags and he says his crop will exceed 200 bags - but how much more he will not venture to say - He says he has been told by some that expected to make 200, that they would not make 40 bags! The crop must fall very far short of the wants of the world! In some of the best cotton districts I see the picking is nearly done in others a storm from the coast has ruined the plant for the trouble of picking - I should not be surprised if cotton should get up to 15. ct.

I have employed no one for the next year - Mr. Pipers has given me to understand that he will remain with me next year - I have no doubt he has been led to this by the kindness extended towards himself and family during their late illness.

But all these matters will be pleased after the very best fortifying that it is possible for me to do with my "material personally" - We have commenced shoeing the people and will be able to give them good shoes - out of home made leather - The hog pens look about as well as I have seen them for some two or three years - we shall put up about 470 to 500 hogs - and we have a plenty to make all fat.

In Orange we have about 350 bushels of wheat in the ground - the first field sown is well up - The repairs at the mill has gone on very slow it seems to me for the number of workmen but Dixon is the best workman we ever had about us since

Shou know any thing about our plantations,
and Mills. The angler is now gone to
Storforks for the "cocking".

I have seen very little of Uncle since I
was with him at the Fish Pond - called to see
him last evening as I passed his house - he had
as he told me a very sick young son at Home
of whom I have had some fears before he
returned from the North. Uncle has been perfectly
well - and about as prudent as ever I have
known him to be - he has a very great know-
ledge of a "aquatic skill" of which he has only
seen two chicks or eggs -

Our young friend Caldwell has been
recalled by the Faculty at the urgent request of
his father - he is a young man of good mind -
good heart - and only needs good application to
make a clever fellow - he left us with a good
deal of feeling - Miss Patty Cairns here and begs
to be kindly mentioned to all - I had a very
affectionate letter from Anna Cameron last night
reporting her safe arrival at Home and the good
health of all but Uncle Tom.

Your little name book has impressed a great deal
and grows daily - & little Mary the object of
interest and sport to all who see her. Rebecca says
she must read her books no matter what Dr. Johnson
says about little girls being bookish - All unite with me
in best affections.

Ever your aff. son
P. C. Cairns