

Fairfax Orange Co. Saturday morn  
Oct 3rd 1840.

My dear Father

By the mail of last evening I had the pleasure to receive your letters of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> being Nos 14 & 15. As I had feared I see that our dear Mother's relief was only temporary - that the spasms have only changed the time of return from morning to evening. I have in regard to my presenty been endeavoring to act under the motto of "Never despair," tho' the heart often faints, and sometimes nearly yields in the struggle - but I will hope and cling to this motto in regard to the ultimate recovery of our dear Mother. And it is a matter of no little gratification that a man who is regarded as at the head of the Profession in our county confidently predicts her recovery and restoration. My last letter will before this have informed you that I had again had chills I am now able to support myself free of them and quite smart again. Rebecca and Anne both like myself quite free of disease and have good appetites. Thomas and his wife Pitt Mary as well as Master Drucens quite well. But Anne has at last come to her times: she had a severe chill last night about 1 o'clock followed by high fever - her bowels have acted freely without medicine and this morning she has but little fever and is taking quinine freely - I hope she will eat it short

In our family of blacks God only knows when we shall  
have an end of sickness: not until we have  
put in my opinion - I have had some very  
sick people for the last two or three days -  
Sam from Bobbitts is here a very sick  
man, but his medicine seems to act well  
and hope he will soon be on safe ground  
I have had several very sick negroes at the Mill  
but thought all better over there on yesterday  
The man Mr. Fothering and his wife both  
drown - The little boy "Living" whose eight  
I was so anxious to save, and who came  
back from Kadrigh much improved, very  
soon after his return home, was taken  
with chills, grew worse and worse and finally  
exhibited the most distressing symptoms of  
being destroyed by stomach worms - died  
this morning about 8 o'clock!

I sent Henry to Person this morning to see  
our sick - I could not leave home - we  
have up there 14 cases - nearly all at the  
Mill quarter - only one at Jim's -

The calls of the sick occupy nearly all my  
time and not a ~~large~~ a small part of  
my thoughts by day and night.

I have seen several people, (at least those that were  
regarded as most indisposed) frequently this week  
he has had a very sick youth by the name of  
Aboer - he is better and think out of all doubt

if he is prudent. Virgil was down here this morning  
he says he regards all better to day - some new  
cases from below - and some of the old ones  
remain without much change - I think that on under  
family things look a good deal brighter than they  
did ~~before~~ 4 days ago. He will certainly act  
wisely to remain with you - he will certainly  
have to go to bed if he comes back here  
just now. I had a letter from Swellby by  
the mail of last night - it has been my misfortune  
to lose the strongest and most powerful hand  
on the plantation Simons, by congestive fever - taken sick  
on Thursday and a corpse before sun rise on Friday  
morning - Swellby assures me every effort was made  
with him at the out set and the Physicians to save  
him but all in vain - He anticipates sickness  
in his family - but mentions no one as ill - he  
has packed 50 bales of cotton and had out  
some 10 or 15 more - will I expect from the repres-  
entations made me in a letter from the Physicians  
who attends the sick (and who also reported to me  
from Simons, death) make two thirds of a crop  
say 200 - bays - If any man ever suffered pain  
at getting such letters from his Overseer Geo.  
I wish I could make my letters more agreeable  
at least fill them with more pleasant topics than  
disease and death. Our friend Mr Curin is with  
us and we some what look for his daughter  
and Anna and Kate Cameron. I am glad to

have our friend and neighbor to come and ask  
us how we are. Anna and Catherine with  
Mr C daughter and Rebecca Cameron have but  
this instant come to hand they are all very  
well dine with us and return to Hillsboro this

11/10  
Hillsboro  
Nov 17 46  
Hon Duncan Cameron  
No 19 Sunston St  
Philadelphia  
Penn.

afternoon. The girls say they expect I shall call  
next week and they will go at once home  
to Fayetteville. Old Dr. Webb sent me word  
that he was on his back - could neither talk  
or walk and begged me to be prudent as to my  
own health. I fear the poor old gentleman  
will live but a short time. Give them your  
aff. love  
P. L. Cameron  
The Piper has just come in and  
excited my fears in regard to Lucy at  
the mill