

Greene Co. Alabama Dec 1st 1846 -

My dear Father,

Tuesday 4. o'clock -

My letters from Columbia and Montgomery will have informed you of the progress of my journey: on my arrival at Greensboro last night about 8 o'clock I found that I had only time to take my supper before the departure of the Demopolis Stage - leaving Greensboro at 9 o'clock alone in the stage I arrived at the gate of the plantation just at 11 o'clock - finding all asleep, a blast or two upon the drivers soon brought out Mr Swally and two of the boys to the road - I rode as I was, and tho' I had been in bed only once in eight days - it was 1 o'clock before I had gotten through with my chat with the Overseer - Rozetta gave me a nice tub of hot water to bathe my feet and legs in, so much swollen by my long sitting and a clean bed - and I slept until 9 o'clock - and feel now quite like myself tho' I yet have a bad cold and a little fever - Mr Swally is in fine health - and with the exception of Fanny Johnston and Darc Low and Diggys (a daughter of Kelly) all are up and at work - there are old clogs, which Mr Swally are getting well - The elder members of the family look a little thin - and the junior ones have grown and fattened. Milton is the only one now who has chills - & he is looking very well - & if provident will soon be out - indeed he is well enough to be out to day, did his overseer permit it. The family has been increased by 6 births during the year -

The Hands are at this time picking the last rows of the

I write this with a miserable pen - that has been here for a year and I have a knife to make a letter -

Cotton crop and before this letter is sent to the office, the crop will all be in the House - Mr Linnelton reports 218 bales delivered at the landing - says the crop will be equal to 250 or 240 - bales and as I have not seen his Gin House list of weights, I know nothing of the weights but he says they will make an average of 500^{lbs} to the bag - I will try and have all the cotton at the landing by Saturday night the 6th of Dec - As yet only a single boat has passed up the river & that of the very smallest class - a boat with a wheel in the stern, called the "Little Gin";

The crop of corn is abundant having rode through the fields this morning - I should say it was a better crop of corn than that of last year - Linnelton is a good hand to judge - but he talks too largely about bushels ^{where} - he says his crop of corn is equal to 5 or 6000 - bushels - and that he has a large quantity of old corn on hand - His Horses are all in good order - fat - and he says fodder (the indifferent) with his oats enough for a year support of teams. The little lot of Hogs he had to kill he slaughtered last week making only 2000.⁴ He has a stock of 120 Hogs - having purchased a few - The negro clothing is nearly all made, and as soon as the corn and cotton crops are off of hand will be given out - I see that a great deal of patching has been done and the consequence is that I have not in my travel from Raleigh seen a gang of slaves so well clad as our own seem to be - none exhibited less of the superficies of

the skin - Sewall has them shod early in September - he says to their manifest comfort and improvement and says the lot of shoes sent me of excellent leather and will take them through the winter. As yet of course nothing has passed between Sewall and myself as to next year - but I think at this time it is his intention to take the place if offered - it may be that he will be for asking for increased pay, but I hardly think it likely -

The report he makes of the crop of cotton in Marengo is worse than any part of the county I have seen or heard from - some will not make a half crop - only a chance one - two thirds of a crop.

He tells me it is the second question asked here when persons meet "how many bags has the worms left you. - He has in some way counted the crops of all the ~~important~~ best plantations in the county around him - I have said "how'dy do" to all and have had to answer a great many questions about home and friends - Some flatter me by telling me they have seen me in their dreams every night for weeks - and others tell me that they were in despair of ever seeing me - as I made it so much later than last year - I have my taxes to pay - with other bills in the neighborhood and if the purchase of provisions can be confided to our Mobile agents and Sewall is employed for the next year I see but little reason for my remaining out here in exile during winter - I hope we may have a River for boats - but if the cotton is to be held up for any time it may be good economy to keep it here as the charges at Mobile are prohibitive and as yet I have not been able to see the

Furiff of robes fixed for this season - The probability is that they will not fall under those of last year. And on the other hand it may be best to have the cotton all down and insured before I leave for Home - But I shall do in all matters for the best. The receipts of the owner of the new House being delivered to our agents and the cotton being ordered to be shipped as they shall order it as to time and quantity will keep all things straight should the river remain so low as not to permit me to ship it whilst in the County - Mr. Swallow tells me that it has more than once happened that no cotton ~~has~~ was shipped on this river until late in January - and once not until late in the Month of February. I have seen no acquaintances - I have said nothing about home matters - I beg that Mr. Piper will have the hogs kept until they are fat - we shall this winter have to provide to some extent for two years as the stock of young Hogs are very unpromising! I hope Anne and the little ones have had a pleasant visit to Raleigh and all are well and happy at Home - in Orange - I am anxious to have a letter from you and hope to hear this week - and to get a good Report of my much loved sister - I should not be sorry to hear that Anne had left Rebecca with you, but hardly think it likely. As I have no wish to write the same matter twice and feel but little like writing to ~~any one~~ ^{any one} I beg you will consider my letters addressed to all unless you may think otherwise. Give to all - God bless you all. P. C. Coombs