

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett evidently to Samuel and from Mendon]
March 30th 1848

Dear Brother

Your letter was duly received fifteen days after its departure. It is a source of great joy to me to have the pleasure after so long a period of silence to enjoy such a flow of soul as I find on these ample beautiful leaves penned by one whose pure ingenious elegance of soul and delicate refinement is indeed known to few and by few possessed

I have not received a Letter excepting the one of the 13th since you left Florida and I began to beleive that you had actually gone to Mexico though the inducement for such an important step is as yet a mystery to me.

I would have gladly wrote previous to this but the uncertainty of directing my letter to the right place induce me to defer until the reception of more reliable information

This intelligence I have now the pleasure of saying I have happily received. In due time after your arrival in the city of New-Orleans a copy of that notorious paper the picinyune was received was so well pleased with it that its appearance again would be quite acceptable -- The marginal notice excited surprize mingled with some ominous thoughts as to what might result from such a step

But this undesirable state of mind was relieved by your last communication which contains such information, as must of course be gratifying to those who are interested and who are ever ready to rejoice in your welfare

You spoke of the yellow fever that dreadful scourge which has committed such fearful ravages -- it is truly unfortunate that a city possessed of such unequalled commercial advantages should be so grievously afflicted -- Yet great as this impediment may be the city seems to be rapidly increasing both in whealth and populations -- The great number of steamboats and other vessels that are present at a time must make a very interesting sight -- I have no correct idea of the Levee of New Orleans. 1

I cannot otherwise than congratulate you for your success which seems to have ~~been~~ more the result of a concurrence of events than from special application -- Surely one would hardly expected such good things immediately after your intended project of leaving New Orleans had been defeated. It is needless for me to mention what great pleasure such good news affords the family and that your special reference to each member was highly affecting

Nothing of great importance has transpired here nor has any material alteration taken place in the family. -- Though the monotony of this sort of life admits of few vicissitudes yet a retrospective glance on the past contrasted with the present shows evident alterations and further developement of good and evil

There is much in the History of a persons life to be sorry for, many the actions which if life could be renewed would be most sedulously avoided and these remarks apply to all without exception none are exempts even King David sinned grievously sinned --

The general health of the family has been good, but at times there has been some sick ness even serious indisposition -- The Canker rash has been quite prevelent and its dreadful fatality among children has excited much anxiety among parents 2

The family have all been at home during the past winter with but one exception -- Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to you to be informed that the writer of this letter has been engaged in keeping school during the past winter in the new school house district number 7 of this town. This school has generally been considered as second to none in the town and a large school too the No' of different scholars whose names were entered upon the register were 51 -- average attendance $47 \frac{1}{60}$ -- Many of the events connected with this period bear great similarity to what once happened at Bridgewater

But being sustained by the general committee by whom he was examined he was enabled to withstand the assaults of ignorance & prejudice.

Winter is fast retreating and the little birds have come again to cheer these desolate fields with their liquid notes of praise and rejoicing I suppose you are in the midst of all the beauties of spring while as yet here no little flower has ventured to show its pleasant bloom as a token of reviving Life

But these the joyous in themselves need not comment here soon I must cease to write soon I must bid you adieu

I tenderly to you my best wishes and hope that your young life which has tasted so deeply of the wormwood and the gall may open upon happier days. May you bury your regrets in the grave of oblivion & let your spirit blend itself more and more with the future and at times soon o'er cerulean heights to mansions in the skies

The bitterest pang that anguish the soul the iron that pierces into its inmost recesses one is wont to keep to himself & when aside from the turmoil of this world in the hours of silent retirement then to let the corroding iron work into the ~~very vitals~~ essence of life and the insatiable vulture ~~to~~ feast & gloat on the very vitals the last hope and consolation of the woe subdued sufferer No one need weep over the afflictions of another -- it were well for him if his eyes were a fountain of tears that he might weep over the sorrows of his own soul -- O fleeting joys of earth dear bought with lasting woes! Miseries compass him about his hopes are crushed his heart is full of disappointments his brilliant anticipation of the future have proved but stern reality that which was pure and white has ~~turned~~ turned into blackness and he feels like one forsaken desolate and alone

[No signature is appended. The whole was written in pencil.]