

3 February 1849

[Letter from Simeon Locke Doggett to his cousin Aristides Doggett]

Mendon Feb 3d. 1849

Dear Cousin

It is not without regret I reflect on the fact that the correspondence between us which some years since began so auspiciously terminated so abruptly and such a dreary period of time has been permitted to elapse not relieved by a single interchange of thought I have always expected since I wrote that you would have favored me with a letter and I have no doubt had you been aware how gratifying it would have been you would have written. For my part so great has been the enduring affection which your visit to Mendon produced that the past silence has been to me irksome you may be assured. As an evidence of this you will perceive I have again assumed the pen which while it makes my impotency apparent, will I flatter myself also revive me in your recollection And when you shall have received these lines and honored them with a perusal may you bear in mind that I am still labouring under the expectation of receiving a letter

Especially would a letter containing an account of yourself in the capacity of a soldier in Mexico ~~be~~ those scenes which tried men's souls, of the Country thro' which you passed, of the Officers, the hardships you may have endured & where you have or intend to locate your 160 Acres bounty, be highly interesting.

But as I must dismiss this subject now I trust sufficient has been said to show the earnestness with which I desire a communication from and to open a regular correspondence with one who has ever deserved my best wishes.

The next subject which predominates in my mind and of which it is needless for me to assure you of my concern is in regard to my brother from whom I & the family have not received a letter or any account of him what soever for the last 4 or 5 months. At that time I received one stating that he was keeping school in New Orleans. Whether he remains there in sickness or in health in prosperity or adversity or left on account of epidemics or is gone to California are doubts and anxieties I would be happy to have removed

In your Answer which I will be daily expecting (and I hope I will not be disappointed) any information of him both prior or subsequent to his departure from Jacksonville would be gratefully received.

His not having written appears mysterious and the length of time so unusual that the most prominent conjecture I can form in re is that he has gone to California. And what strengthens this ~~supposition~~ (supposition) is the great excitement which prevails relative to the Gold Mines

A Great many have gone from these parts from the cities of New England N. York &c. I suppose a great many soldiers who served in the M. war as they possess more than ordinary advantages will go -- By the way have you any idea of going? If you should I hope you will write me also from the Gold Digging as a letter from that quarter besides its other merits would be quite a novelty.

For my part I should like to go but my situation is such that I have neither prospect nor hope. And in regard to those that go I would observe that they are mostly rich persons (for it requires considerable to pay the passage out and for food to eat &c when there) who possess

enough already to be contented to stay at home It puts me in mind of Aesop's fable of the Woman and her hen -- Mulier quaedam habebat gallinam quae ei gustidie ovum pariebat aureum. Hinc suspicari coepit, Ilam auri massam interscetare [?] et gallinam accidet. Sed nihil in ea reperit nisi quod in aliis gallini reperire solet -- Itaque dum majoribum divities inhabit [?], etiam minores perdidit. By the fable it appears the hen was laying for her an egg Golden every day but the woman not content with this daily accession to her wealth, killed the hen to obtain the whole mass of gold at once, But found nothing in her except what is in the other hens -- and thus as the moral says while seeking after greater riches less riches lost. So those who are well off who go to California may instead of gaining lose, and perhaps themselves too.

----- Mendon is the same as it was nothing new or strange here. Among other things I mention the death of Charles C.P. Hastings Esq (or Warren Rawson Esq Rollin Gardner -- and that the Lealands burnt out and cleared out (went west) -- The folks at Raynham enjoy good health

As for myself I remain at home as usual excepting a several months when I was engaged in teaching the young idea how to shoot. The family here beg to be remembered to you and yours -- and as time flies and my paper is spent I must here bid you ~~adieu~~ farewell assuring you that I remain as ever your

Affectionate Cousin

Simeon L Doggett

To Aristides' Doggett Jacksonville florida

Mendon March 16th 1848

Gentlemen

Having purchased some philological works printed at your great establishment and being pleased with the admirable execution of those works, both in regard to corectness and durability, and being about to select a library I have for this purpose trespassed on your time and attention. My desire is that you will oblige me by sending a list; -- or as advertised a "New classified and descriptive Catalogue, containing bibliographical and Critical notices respecting works of value in the several departments of literature. I have the honor to be

Gentlemen

Your Obt. Svt.

S.L. Doggett

Messers Harper & Brothers