

Home 1st Sep. 1872

My dear Sister,

What shall I say – Our blessed master, when on earth expressed his sympathy with the bereaved sisters, only in tears – The consolation he offered was “thy brother will rise again.” And is it that a comfort indeed – “a hope that is as anchor to the soul both sure & steadfast” purchased by the death & resurrection [resurrection] of the blessed redeemer that that dear [dear] form that we loved so well, will be clothed [clothed?] upon with immortality – that we may through “the mercy that is in Christ Jesus” spend with her an eternity of bliss. My dear sister, she has left you & her dear husband & little ones, but she is in the bosom of the father who controls [controls] every event for you & them. When we have left all that is earthly & passed the gates into our Father’s house, I have no doubt but His is the desired presence [presence], but O such companions as our dear Mollie has with her. Her sainted father & mother – that mother who was so unselfish & true upon this earth, what is she now, & that father who knew no guilt here & those dear old grandparents & aunts & friends - upon that “green & flowery mount.” I can almost see them gathered round & hear their praises to the Lawd that was slain for mercies too which they had called afflictions before they reached that high above where they could see the end from the beginning. My dear sister I often think over how many more grieves I have in the world beyond than I have in this and the time grows short & the crossing nears. It only remains for us to do with all our might what our hands find & what our conscience dictates for us to do. I wish so much I was able to go to see you all now – just now – but I cannot. I have not the means. A friend has bought a house, a business house, in Trinity a station on the Houston & Great Northern RR for my husband & gives him a start there in the provision & commission business. It is not a suitable place tho for us to live so I expect to go to Houston (which is more convenient to that point than this) & take boarders to assist some as we do not expect to make too much to support us either way – or both ways but twice be thankful to do so together. Ellen must be at school & if we remain here we would have to board her from home which I do not wish to do. I have taken a very nice house but not very large. 7 [seven] rooms now and 3 [three] more will soon be completed. I get carpets bedsteads, bureaus, washstands, etc. etc. – I do not get the entire furniture for the rooms but only the heavy & such as is difficult to move - for four rooms (bed) tables carpet side board, etc. etc. for the dining room. Also carpet sofa & chairs, etc. for the parlour but I give one hundred & fifty a month which seems to me very high – but I could do no better & not what I thought as well in Houston so take it for a year. I can hardly see a loophole to get out to run off to see you all, only through Belle’s housekeeping capacity or Maynie’s (Adair’s wife) who is also very practical. Maggie is one of the best managers & cooks & workers generally, but poor thing, she has no health & so many little ones to care for, she could not take my place tho she would like to do so very much. Brother Patton must come out this winter to see us – indeed he must. I think it would do him good. I have lived here so long by myself – away from you all that I can hardly flatter myself into the hope that any one of the of the family ever will come, as no one ever has, but my dear old mother. But indeed you would find Texas not so different from the rest of the world and Houston is very like Memphis was when we left it in many particulars. I like the climate except the long summers & they are very little shorter in Memphis. Tell dear Henry I will write to him

soon. I do not know why he does not get more letters. I think Scott & Bell have both written since the latest receipt he mentions. I have been so busy with my arrangements to move I could not write conveniently & will be for some week or so to come. My love to dear Molly Bray. I wish she would write me sometimes at least. I feel very anxious about brother B[']s family as they were not well when I heard last. My love to Dr. Scott, may God bless him & his little charge! Love to dear dear mother & Carrie. Write me when you can dear Etta. I know so well how you feel. I felt as tho a part & parcel [parcel] of myself were buried when I lost sister every comfort [comfort] every pleasure in life had been connected with her. But "it is the Lord" we must say "let him do what seemed him good." If any of my dear sister's children are with you give them my love. May the Lord bless – even as he has smitten. May he bless you abundantly through our Lord.

Yr affectionate sister
N.B. Murray

Transcribed by Christopher A. Baker, University of Florida, 2008.