

BRACEBRIDGE HALL, EDGECOMBE CO., N. C.,

Aug 1st 1874.

My Darling Wife

A sweet letter from you this morning and I long to answer - You, too, ought to receive one from me this morning -

As this is 1st of August, you of course will remember it is a very busy time with me - so ^{or day} being a big time with the "roads" in town and all hands being anxious to go, I deviated from my usual custom & stayed them off last night & early this morning -

Andrew made the "smoothest" report I have ever yet had - It was almost too satisfactory - Not a complaint being made pro or con - something out of the usual course of things with my "business manager" - However I did not let on at all and with a few encouraging words I hope he will

do as well as a white man. He had his hands grubbing yesterday in the new ground, and just at night, he caught the pony and rode over to inspect the work, I could but think as he went off he was the hoppiest "dartist" I ever saw. Madru and his employer have split. He has written me to try and assist him to get a situation. And I saw him in town yesterday, but we didn't talk about living together, I thought he wanted to, but was evidently ashamed to mention the subject.

Jimmie about half promised to come here to night, and if so, you may just bet we will have a good time tomorrow. Don't you wish you could see in on us? And just here I am reminded to tell you that good story on the Johnnie (confidentially of course). Willie one day ^{was} exceedingly solicitous to know where the baby came from? Johnnie told him that "Dr Wilson put his

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dollbaby in an old hollow stump—
and Jimmie, interrupting, remarked, that
"Those were new names to him" but he
thought them very appropriate and
intend to adopt them in future. She
was very much discomfited and
insisted that he should not tell
"Uncle Lias".

I have sent you two New York
papers containing the whole of the Beecher-
Tilton scandal. It is awful sickening
but as it is all the talk, especially
north, you may find time to read
it. The press thus far are leaning to
the Beecher side, and he may
be acquitted, but my opinion is that
he found that "bird nest" and
robbed it too.

The rain came just in time for
the cotton. It had commenced to
turn yellow but has again changed

its color. In no sign of shading
but it must necessarily, as the stalk
is too full of bolls and squares to
bear it - See the boys their crop
looks especially lively and I think
they are good for a bale - But they
must not do as most farmers do who
have good crop prospects - spend it before
it is gathered -

I notice in yesterday's paper that
Mr Vines had advertised his land
for sale - Must I buy it? I have
not seen him - Can't say whether it
is a necessitous sale or not -

Have had two letters from Bice, both
on the reform order, but little
faith as I put in them - He is
still solicitous that we come on -
Mrs Loggett & family are in the
country for the summer and no
one there but the immediate
family - if at all convenient for
me I would say go - Suppose you
go? You will have a nice time -

We are again unfortunate - about the
burr cucumbers - with three distinct
plantings, not a single vine living.
However will endeavour to put up
a sufficiency of other things - would
you like some green grapes? They have
just commenced to ripen - Have
had some nice cantelopes and as
fine tomatoes as I ever saw - Suppose
you come to see me - will give you
all sorts of good things. Almost as
nice as you give me when I pay
you a visit - And will promise
to let you run "up town" as often
as you wish and not growl a
single time -

I received a notice this morning
that I was one of the judges of
election at Sparta - I wish there
was some way to get off - I think
I will play sick - I surely dislike

to have to sit in that crowd all day - Gov Vance spoke at Greenville on Thursday - had I known it in time I should have gone to hear him - Even one went from around this neighborhood.

As every one has quite work to do I have been at the house all day, helping occasionally to clean up and it is needed to as this is the first in all four weeks -

Andrew is going to Sparta and is off ready as I wish him to take this up I must close with an abundance of love and kisses for you all from

Yours affly
Husband

Make Mrs S behave herself.