

Dear Ell  
Dec the 6<sup>th</sup> 69

I received your letter last evening I had been looking for a letter from you as I expect to get one every week I am sorry Elias has not gotten well of his bills I think he had better try the better hope you may all keep well has Beckey gotten well of her bills I have kept as well as usual Ben is about looks badly I dont think her health is good hope she may get well I can hear of nothing but hard times keeps coming in very short the Farmers speak of hiring very few hands they have not provision to feed them I dont know what the Darkies well do meat will be very scarce as well as bread the Hags are dying very fast White's will come on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month he will not have meat nor bread when he returns I never heard the like of people breaking I dont know what will become of the folks but we must trust to providence

I heard from Mary Ann to day you know how she suffers with Rheumism unfortunately she came up about the time your dear Sister died and was taken very bad of and continues to be so Doc Arington took her down to Petersburg thought she would improve Plummer Alston was here to day from Petersburg and says she is very bad of and thinks she had better returned be with her friends Cor was here to day I told him she had better bring her here with me he said Jimmie had no love - wants poor thing I do not know what will become of her it is distressing to see her in her situation I think I will try it at White place awhile I dont think your Papa will be satisfied any where I guess all Alston will remain here I have not heard him say he does not know

what to do for the best should a Sale will be the month I think the Girls will try to keep House what does Lias think of doing I dont think there can be much made by buying hands at the low price of cotton It is thought that some will not pay exences very poor crops of corn I hope you have made a plenty well I will close as I have nothing interesting to write my best love to you Lias and the dear children kiss them for me may the Lord bless you all is the Prayer of your affectionate Mother

Mary A Kearny  
Polly sends love  
to you & Lias

burn then