

3  
fifty four This year write  
me all the news how you  
have made your arrangements  
for the next year I hope  
you will be able to make  
it satisfactory we ought to  
be thankful that we are  
as well of as we are when  
we look around and see  
how bad of so many are  
but I hope there will be  
a change for the better  
soon I have not hired any  
servant at all Nancy comes  
in the morning and cleans up  
my room I am brings us water  
to wash so I am getting along  
tolerable well I try to be sat-  
isfied I think I am so much  
better of than a great many  
Dan has improved looking better  
Harveys throat has gotten well if  
any of you should have soar throat  
use the pot ash gargle I swallow a  
little occasionally well I will close

27  
I am the 1<sup>st</sup> - 1868

Dear Ell

I received your letter a few  
days ago and hasten to reply we  
are all as well as usual hope you  
are all enjoying good health I have  
no news to write you hard times  
is all I can hear now I have never  
heard the like of distress among the  
people before it seems as if the  
farmers are at a loss to know  
what to do they cant afford to keep  
many hands I dont know what  
will become of some of them  
I think it will be difficult  
for them to find homes Cousin  
Ann Abtons sale will be this  
week I John Jones? I never heard  
of as many broken folks every  
Boddy seems low down but there  
is no use in it we must trust  
to providence and hope for the best



as I have nothing interesting to  
write Dorah Alston is very low  
I am anxious to hear from Mary  
Ann she came with Doc Arington  
to Mr Harvis a few weeks ago  
Mr Harvis thought her letter  
I have not heard from her since  
write soon and let me hear  
from you, All Love me in  
love to you Liza & the children  
excuse and waiting May the Good  
Lord bless you all is the Prayer  
of your Affectionate Brother  
Merrill A. Thewms

2

I am sorry you did not let us  
know Liza wanted money sooner your  
Paper received several thousand  
dollars but did not keep it but a  
short time he does not know when  
he will get any more if he should  
he will let him have some I hope  
he may have it in his power  
to accommodate him I was sur-  
prised to hear about Beedey I heard  
she was doing so smart when she  
first went down I was sorry to  
hear about her and Lura it is  
difficult to get good servants  
where is Peter how is he getting  
on I hope better than the others  
they have reduced the price of  
servings very much about hear  
Pollys dining room servant  
she gave five dollars last  
year she was willing to take  
three Friday he gave eight  
last year he says he will give