

ago? I was spared here for
some purpose I don't know
what neither can I see why,
but I will sooner or later
Why did you not have a
before this late day will
to you certainly. I have been
hard at work all day working
& coming and am really so
tired I can scarcely write but
I hope you will read it &
understand me and answer
my simple questions. Elias
believe me as one of your truest
friends me that will never
say a harm word about you
and if ever ^{hear} any body speak
other wise than respectful
about you I will defend you
as my truest friend. Sue
is with us today am going to
see her before long.

Tarborough N.C.
Oct. 1896

Dear Elias:

Your very kind note
was received this P.M. with
the other things some of
which I think you ought
to have kept & that was the
box & brushes of course now
as you feel inclined to
send that back I feel
like I ought to send the
hand some tokens back
that was given me. It
will take some time to
fix them up. would you
not feel the same way

too? I appreciate them and
too, I know how they were given
they were given with the trees
to be at that time, and Elias
that we would have remained
the same to the very last if
you had not treated me
with such perfect indifference
you know that to be so too
don't you? I believe God saw
fit to separate us, for before
I told you all, I prayed that
God might direct me &
I believe my poor little prayer
was heard and answered.
I will always be a good
true friend to you & I
know you will to me for
I believe now after reading
your letter that you
never will betray my con-
fidence.

I don't know now how to
write if I could talk I could
say lots but I can't do that for
I feel like you do. I not to see
much of each other. No woman
for a year was any true
- purer than mine was
for you Elias for six years,
and would have seen that
way now, but you were the cause
of it all, & you are the one
to feel it more keenly than
I do, but now say you are
glad it is so, I do not want
you to come here ever. Elias
I am real happy and feel
like I have acted wisely &
truer to you & to my self.
than I would have by keep-
ing silent don't you feel
so too. Would it have been
that I had died five years