

[To James C. Pass, Greensboro, N.C.]

Lewis's Depot, Sept. 30th 1863

My dear Darling,

All is perfectly quiet around, as I seat myself to write to you tonight. Frankie is sleeping so sweetly near me and if you were by she I think I all would be well.

I was much pleased to hear that you found the oranges, stock &c doing well and that you have been successful in raising fodder enough - we have fine weather now for fodder and potatoes; but, I think we will have rain tomorrow or soon. Have you had much frost up there? We can see slight effects of it here. I do hope the Farmers will be able to save their crops throughout the Confederacy and make beautiful supplies for our Soldiers, I see in to-day's Observer that the Farmers in some parts of Georgia are having meetings and drawing up resolutions to 'not sell their produce to Speculators at any price' in other words, to put down Speculation and help to support the poor families of Soldiers.

Walter was at Clinton yesterday and saw several poor women who said they would have to starve if they couldn't get help. They complain because they cannot get meat. I pity the Soldiers wives and children. Brother has son, Iwan Solie since he went to Co - he has been at work on the entrenchments & ditching &c, and does very well. We have had two letters from Brother, he is well and found every thing about us he left it. They are twelve miles from Orange Court House - but expect to be called off at any moment. We have had no news from Buddie - Brother had heard he was at Petersburg in a Hospital - but, of course that was not true

So you dont want any of the books on Mrs Walsh's list. But, does want three small primers and one of Roswell Smith's Grammars for Vickie. Can you bring them when you come.

I wish you would bring me some wool to knit for the boys - I could have Ellen knitting on them now. You know it is best to commence as soon as possible. I hope you will have wool enough.

Father is about to sell a part of the Watkins place to old Jack River - he has hired himself as substitute for Wm. Howe & wants a home for his family.

Sarah Hines is at Mr. Hicks. I guess Mother & I will go there to-morrow to see her & her little girl. Mother says please get her about a pound of shoe-thread if you can conveniently & notice and get good thread. Henry will be at home Saturday - I wrote him about these shoes Monday morning by Ding Hicks. I guess he doesn't know what to do till he comes home. Mother don't want him to give \$15.00 for a pair. Mag ordered her a pair when in Hanover at \$16.00. They charge more for men's shoes. Calf skin all of them. I feel independent about shoes for a while.

The grapes are so nice now, Darling, I hope you will get some again before they are gone. Mother speaks of making a little wife of them for Bud if he doesn't come home to get the grapes. Frank's sugged and kissed me for Papa before going to sleep. She looks so innocent and happy now, sweet child. Darling we should try to be very good when we think that their life depends on ours & her training. Let us try to be a good and happy trio. Sweet, refreshing slumbers & sweet dreams Darling. Good night
I Yours ever, Mary