

College St James No. d December 22nd 1850

My Dear

Sweet Precious Papa your letter of the 18th just came safe to hand and words cannot tell how happy I was to hear from you and that all was well. Every thing looks very pretty to day and I have just come from taking a long walk with one of my young friends. which I enjoyed very much what made me enjoy my walk so much was because we were conversing the whole time about our precious Homes. Can there be any place like that Home sweet sweet Home that precious Home in this world. oh how happy. how happy I should be if I was only at that Dear Sweet Home with you all. I should enjoy myself so much this Christmas. and then I could go up to Chapel Hill with Josh and Fret Moore and the rest of the boys next month but Dear Sweet Precious Papa I wish you

would let me come Home in March and
go to Mr. Gump until July and then go up
to chapel. Do Dear Papa my precious Papa
let me come if you will I will study day
and night nothing in this world shall
take my mind of my studies. No nothing
I am study hard and trying to improve
myself for as you say my Dear Precious Papa
when once that precious time is lost it
cannot ever be recalled. but it is hard hard
indeed after all my striving so hard at my
studies the instructors will not give me
the marks that I deserve and Dear Precious
Papa and mama and Aunty and Uncle
I know it worries you all when I get such
low marks. and it discourages me so
that sometimes I am most fit to put up
my books and not look into them again
as long as I am at this Colley. but still
if I was to do that. I know that I would
be doing wrong. and that makes me
stive harder and harder at my studies

as it is the old saying never give up the ship
this is my intention never to give up my
studies but study hard and be a man
and conquer ~~my studies~~ ^{them}. Dear Sweet
Precious Papa as it is ^{your} desire that I should
stop smoking I will do so. for I am willing
to do any thing in this world to please you
I Promise you Dear Sweet Papa and Mama
and Aunty and Uncle that another cigar
shall not come near my mouth again. Tell
Dear Mama that I am very much oblig'd to
her for the two gold dollars. I must now
leave of I wish you all a happy Christmas
May God bless you all Dear Sweet Precious Papa
and Mama and Aunty and Uncle and
keep you in ^{good} health and from all
danger is the prayer of your devoted and
affectionate Son Willie. I am well Write soon