

Campbell Ct. H. August 16<sup>th</sup>  
Room No 14.

My dear Brother & Sister

The arrival of your letter so long looked for gave me a great deal of pleasure. I had wished so often to hear from you & failing to elicit any reply to the numerous epistles I had directed to Hinston since my stay in this place, I had reluctantly resigned you both as correspondents, but am happy & pleased to renew the fraternal interchange of thoughts & communion of ideas. Since last we met time has made many long strides bringing the sweets & bitters of life closely mingled. My happiness for a time has been interrupted by the blighting hand of death which came & robbed me of my most beautiful flower in an hour least expected. My heart was so entwined around my sweet Kate that it was long before the comfortable words of inspiration & the soothing sympathy of friends could bring consolation to my sorrowing mind, but thanks to Divine grace I can say it was good for me to be thus afflicted. I have a dear child in Heaven what stimulant more powerful than that fact to aid me in getting there. My little Edwin is a very sprightly boy four years old he talks about his cousins as if he had seen them, dear little souls how much their "uncle" Ben would like to see them. I have a heap of

nice, pretty things laid away for Leavina Page if she dont come soon I am afraid she will out grow many. Mama & Ethy said she was exactly like our Kate, as you have more than I have I think you might give me her. I wish I may be able to meet you all in Ch<sup>rist</sup> but Dr Page intends to the worlds fair & I expect that will exhaust all traveling money, he is continually on his missions of good to his afflicted fellow creatures he is so popular that I am afraid the Campbell people will send him as their representative. I expect you want to know how we are situated we are boarding now at a Tavern, my room adjoins Dr Page's office, this is quite a sociable place with many kind hearted people in it Dr Page thinks we will house keep next year you must then come to see us it will be the same as going to the Springs the situation of this place is directly under the spur of the mountains with a distant view of the Peaks of Otter. I never hear from my beloved sister children, except accidentally. Dr Gible singular to say doesn't write to any of us, I heard the little boy I took & kept a year had grown to be a large healthy child, he was extremely delicate when with us. I often wish to see my sister children particular as they no longer have the fostering care & love of a mother, I hope when you come to Va you will go to see them, surely the Dr cannot have any ill will to you because Ethy wouldnt have him.

I heard from Mama last week. she was the informant of a strange & sad news, she said a lawyer had visited her to say our Henry was no longer the property of Papa's estate, that Papa purchased him as a life estate out of a family by the name of Douglap & as both the old people were dead the children claimed Henry & threatened suit if not delivered. As you may imagine it was a matter utterly astonishing to us, never having heard anything but what he was entirely ours, & Dr Page says he often heard Papa say he bought Henry a mere child two years old it is not to be supposed that he would purchase a servant to raise for other people's children, there is a mistake somewhere, but as it will be a serious matter I hope Mr Wooten will look into it. It is too improbable that Papa would have owned property in that way & particularly so as none of his family know anything about it, & at the time of Henry's purchase he was unfit for any use. Dr Page has written to Mr Tyler & Dudley two lawyers at N.D. et c. If he knew law as well as Mr Wooten he would go directly to the lower country & see about this fraud. If suit is brought Dudley will be Dr Page's lawyer ~~not~~ Mama has been through much trouble since our Father's death & I don't know what these wicked people want to plague her with this superfluous claim, I often heard Papa disclaim <sup>against</sup> & condemn those who bought property that was of use in that way.

I hope Mr Wooten will interest himself  
in the matter & let us hear what he  
thinks about it.

Our village has been disturbed  
in its equanimity by an unusual amount  
of sickness resulting in many deaths, in less  
than a fortnight I have attended the  
funerals of a mother daughter & son, & the fourth  
member of the family now laying ill, one of  
the physicians of this place seems peculiarly un-  
fortunate with his patients Dr Page I am <sup>glad to</sup> see  
is more successful, he would write if he  
could command the time but I want this  
letter to go on directly & therefore will  
not wait for him to have any leisure  
he desired to be remembered to you both  
& says when he can visit N<sup>o</sup> he will  
I have always wished to go but you know  
our business is one continual confinement  
to one place, Edwin says tell Cousin John  
he can ride on horse back with his Papa  
& if he will come & stay with him he  
will give him a seat, kiss your dear  
children for me I really want to see  
them so much my mouth waters for their  
sweet kisses as some savory food, write  
to me soon dear sister I am always  
glad to hear tell Mr Wooten I hope this long  
letter will merit one of his favours my share  
This reminds me of some of his old deed paper  
letters but I am admonished by the end  
of this sheet to conclude, farewell my  
sister may Heaven's all protecting power  
guard you & your family in the interim  
I remain your devoted sister L. Page