

Salem February 2^d 1857

My dear Sister Mary

As it has been some time since I had the pleasure of commencing with you, I think I had better pass the remainder of this holy evening with you and your little family group. I have read until I am tired of books & papers, visit I cannot for there is none to see so you may imagine our small sphere, here within a little world we reside seldom any intercourse with the people that are beyond the pale of this place. Therefore we that are bound together by the ties of kindred love should try to contribute to each others happiness. We all deeply regretted that Mr. Wooten could not extend his visit as far as here when in the city of Richmond, tell him we would all have been glad to see him notwithstanding you not being in company, he told Bro Francis he would bring you & the dear little boys in the coming summer, remind him of

it often & tell him we cannot
take a denial. I suppose you have heard
from the disappointment Mama met with
in her trip to N. Carolina, The first
of January, she left here for the
purpose of making you all a visit
but got only as far as Petersburg when
finding she would be delayed on the
route so much longer than she had
made arrangements for on leaving home
she retraced her steps homeward, I was al-
most ready to cry of vexation to think she
could't see you all after so long wishing
but I hope when any of us start again
we will be more favoured. Sister and
the little girls were well when we last
heard from them, I heard from Ethey
about a fortnight ago all were well
except Aunt Adams who was suffering
with her head as usual, I don't think
Ethey has any notion of getting married and
think her notions are too high for her
to entertain a tailor much less be engaged
to one, but as I expressed my opinion freely
about the Pringle case I wish to have
nothing to do with such affairs again which
generally blow of themselves if not too much
meddled with. I saw Pringle & always told

They she never had a serious notion of marrying
him, they were totally dissimilar in everything
and moreover she discarded him for not succeeding
but a plenty of this nonsense to be rejected
Thomas is at the Richmond College, boarding
with Mr. Ryland, Tell Johnny Edwin send
him a sack but Mamas not reaching
of course the article did & Fannie very
often wishes to see the pretty nephews
she has in Kingston, Kiss the dear boys
for me remember me to Mr. Wooten
and write soon to your ever affectionate
My Dear Mary you can have no idea Sister, I. Page
how much I was disappointed when I reached Peters Large &
heard the carpenters among the passengers about the car leave
ing half an hour sooner than the word ever known before
The ment it for a Christmas trick all tho it was the first day of
January The Stage keeper told me the stage from Gaolster
road did not run but twice a week to Kingston & I would have
to wait three days so Thomas & myself returned to Be
The next morning with a heavy heart my intention was when
I left home to live Thomas with you if there was a good
School in Kingston it appears to be impossible for any of
us to get to see you the next time I start I will make
my arrangements at home not to be compelled to return any
particular day Tell Mr. Wooten I am sorry he heard such
unfavorable accounts of Ethe in Richmond, the person that
told him certainly told Sturys She has no idea in the world

of getting married She left School last Spring not to return
again but after the death of your papa your uncle came down and
insisted on her going to School longer & bore the whole expence himself
which I think is very kind as I could not afford to send her I wish
you could see her last circular you would be satisfied her time is
well spent She has been very anxious to visit you & will do
so when she ~~has~~ accomplish her studies her teachers say she improves
very fast in her music I hope she will play you some pretty tunes
when she gets to Winston & Captivate a week here
give my love to Mr Waten & a kiss to the little boy Tell Betty her
Daddy sent her a new frock I will take care of it until she comes
in I will conclude by begging you to write soon & come in when
Mr Waten can make it convenient your ever affectionate Mother & Aunt

Mrs. Mary Ann Waten

Winston

North Carolina

W. H. Waten
July 6th 1851