Huntsville April [illegible] 1859

My dear son,

By last mail [illegible] yours of the 29th ult. for which [illegible] you sincerely. I regret that you [illegible] seen your cousin Mr. Lea, as he could have given you the interesting details of our journey and arrival here. However you have seen him of course before this.

I am in constant expectation of your dear Father's arrival. If he does not come soon, I shall be very anxious about him. I rec'd a letter from him written at Harrisburg on the 11th ult, on his way homeward. He saw Levi, Father and brother there. He wrote to me again at Louisville Ky. on the 18th ult. and said he would not lose one hour that he could avoid. Pull the Lord has preserved his life thus far through many dangers, and I believe he will still watch over [illegible] and restore him to his family

love your mother and like to make her happy. I enclose a few scraps, which I wish [illegible] carefully, and put away for [illegible] scrap-book.

Give my love to your Grandma, and tell her my health is much better. Indeed I believe I am getting a little flesh, and give a great deal more milk for the baby. I hope his health is better, but he breathes very badly at night. Mollie and Annie are very lonesome without the other children but they enjoy fine health.

Give my love to your Aunt Ann, and beg her to let me know by some of your letters, just how her health is. Did her flowers live, particularly the lily and calicanthus? How is cousin George's baby.

Present me to her and Mr. B. Tell your Grandma and Aunt Ann Martha Ransom was to see me this week and seems a great deal of love to [illegible]

My affectionate Mother
M M Houston

Maggie writes me that you go down to
see them very often. I am truly gratified
at it, & hope you will continue
to do so. Have you and Nannie rec'd
the money from your papa? He sent
it to you long ago, and if you have
not received it, I fear it has been
lost or stolen. If you get yours, you
had better buy you a pair of shoes, as
I do not think Turner will make your
boots. He is very indignant at your
writing to Mr Towner about them,
instead of writing to him. The truth
is, I suppose he wants some excuse for
not making them. Mrs McRoy is
making your linen coat. I am having
it made a la' Raglan as you
directed. I had her to keep the
patterns of your winter coat.
Have the measles subsided yet in
Indianapolis? I hope they will disappear
before [illegible]. Have you seen your
cousin Martin Royston lately? I thought
he would have been here before this.
Tell him to write to me & let me
if he has rec'd mine & answered Charlie
yet. and beg him to hold on to that place
until your papa comes. I must make
some arrangement to be with my
children. I can not live away from them.
I suppose I shall get a letter from
Nannie soon. If I do not I shall be
seriously disappointed. I hope Maggie
will cheer me often with her sweet
letters. And you my dear boy I know
will not forget to write to your
precious Mother. Do take time to
write me long letters. It is true you
will lose some moments from recreation,
but only think of the amount of
happiness you will confer by it.
I do not urge a mother's claims. They
are not unknown to my precious boy, but
I appeal to your affection & know you