

Independence May 13th 1864

angels and glorified spirits, above all for
that of the Blessed Gaviro. Oh that he may
take up his abode within your heart! Then indeed
will your soul be filled with peace and joy.
If your sins are really forgiven, you will
rejoice, perhaps in a more quiet way, than
many others, but the forgiveness of sins will be
accompanied with a feeling of joy and "peace which
passeth understanding" and a desire to make
known to the world, what the Lord hath
done for your soul.

The girls are at school or they would send
vast quantities of love. Anabris is out today
picking new berries to make jam for
"bro. Gam." Willie is learning to spell. Tomp
knows a great many of his letters. They are
promising boys. When you write send messages
to your aunt Anne and uncle Charlie,
also to little Thom and Lillie.

The servants are all well and feel a great
interest in your welfare. Mr Bates is here on a
furlough. He brought back the bundle which I
sent you by him. Now I wish I could send it
to you!

Thy devoted mother
M. M. Houston

My beloved boy

The mail of Wednesday night
brought me two letters from you. (You see I
signify your little notes with the name of letters.)
My heart overflowed with joy and gratitude, for
I had heard nothing from you since the
battle of Monette's ferry. After a battle, of course
I am very anxious and unhappy until I can
hear of your safety. Do not forget this, and always
write immediately. I could not help smiling
over your caricature, because I was so happy to
know that you were still alive, and it was
really very fine, but if you were not too far
off to scold, I would tell you that it was
rather sacrilegious. Could you not have put some
words into the Yankee's mouth entirely disconnected
with sacred things? Take for your motto, never
associate a ludicrous idea with any thing sacred.
You know there is no greater advocate for inno-
cent mirth than myself, but we must never
cast a shadow of ridicule upon any thing that
approaches the subject of our Holy religion.
I like a good laugh as well as any one, but not at
the expense of hallowed things. Antoinette took
the drawing for Miss Annie Crane to her yesterday
evening. Baby was very proud of her errand, and

says the young lady was delighted.

I suppose you have heard of the safe arrival of Capt. Johnson at home. (Miss Mollie's father.) I was truly glad to hear of it myself, for I have felt very sorry for the family. I know you are glad to hear of it.

Thorn Power has written for his family to meet him in England, and they all expect to leave as soon as they can get off. Gallie and bro. Charlie left for Houston last evening, to make the necessary arrangements for their departure. I think the present calculation is to run the blockade at Galveston, and go from there to the West Indies. I do not recollect which island. Could not you and your cousin Mart get a furlough and come home before they leave? There is great distress amongst the girls about parting with little Gallie. She and Nannie are really grieved about parting. Nannie says she knows she can never find another friend so gentle and lovely as dear little Gallie. I told her this morning, I should not be surprised if "cousin Sam" should lay aside all scruples of cousinship, some of these days and make a visit to England. She will be sadly missed by us all, but I think it is right that they should go.

Your aunt Piche is to stay at Gallie's place and take charge of her house and servants.

The examination is drawing near, and the girls of course are in a great state of excitement about it. I think Mollie and Baby will do very well. Maggie has been sick a great deal during the session. She is just now out of a severe spell from risings in the ears. Poor child she has certainly been a great sufferer. Nannie's health has been very poor, but she is improving. She wrote you a long letter on Monday, which she requests me to send to you with her devoted love. She is a sweet noble girl and a great comfort to me. I know you would rejoice to see the improvement which religion is making in her disposition. Oh how sweet the influence of our Blessed Savior's precepts! How the soul nourished thereby, expands and rises above the low trifling things of this world!

My boy are you advancing in this heavenly science, "the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." As you know not the day nor the hour, when the summons shall come, let me entreat you to try with the help of God, to purify yourself from all earthly drops. Seek with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to fit yourself for the companionship of