

Charlottesville November 24/39

My dear Sir

Yours of the 29th instancy, has been received, & I deeply regret matters things do not appear much better or more cheerful with you, than they are here with me. In my letter to Louis Lou, in regard to the removal of your precious children, I inquired for the best way to effect it, should necessity compel, & in your last reply he states, if I would not have known at what time this letter would have come, someone of the family should meet him at New Orleans. Learning hopes against hope, that this letter came, would be taken from me, I never said more in regard to the matter, until mine to you, & I feel satisfied you will agree with me, it will not do, now would it be right a proper, to let your child, with all her children travel from here to New Orleans, with no other protection than that of Mr Williams & I have no one & myself actually as I am can not leave home. As regards the expenses, I shall have my January next from \$5 to two belonging to the children, this must be used to pay their expenses, & which I will pay to you on arrival here. I would much prefer your coming, & anxious to have some conversation

with Lou in regard to these great ones

I have more than the courage to talk with Catherine on the subject of our separation. Knowing it is to her as to myself a heartrending subject, still I have always kindly but firmly pursued the letter received from Mr. Brothwell & Council, in reply to any of mine, nor could she like myself hoped something would yet occur to prevent it; but alas there is no hope that I can see.

On January my salary of \$1000, will be reduced to \$300, & my other income by way of Com^{rs} for collections amounting yearly from \$5 to 6000 cease, besides the pecuniary advantages which my official education gave me. In addition I have now to pay in part what is due the Bank from the unfortunately factory, \$10,000 by January 1st & so this I have to sell some of my Negroes, and unless I receive help from my Son in law, my whole property will be taken to pay the debt due the Bank for which I am in Texas bonds.

You may however rest assured, I shall go all in my power to assist in the support of the poor children & not throw the whole burden upon Lou, but I think it greatly to their advantage, as Texas will be their ultimate residence, they should be raising them a form their associates & acquaintances, thus rising with the people a Country.

As soon as Lou can ascertain when Lou can come on
let me know, a little time would be required for Kate to
prepare a storage things. How can I remove, any of
her furniture say Bed, Bureau, Wardrobe & the forwarded
or would it be cheaper to sell her things again with Lou?
Please say me a certainty.

There are two servants belonging to the children a man, who by
a family here at Lou, also a small girl I gave to Ann
before the death of her father, whether it would not be best
to sell the man, as he will not wish to leave his family &
purchase an other that is willing to go. I will try spend with
the family with the exception of my wife and son, she suffers
much from cough & fullness, all send love to Lou & Henry.

Truly Yours
John W. Thompson

William after being at college and
Lyon, which cost me over \$300, returned as is so common
his time away here, I can not place him any where at the
soon he gets employed by letter. Could he not be an
assistant to Lou Lou in the Clerk's office, for he is free
or get some employ otherwise.

J. W. Chapman

Letter

to Enckman

March 24th 1859

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