

1166
Parlor House Savannah 5/22/57

My dear Sister,

After we had retired last evening & I was much startled by receiving a telegraphic despatch through our landlord, she struck a light when to our great relief we found it was not bad intelligence from home, but simply a query as to our whereabouts, stating we had not been heard from since the 11th inst. We at once informed our companions, but it was too late that evening to reply. ~~But~~ Anna has it in hand to send a message immediately. I feel very sorry we occasioned you anxiety, and regret we did not at once telegraph you of our return from St Augustine; letters were mailed from there last week, which you will probably get to day. Otherwise I do not consider we have been deficient towards you. Anna thinks you are spoiled by hearing so often, but be this as it may I do not think you need be concerned about our running off again, as Ann is to leave tomorrow

and we expect to remain but two weeks longer.

Though somewhat worn by the way, at present I do not feel in the least injured by the effort I have made, and as some time has elapsed hope I have derived benefit thereby; indeed there is cause for permanent thankfulness to a kind and ever watchful Providence, who if He has not guided our footsteps seems so evidently to have guarded them from harm, leaving a hope that He may yet bless this little effort for the restoration of health. It is a great thing to walk circumspectly through this land, to be honest to one party, and just to the other; but if the upright J. Woolman could maintain his integrity under similar circumstances hope we may be measurably preserved. We have been treated with kindness by both classes, have had some very open conversation with one, wherein I believe we maintained our testimony, and had a very friendly interchange of sentiment; and from the other we have had some very affecting recitals, tending to deepen our sympathy towards the colored race. ^{As far as relates to Amos} at the same time are very careful to try not to make their condition more uncomfortable.

Today we expect to go to Parson's garden in

search of flowers to send to ^{Mr. Sargent} Margaret. One of Peter's
Magnolia buds left behind on our St Augustine
journey to be put in Alcohol by an Apothecary,
is so discolored that I think we must empty
it and make another attempt, should we succeed
I thought greatly fear it will also darken
in getting any thing more suitable. If the leaves
of the yellow Jasmine in the bucket with
the Bananas should fall, the roots it is said
may still live, do not cast them away as
worthless, the bloom is over but seems in great
esteem. Not having a Salamander for Richard
am at a loss what to send him, unless it is a little
view of St Augustine; but although I have
been there, feel that I know very little about
the place from actual observation, which
was confined to our entrance and exit,
including the Planter's Hotel and surroundings,
still enough was seen to show how different
it was from what we were accustomed. Orange
trees once it would seem a conspicuous feature
in its scenery, have been greatly blighted of
latter years, and their ^{trade} in consequence ^{much} greatly
diminished; think how they must have added
to its picturesque beauty! Thermometer early this

morning 69° in our room, the bright sun I hope
will make fire needless to day, having had some heat
yesterday and day before. 23 Thy favor of the 5th
came yesterday, it is very kind to frequently to remember
us but do not be concerned about our fare it is excellent
and what adds very much to it in my estimation
is that a considerable portion comes from the
north, if I understand rightly, such as, wheat,
gooseberries, asparagus &c. and much of the butter
&c. &c. They make very good biscuits upon which I
have been regaling this morn, so that we are
not absolutely dependent on slave labor for
every thing. Do not trouble thyself about provisions
for we abound here, it is said however that there is
a scarcity in Northern Alabama, whether from
the backwardness of the spring, or the thoughtlessness
of the people, cannot say. Instead of going to Parsons
garden yesterday ^{for flowers} concluded to go today to have
them fresh. Do not be disappointed with the
Bananas, as they look rather sorry, for if the
tops die their roots may survive. The land lady
at St Augustine who gave them to me said
they might bear a year from next spring, this
is long to wait, but in the garden where they grew
I believe none produced any matured fruit this
season, in consequence of frost so had no opportunity
of getting fresh ones to eat. I was allowed to pay
the gardener for putting them up & sufficient I think
for raising them, so consider I have come honestly
by them. Thinking E & W whose very acceptable letter
arrived today would like some Moss Ferns concluded
she could get more & she would send me parcel some of
your & a spray of live Oak was put in the box a
instance it is a beautiful tree with lovely set foliage
one of the moss bundles is on a gum tree with height it
would be interesting to see how it hangs. The Rose bush
I send thee is the Sidonia. The Rose are rather small
their height if the Magnolia in Alb. had spurs
use the jar for some other purpose I believe
we can do no more to preserve this frail flower
with much love & affection E & W very affectionately
thy sister W. B. St. Paul