

"Retreat for the Sick"

307 - N 12th St

Richmond Va Sept 12/83

My dear Old Man

I have written home several times but no letter has yet been addressed to you individually. This seems strange to me but I have been kept busy answering those who have written, and even now I must put Annie off a while. Her letter of sympathy, love and good wishes for her papa came this morning in spite of the driving storm which still prevails here in all its fury - Rain pours in torrents and I am looking for freshets all over the country. I was slightly uncomfortable this a.m. with a very mild attack of pain. It was soon over & the Dr came in just as I was recovering. He was not surprised, for says he, a man whose nervous system has been upset as long as yours cannot hope to get over their troubles in a day or two - He is glad to note however, that he is getting at my liver and he is very hopeful that in 2 or 3 days more he will get it to working all right. I wrote you that he began on Blue Masses. I was kept on that 3 days long hours - He then substituted Calomel in place of the Blue Mass and before I took the 3rd dose my gums began to get sore and today I have a 1st class can of Salivation in my hands. It was his intention to give me mercury till my system felt its influence and I am enjoying(?) the glorious results now by keeping my mouth full of Chlorate of Potash nearly all the while - There may be one good result at last. It may so loosen all my

Woman like I must do a P.S. What is the Calomel doing - Does it go to the heart up - I know the women are beautiful - not - & in fact I go through the front yard every morning. I'm in reality before the front door - when I'm well exposed? Smith.

remaining teeth so they can easily be extracted - but a
sore mouth is my horror as you well know. I am certain of
one thing, that my improvement is steady and my strength is
returning. For this I am thankful, and try to bear with patience
and resignation all my other ailments - My stomach seems to
retain food and assimilate it better each day. I eat a whole loaf
of bakers bread in two days and commenced on the 2nd this
morning. I had not been able to take bread in 3 weeks before I
left home - I am certain now that Corn meal mush was not
only not the thing for me but really hurtful all the time.
I begin today with Alleghany Springs water made stronger by
the addition of Soda, which I am to take in small quantities every
3 or 4 hours. Wouldn't be surprised if I am sent to that Spring
when he gets through with me here - I am determined to finish
up the job this trip if possible. I have had no calls this rainy
weather but expect several when the sun comes out again -
I wrote Clair Brown a postal telling him & his wife to call - I
think it will please his mother to know that I thought of her
son so far away - I don't know how he is getting along but hear
he has a cigar store well fitted up in Broad Street & he may
be doing very well with it. I have heard nothing from Hunter
since the postal and do hope she has arrived safely & in
time to begin Monday morning. I am glad to hear Sallies Rabotson
has at last secured some mangoes. I have not been able to
get out to the market yet but propose doing so soon as the
weather gets better - I see very few fine peaches in the street
and they are very high, say \$4 per bushel - Peas seem to be
abundant however and may be bought for \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel
I will keep a look out for big Peppers for mangoes & will get
some if they are nice. I don't think ours will bear in times.

I will write Mr D McCauley of Chapel Hill to look out for some
peaches and pound pears & I think between him & Henry Brown
of Nilesboro we will be supplied - If you get more than you need
Mrs J. D. Sym will doubtless take them. The soft peaches for
canning purposes ought to be abundant but I fear they
are too high here for us to handle so far from home - Perhaps
Jimmie may find some at Munster's or Leo's Shop on his way home.
I was much interested at Annie's picture of home and how
cozily you all were around the fire, you at your window reading
Lillian Rob at her sewing & mending, Kate in the center writing &c
Tell her she left out a very important part of the picture &
without that it would certainly be incomplete, viz a nap
in your & Aunt Sarah's mouth & a snuff box on each
window sill. This was an oversight though, without doubt, and
on this score she can be forgiven. I often visit you in imagi-
-nation and wonder what you are doing at different hours of the
day - I am not so far away after all, and you can form but little
idea of my eagerness when 8 o'clock A.M. comes, to see the letter from
home, and should you fail any day to write I sh^d feel my loneliness.
Jimmie has been a great comfort to me in my weakness, but I
am stronger now and I tell him I think I sh^d improve yet faster
if I knew he was in the office every day to direct & see after things.
The Dr told him yesterday he could be spared very well, that I will
be as well taken care of as at home, but he seems loth to leave
me. I expect though he will be off in a day or two. I wrote Mattie
yesterday & shall look for a long letter from her in a few days -
She must come home soon as the cool weather comes, as I fear
she may let her visit be too long. Her friends may not wish to see
her again soon. Hae Beck also returned home from Ashville
yst - Do you hear anything of Maudie's securing a situation? Did

and Mattie go to the train to see Aunt Susan? She must have
written all these things - It will only cost one stamp more after
you have written me to enclose a letter or two from members of the
family who are away. I do hope the next news from Minnie will
be more favorable, I am very much interested in her case and wish
to pray she may recover - So young and fair - It will be a great shock
not only to her dear mother but all the family, should she die. I hope
even this Mrs. Lipscomb is out of danger as Annie reported her earlier.
Durham seems fated in violent diseases - All of you at home do
try to keep well and hearty. Don't eat too many peas & so much
fat middling meat - That's the trouble with Sallie Robinson - Sessie's
letter was an unexpected treat and I hope she will repeat it -
When Jimmie comes back, he & Kate must stay at home every night
while I am away - Mr. Wiley is very kind to come I know but every
man likes a certain amount of liberty, to go and come when he
pleases. I trust Ed Lane keeps improving, I think I can cure him -
Tell him to try Cassia seed by all means - Tell Julie if he has to go
North while I am here to come this way & see me. I have even enjoyed
the company of Mr & Mrs Mackshug Isaac & Sidney, because they were
home people - It is strange to form such strong attachments in this life.
Tell Grandma Zack I have not forgotten my promise to let her hear
about the print in this market & will write her soon as I can get out.
I hope Grandpa keeps frisky & lively & comes over often with pretty roses.
Remember me kindly to both. They occupy a warm place in my heart.
I have done wonder to write such a long letter home and if you don't pay
me full measure, I will be even with you next time by writing shorter.
If Hunter writes enclose the letter to me, so far Matt sits next - I would
like to get the News & Observer every day after you read it at home - Also
the Raleigh Advertiser & Advance. I get the Ch Ad here - Give love to all
at home not even forgetting Carolina & Fiddie & the Minks -
Wm. A. Smith -

Woman like I must not a P.S. What is the Celery wine. Don't it grow? When high enough it sh-