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It seems strange indeed to [back] letters to you as Dr. Thomas. How do you like the profession?

August 9th 1856

My dear Brother

Your long expected letter I received about two weeks ago. I was glad to hear that you were well and had so much business and pray that you may have a continuance of good health and that your practice will be good, I tremble lest you take the fever this summer and often think how you would get along so far from all relatives were you to be sick but humbly trust that you will keep well, and if you should not hope you have kind friends who will do the best they can for you, but that is not like some of your own family all of these things I often think of and wish you were near us. I had hoped you would come by to see us on your way to Florida but your excuse is entirely sufficient, and I will and do forgive you for not writing if you do better in future [altho] I think you might have written, but enough of this as I hope you will always be more punctual. The health of our family has been better for the last three months [untill] a week ago, than since we have lived in Georgia. But my babies are very unwell indeed. I sent for the Dr today to see little Sally. She is cutting her lower eye teeth and has chicken pox with it, also an [erysipelas] [affection] on one of her legs with seems to give her much pain and all three things combined gives her high fevers and [and] makes her sick. Julia Washington my youngest babe has a sis[illegible] in one of her ears or in her head and a large boil on her head which makes her very [fretfull]. The other children are well except sores like chicken [illegible] on their ankles. [they] so often speak of you and like myself were much disappointed at your not coming by to see us. A good many of our Carolina friends have been and are yet [illegible] on visits to us. Henry Farrow stopped two days last week with us, he was on his way to Arkansas. Last Tuesday John + Albert Williams with their two sisters Mary + Sue arrived here. They seem to enjoy themselves exceedingly well [illegible] John has let them loose since his marriage which liberty they prize. We are expecting Mary and Margaret soon. Old Dr. Kennedy + Johnny are out here again, I have not seen them yet but I am told the Dr mind is much more impaired than it was last summer as is his body also. Even Charles Franks + wife are on a visit to their son Sam who lives about ten miles from here. I really think Pa + Ma might come to see us. You speak in your letter of the probability of that land being taken from them. Has anything been said of done which would cause you to think seriously about it? It is [dreadfull] to think of but I hope it will not be the case. I am exceedingly anxious to visit them this summer or fall, but it will be a hard matter for me to get there with all of my children the babes particularly both of them teething + Sally suffering as much from it as any child you ever saw. But I do hope there will be some way provided for me to go [tho] the prospect now is gloomy. By the bye [you] Mr. Watts says tell you he has a friend here who knows the land in the section of country you speak of and sys some of the land is good and very cheap + is speculating land + others are not worth much. So you had better get all the information concerning it you can also the No. and write to us about it. I received a letter from Willie a few days since who endears himself to me very much by writing often to me. You know Sam is in Greenville clerking and doing well. He was on trial and if he + his employer were pleased he was to give him his board + clothes + pocket money. This I think first rate for so young a boy. I wish Emma would come to see us this summer. Mr. Watts says he is very busy indeed but will write to you as soon as he can + that you must write to him.

We have suffered greatly indeed for rain. The most of the farmers will make nothing like half a crop and it is exceedingly dry yet having had no rains scarcely since the corn came up but I hear that the crops in Carolina are pretty good. I must close as it is quite late + I will be up often during the night I fear with Sally. Do write soon my dear brother + retrieve your character as a correspondent. Mr. Watts and the children join me in warmest and dearest love to you and may the Lord bless you and make you a humble christian in the earnest prayer of our devoted sister

Lacy W Watts