

To: Master John Addison Cobb
Macon, Ga.

Walden, January 18th 1852.

My dear Son,

I received your letter of the 10th inst - and was gratified at your promptness in replying to me. Howell was somewhat surprised by your writing. I told him on the day I wrote you - that I had written you and Samson a long letter - requesting you to take it by turns to write me a weekly letter - Will says Howell, "I reckon Bajer will write - but I don't know about Johnny" I hope you will continue to surprise him by your regularity in writing every other week.

I received a very satisfactory letter from your Uncle John Samson the day after he left for Sumpter Co. - He wrote that you and your brother had been to see him, and that you both were much pleased with Mr Meader and his family - and that he had loaded you both with good things, and you left him in fine spirits to return to your new home.

When you remember how many hearts will be made to rejoice at your well doing - I -

Trust, sincerely, now, confidently, that you will be
stimulated - to renewed exertions to learn well
and learn fast - And remember what I have
always told you both, in connection with your
education - that whatever improvement you may
make in your studies - and however far you may
you may attain in learning - It is all for your
own benefit ultimately - Your parents and
dearest friends may be spared to witness the
effect of your present efforts to learn - but it
will be only pleasure that they will experience -
the real purpose will be yours -

You say that your Uncle is to be absent 10 days
and then he will take you and brother to the
plantation - Now how much more did you
try to learn for this promised gratification?

Your good Uncle will give every opportunity
in his power - for reasonable enjoyment to each
of you - but I wish you to be just on your part,
and for every pleasure he gives - you must
render that much in hard study - thus lay-
-ing up a large fund of knowledge for your
future benefit.

Your Uncle wrote that he had given you boys
a blacking brush and a box of blacking
As he did not specify that he gave you each
one - Heurt is curious, ^{to know} if you have our advice.
Heurt says if you are to clean your own boots
as Uncle John says - you must - he knows they

side never be clean - You know Hercules has the
happy faculty which most young children
possess - that of thinking aloud - If he
has made a mistake with regard to your
skills in cleaning boots - you must mention it
in your next. I have not put him to school
yet, and I have not fully determined whether
I shall send ^{him} to school here, or teach him
myself. I have as yet made a poor beginning
in teaching - I endeavour to have some system
with him - but he often reads me a lesson in his
Testament - after which he gets leave to fly his
kite - with the promise that he is to return when
he is called in - Company comes in - or I am
engaged with the baby. I of course forget
Hercules - and he flies the kite the whole
morning instead of me him - Sometimes his
kite carries him so far from home that the
servant cannot find him -

His whole mind is now devoted to kite making
and kite flying. From his own account he meets
with many kind boys - they one gives him a dog
and that one makes him a kite - and another
helps him to raise it in the air - but he never
knows their names. His answer is always "a boy".
Your sister Mary Ann is well all but the affection
of her throat - The wheezing has been once for a
day or two past, but her spirits are good.
Ediza dressed her nicely, and put on her little

Straw hat with crimson trimmings - and took her
yesterday to see Mrs. Brall, Mrs. White and
Mrs. Hoorn. Mrs. Brall sent her to Mrs. Green
Anderson. Your sister was delighted with visiting
and getting out of doors once more - as she had
been confined to the house for more than a week
in consequence of the cold windy weather which we
have had. She is devoted to your sister Laura.

She will clasp her arms around her head and
kiss her repeatedly. Often she stands by me and
kisses the baby's head from one ear to the other.

The baby grows finely - notices and catches a great
deal for me of six weeks - You will scarcely know
it when you see it again. Your Aunt Mattie sends
her love to you both. She is going to McDermogh
with Mr. Glenn as soon as the Legislature adjourns,
which will probably be Thursday next.

Your Grandparents will leave about the same time
for McDermogh on their way back to Athens.

Then I will be alone - and I will then turn my
thoughts to preparing for my visit to Macon.

Your Papa is tolerably well - and unites with me
and the rest of the family in much love to you
and your brother - Pray send us kindly to her and
Mrs. Wade =

Your Affectionate

John C. Cobb, Jr.

Mother

Mary Ann Cobb.

Your sister kissed me this morning for you and your
brother - and afterwards she kissed the baby for each of
you -