Mt Donough Feb 2d 1852

My dear Mary Ann

Your more than welcome letter was recieved on saturday, and you can judge of the pleasure it gave me, by its being answered so soon hoping it may have as good luck as my last, and be the means of bringing me such another treat. Sincerely glad was I to hear you all kept so well and that your dear brother was with you, it would have been so hard upon you & Howell too if he had had to go and leave you alone, I do hope your brother will be able to stay some time with you, as I know you enjoy his company more than any one else male or female,

Your letter also relieved my mind very much about your Papa, I have not as yet had a line from Athens tho I wrote to Marion and then requested your Papa to get her or John to write to me as soon as he got home, and I wrote to him as soon as I reached this place We were looking for Laura every day, and as you say I was overburthened with fears about them, till late in the week Milly got a letter from Williams written in Forsyth saying they had not time to come by, when he wrote for his buggy to be sent for him Black Tom was sick and John had to hire a man to carry the buggy, & he did not

I recieved Sarah's letter that you forwarded to me and I wish you had opened it, as she wrote for her drop to be sent to meet her in Tennelle, I have written to her that you did not open the letter and she must write to you about it, but perhaps Howell carried it when he went. They did not seem hurt at Mattie's not going but were very sorry and hoped she might yet come. Sarah said her brother had written to them that Howell had promised to bring you down after the Legislature adjourned & expected great pleasure at the thoughts of thier seeing you all during thier visit.

leave Athens till wednesday and reached Crawford on Saturday night, They had then to push for home as Willie wished to be in Atlanta today, he said all were well, we were all much cast down at not seeing them, and I cannot imagine why none of them have written to me, I hope Tom has got well or Bob would have told you if any thing serious had been the matter. Tom has written to Judson from Columbus saying he wished him to attend the Supreme Court in Macon in his place, as that sets next week Judson cannot go to Milledgeville till it is over, when he will take Mattie over with him to Milledgeville, I have not yet decided upon the time when I shall go home, I am waiting till I hear from them and know how your Papa gets along without me, I have written to Mary Athena to know if she will send me from the Cowpens home & shall await her answer, unless some thing is the matter at home that will hurry me on. Mattie has had great attention paid her by Ladies & gentlemen and she & Billy & Joe are all now in the parlor with company, but I preferred writting to my dear absent children, so I did not join the party. I think I can almost tell how you are fixed up in your old quarters, and see you with my precious little darling in the rocking chair, and dear little Mary Ann padding backwards & forwards kissing her mouth or patting her head, and my own little Howell playing jim with one & then the other of his sweet sisters, you must kiss them every day for grandma & not let them forget me. I was sincerely glad to hear you had had so many visitors as it will keep you pretty well employed to return all their calls, Mary White I hope will come often to see you, as

I believe you took as great a fancy to her as Mattie did, she is certainly a very sweet girl, and I was very much pleased with Mary Williams too, she is beautiful. I could well help laughing at your being in a quandary about acting as "manager of a ball but as the scripture you quoted was very appropriate to the occasion, I think you were right to act as your feelings dictated I fear Mattie will not be able to get back in time for the party. I am glad to see Mrs Beale is as kind as ever, and Mr Mitchell acts like a good neighbour, I should have liked very much to have tasted his fresh shad, it is the first I have heard of this season, I hope some will find their way here after a while. You seem to be going on first rate with your butter, and will miss it when you get back to old Athens, it is almost as scarce here as hens teeth.

The weather will keep good so that you can enjoy in returning your calls & dear little Mary will ride about in her little carriage, she loves visiting and she has been so closely confined all the winter it will make it so much more pleasant to her now to enjoy the fresh air I sincerely hope my dear boys in Macon keep well & contented I expect they miss Uncle John very much, you must always give my love to them when you write. All keep pretty well little Howell has been troubled with some of his old complaints, but like Mary Ann he seems to fatten on them Holcombe can almost sit alone and is as quiet a baby as my dear little Laura, Milly can leave him at any time & he seldom cry's. Judson has a bad cough and he seems to be low spirited about it & Milly is uneasy too, as she says his sister was first taken with a cough, but I hope & trust nothing serious is the matter, for I dont know what would

of his family if he was taken from them, I much fear he is hard pushed any how, I say this to you in confidence. Write as soon as you can do so conveniently, you dont know how much good one of your letters does me, but I do not want you to try your eyes to gratify me, My dear Howell is I hope now safely with you. Judson Milly & Mattie join me in much love to you & him and your brother & many kisses are sent my darlings from all both big & little

Mrs Howell Cobb,
Milledgeville
Ga

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Remember me to all the servants especially Uncle Davy & Aunt Jenny. May God bless you all and preserve you in health & safety is the daily prayer of your devoted mother

Sarah R Cobb