

Prince Edward, 9th November 1815

Dear Mary,

If possible, with more pleasure than usual I take up my pen to write you a few lines. I say with more than usual pleasure, because I have been long absent from you in the first place; & besides there is added to my forever ardent & sincere love, a peculiar tenderness when I regard you the mother of my sweet little girl. I hope that the angel of health is rapidly restoring the happy form & rosy cheeks which sickness had stolen from you. You have no idea how happy I should be to be with you, & observe the gradual & daily improvement of your health & growing beauty of Mary P. I found our friend in P. Edwd. generally well, and all anxious to see you. My overseer lies very ill, which makes it necessary for me to attend a good part of my time to my plantation affairs. Our domestic affairs go as well as we could expect, and I am happy to state that there is a prospect of your having plenty to eat when you get home.

After getting home, I found it impossible to return to Halifax

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as soon as I expected when I left you. Monday week, which is the 19th of the month is P. Edwd Quarterly Court, & I am obliged to stay till it is past before I can come up. I know by my own feelings that you will be much disappointed at this delay but I assure you it cannot well be avoided. It will be beneficial

to yourself & Mary P., as you will be getting better able to bear the journey. I have no good news to communicate, I believe, & no bad except the lamented death of Mrs. Lacy, she died this week after a short illness with a malignant fever.

Do be carfull[sic] of your health, and abstain as much as possible from the use of laudanum, take care of Mary P. & give my love to her in a kiss. Give my move to the girls & your mama, & e[tc.].

your affect[ionate] H[usband]

Nath. E. Venable

PS I expect to write to you again in a day or two by papas waggoner.

NEV