AH-1-23-42 - Mrs. J. M. Hurston - Gift p. 101

Montevallo Ala
Oct - 26th / 57

My little friend
Frank.

Your kind and interresting letter found me in bed at your Pa's parching & burning with a hot hot fever. After my return from Tuscaloosa I was called off to Bibb to prosecute some rascals for stealing and selling negroes. Upon my return home I was compelled to take my bed. It turned into Typhoid fever and I gave up all hopes. But providence did not see fit to take me away from this fitful feverish life yet. So today I am in my office just strong enough to impress my thoughts upon paper. You would hardly know me Frank if you should meet me in a

place where you were not expecting to see me. I hope however by the aid of good beef, & good bread & milk to get hearty and fat in a few days. I was truly sorry I could not remain in old Tus- until you arrived. I know I could have enjoyed myself much better if you had been with me to point out the beauties and attractions of the city. I rambled over all the city Frank, but must confess that it made me feel lonely and sad. The dusty streets, the old, worn out, and dilapidated houses, and fences, presented to me a gloomy appearance. But your bright eyes, and friendly countenance, and humorous conversation would have made the dull look gay, the gloomy look bright. I hope Frank, Providence will smile upon you by sending you some saturating showers to lay the dust in your city. Dont swallow too much dust Frank for it will give you a bad color. I know something about it. I swallowed several ounces the short time I was there. I am glad to learn Frank you are recovering from your cold. Take good care of your health Frank for you are small and have no constitution to spare. I am sorry you have to study so hard but it is the only way to become good, great and useful. "Learning to many is better than gold." You say Frank you have to get up at 5½ o'clock. Remember Frank, that early to bed, early to rise makes a fellow healthy, wealthy & wise. If you could room with me a few months I would repeat a number of such maxims to you, but excuse me Frank, from giving you advice, I never do it, except it is to a friend whom I resp-

each and admire. Frank there is nothing new in Montevallo. If any thing has transpired worth writing about here I have been confined so close I have heard nothing of it. Your Pa is well except a pain in the back which makes the old man stoop over. But he is Father now and makes me laugh frequently as is usual. We were both sick at the same time and the old man encouraged me a great deal. We both moaned or groaned a heap. And whenever the old man would say Oh La I could not help from smiling though I was burning with fever. I wished pregnently I could have you present to talk with me while I was sick. But friends must part and frequently never to meet again. I hope we however will meet yet this side the great day. I think we are congenial spirits. What do you think. Frank write me all about the girls, tell me your sweethearts name, &c. As I have none it is no use for me to explain. Frank write soon. I love to read your letters.

Your sincere friend
Charlie