

Alabama

Last week I went over and dined with Mrs John Mollette. The first time I have been there since the new part of the house was built. They are improving the grounds. Miss Maggie sent her respects to you. She is tired to death of being I could tell you some rich anecdotes about some of her suitors if it were not for the time and space it would take to write them. Lewis of Cahaba has been quite persevering there but of course he cannot succeed. Isadore Kelce has a plenty of suitors. Miss Hattie Coleman gave a large party a short time since, had every thing in fine style. Father was in Cahaba at the time so we neither of us went. Father's law suit will probably not come off this court because Cobb has not come and he is the most important witness. We do not believe that Cobb has the letters. Uncle Chat has been to see us several times and seems friendly. Dinah is here part of the time and part at Portland. She washes and sews for him and aunt Carrie has sent to have her make up clothes for her and the children. I do not think Chat will give her to any body while he

is out here but when he leaves think he will
send her to us with Wm. Tell Ann that
I thank her very much for the comb and hair
pins that she sent by Dinah. They were just
what I wanted. Dinah sends her best respects
to Ann. Last mail received Charlie's and
Grandma's letters of Apr 17th and Aunt Lillie's
of the 22. We were so rejoiced that Grandpa
suit was over for the present, and that Lilly
had recovered. What a time they must
have had in Wfd. If I had been
a man I do not believe I could have
kept my hands off that Lee. We do not
mean to borrow any trouble about this
law suit Father. We feel anxious of
course but he will employ the best counsel
Morgan of Cahaba is the smartest man in
the County and he is doing his best to help
Father out of the scrape. But time will
determine the result. Edward, I appreciate
your offer to help pay my expenses if I will
go North this summer but dearly as I should
love to see you all I cannot think of it
this year. It is needless to name all the objections
but they are sufficient to make me remain here
Alex K may go but there is yet no certainty of
it. I have good servants now. You were very
fortunate in finding your watch. I hope you
will continue to take an interest in Charley
help him any way you can. Never apologise
for writing long letters to me. Father and Ellick
K. send love and all the servants their respects
We are all well and little Herbert is growing
very sweet and playful. Your affectionate Mother M. A. Heath

I cannot answer Aunt Lillie's letter now as either send for this or let her know that you have heard.

Providence April 26th/60

My Dear Son

Just one month ago to day you commenced that long letter of ten pages which I received in due time and which I proposed answering immediately but have as yet failed to do. I felt very happy after reading it and thought I must have been mistaken when I feared you were not influenced by my letters. I hope you will never ask a lady (unless a relative) for her narrative unless you are engaged. If you could have, the right kind of lady correspondants I think it would improve you but I do not believe in a correspondence between gentlemen and ladies unless it is expressly understood beforehand that they are to be only friendly letters. Even then there is danger, for young people often times become interested and then attached before they are aware of it. You might have no particular regard for your correspondant and yet she might become so much attached to you so to make her seriously unhappy. Some men glory in the number of their conquests, without a thought of all the unhappiness even misery they occasion. But I trust Edward you are too kind hearted for that. Miss Stone (judging from her ambrotype) is very amiable and it would make me feel sadly to have her unhappy on your account. I think you have corresponded too long without an understanding and it is possible her friends hereafter may blame you, even if you are so young. Hereafter be more careful how you open a correspondence with a lady. I hope you will continue to use self denial in eating, smoking etc. for no one can be happy that does not know how to use self denial. Dinah told me something that pleased me. She said, you were trying to limit yourself to one cigar a day. If you succeed in overcoming your love of smoking it will be a great satisfaction to you I should like very much to have you take singing lessons as well as join the Gymnasium. Money spent that way would not only give you

present pleasure but the benefit would be lasting. I want you to realize the importance of improving yourself physically mentally and morally. I am so glad you read the Home Journal. A person with a cultivated mind and a love of the "fine arts" do not usually have any relish for the coarser pleasures of life.

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We do not mean to borrow any trouble about this law suit Fathers We feel anxious of course but he will employ the best counsel Morgan of Cahaba is the smartest man in the County and he is doing his best to help Father out of the scrape. But time will determine the result. Edward, I appreciate your offer to help pay my expenses if I will go North this summer but dearly as I should love to see you all I cannot think of it this year. It is needless to name all the objections but they are sufficient to make me remain here Alex K may go but there is yet no certainty of it. I have good servants now. You were very fortunate in finding your watch. I hope you will continue to take an interest in Charley help him any way you can. Never apologize for writing long letters to me. Father and Ellick K. send love and all the sevrts their respects We are all well and little Herbert is growing very sweet and playful.

Your affectionate Mother

M. A. Hall

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