[1863]

TO THOMAS B.

May 18th

My Dear Brother

Father received your letter three or four days ago. You have heard the sad news of Sister's death. of course it was a hard blow to father. but we must bear up under all of our ~~cross~~ trials. we ought not to grieve when we consider that she has gone to that everlasting place of happiness, where there is no sorrowing. but one continual time of enjoyment. And where also she will join our Dear Mother. When we consider all these things; we should cease all of our wailings. and rather rejoice, that she has left this world of trouble. she died a christian. and if there is a heaven or god, she is now in heaven. This is a hard world to bear. There is no telling when one is to leave it. Oh: how I did wish you all could have been here, I know you will feel

~~very bad~~

very bad for not seeing her once more. Father also received letters of late date from Bro's Bolling, Crenshaw, Jno & James. Bro James is now capt. Sawyer is major. I think he deserves it if any man does. he has both fought and worked hard enough for it. Bro Bolling & the rest of them are well there is no news up there. I am still going to school to Ford. I am getting on very well now. I think I am learning here. I believe I like to stay over here better now than I did before. I have not yet had an introduction to any of the girls. but I expect to pitch in pretty soon. but I must close as I have to go after Laura I will try and finish to night or tmorrow evening. yours &c

Hines Hall

P.S. I now set down to finish my letter. I have been after Laura and she has come back with

me. Laura studies very hard. I think she does very well. Carrie still goes to school to Mrs Thompson. but she is not well now. Father thinks she has the hooping cough but she has not got it bad. Father has a hard time trying to keep these negroes skart. they are stealing and acting worse than ever. Ben has stolen so much that Father has determined to put him in the field. one night Father woke up and discovered Ben walking in his sleep, as he then thought for put on as if he was fast asleep, the next night he caught him under the head of his bed where he kept his purse. Ben again affected sleep. but this time he was fairly caught he has money from Father; but how much I do not know. he has also stolen three or four pair of shoes besides

various other things: the other negroes have been acting the same way, with a few exceptions. John has been doing as well as you could expect. but William I have lost all confidence in I think Father has also lost confidence in him. if it was not for John I dont know what father would do. George & Charles have ran away two or three times. I tell you it is shameful the way they are doing. I wish I could do some thing to help along, but I cannot. Father intends taking titus in the house I think. he has already put crecy & adline in the feild. I beleive Nora has done nothing mean yet. to make father mad. you must write soon, All well,

Yours &c

Hines Hall

P.S. I saw old Zouber about amonthago he is now at tullihoma; I told him to write to you,

Hines Hall

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