

House ^{Feb} February
1858

My dear brother

It has been more than
two weeks since I wrote you, but the weather
is I did not know what to write. I had
said all I could think of to get you back
& did not want to trouble you about it
again, & so I could find nothing to write
& not much more now, but I write begin
& maybe things will come to me. Apropos,
speaking of things coming to me, I must
tell you of our ~~witchery~~ ^{witchery}. The other night
several of us, got round a very light table,
carefully keeping our clothes from touching
it, & laid our hands on it for an hour or
so, & with our ^{hands} still lightly touching it, ordered
it, to rise, rather to raise one end, & it did, act-
ually did raise one end, I saw it. We made
it do a great many things; Told it to knock
the number of years of several of our ages.
& it did, exactly, told it to walk, & it tried
but was so shackling that when it
tried to turn round the legs would fall
out, but it lay down in my lap & got
up again, & a great many things, If you

have never seen the experiment tried
it will sound very curious to you, but
it is real fact, I & sister Mary & Matt.
& a good many others saw it. I swear
it do it.

Sister Mary is just recovering from
a very severe attack of Congestive fever, &
is improving very slowly. Brother ^{Wm} & left
here the last of ~~January~~ ^{January} Sister Mary & Mrs Troy
were going out to keep house for him
but ~~when~~ she got sick & had to put off
starting till next Monday week, that is
about the 28th, they have fixed on to go.
Brother William had headaches very fre-
quently the last two or three weeks that
he staid here, but his spirits were excel-
lent, better than you would imagine they
could ever be again, & is the best man
that ever lived, I reckon. He watches every
thought & word & deed, ^{to make it good} as close as you call for ^{each other}
do each other to keep from ^{each other} ~~seeing~~ & ~~guarding~~
now tell me all about how your affairs
stand, tell me, now, no matter how much or
how little I want to know, & to do &
I have, this evening, after two or three days
very hard work finished plan laying off
and planting my flower garden. It is
chock full, but not pretty yet, & may never be

Robbey is growing older & sweeter & smarter & prettier & better every day. Has been walking all about, a long time, standing in the door to-day looking at me planting my flowers, & his foot slipped & he tumbled out, but didn't mind it, & laughed at the joke after a very few tears. He was very sick week before last, but has been very well before & since. I do wish you could see him. I know you would take to him right off. I know you would & no doubt about it, for every ^{body} does, that hasn't got so many of their ^{own} they count. I wish you would come out here. There is a girl out here for you, just the very one for you rich & good as she can be, smart too. I mean to make the table say she ~~is~~ for you. & then it will be settled & you can't help yourself. Matt is now busy writing another "article" for the American Medical Association, but the table said he wouldn't get the prize, I wish he could get it, for that \$100. would help us poor folks a good deal. You ought to come here, as you & Matt better have got your reputation up for being "not very good managers" you might keep each other in countenance. We are in debt & nothing to go on this year ~~yet~~. But are hopefully looking forward to better times.

But I intend to get ready this year to make my
pocket-money myself hereafter. Raise a great
many chickens & all kinds of poultry & learn how
to manage this year & then, next year "reap the
profits". I want to learn how to make butter
Did you ever receive the Daguerreotype of
Lanna's little girl, that I sent you.

You ought to write to us very often, as it takes
so long for a letter to get here.
We have a railroad now from Wilmington
to within seven miles of us, & will soon
have it all the way to Montgomery. Ala.
You know Selma is getting to be some
thing of a city, has a railroad & has looked
up wonderfully ~~since~~ you went away.
I wish you would make up your mind to
come out here, & settle. Old North Carolina is
waking up & is trying to be respectable.
And then you ought by all means ^{to} come &
try your chance for the journey. I have
set my heart on you. She is very
rich & has all her property in her
own hands, & is a first rate ^{me} manager
You would like her I know. So
come & see her, if you want come to
see me & Matt & Robby. Write just as
soon as you get this & tell me how your
affairs stand, & tell me your present plans.
Your affectionate sister, Caroline Troy

Home February

1853

My dear brother

It has been more than two weeks since I wrote you, but the truth is I did not know what to write. I had said all I could think of to get you back & did not want to trouble you about it again, & so I could find nothing to write & not much more now, but I will begin & may be things will come to me. Apropos, speaking of things coming to me, I must tell you of our witchery. The other night several of us, got round a very light table, carefully keeping our clothes from touching it, & laid our hands on it for an hour or so, & with our hands still lightly touching it, ordered it, to rise, rather to raise one end, & it did, actually did ~~raise one end, I~~ raise one end, I saw it. We made it do a great many things; Told it to knock the number of years of several of our ages, & it did, exactly, told it to walk, & it tried but was so shackling that when it tried to turn round the legs would fall out, but it lay down in mh lay & got up again, & a great many things, If you have never seen the experiment tried it will sound very curious to you, but it is real fact, I & sister Mary & Matt, & a good many others saw it and made it do it.

Sister Mary is just recovering from a very severe attack of Congestive fever, & is improving very very slowly. Brother Wm. left here the last of January Sister Mary & Mrs Troy were going out to keep house for him but she got sick & had to put off starting till next Monday week, that is about the 28th, they have fixed on to go. Brother William had head-aches very frequently the last two or three weeks that he staid here, but his spirits were excellent, better than you would imagine they could ever be again, & is the best man that ever lived, I reckon, He watches every thought word & deed to make it good, as close as you Californians do each other to keep from stealing each others gold. Now tell me all about how your affairs stand, tell me, now, no matter how much or how little I want to know.

I have, this evening, after two or three days very hard work finished laying off and planting my flower garden. It is chuck full, but not pretty yet, & may never be.

Bobby is growing older & sweeter & smarter & prettier & better every day. Has been walking all about, a long time, Standing in the door to-day looking at me planting my flowers, his foot slipped & he rolled out, but didnt mind it, & laughed at the joke after a very few tears. He was very sick week before last, but has been very well before & since. I do wish you would see him. I know you would take to him right off. I know you would & no doubt about it, for every body does, that hasent got so many of their own they cant. I wish you would come out here. There is a girl out here for you, just the very one for you rich and good as she can be, smart too, I mean to make the Table say she is for you, & then it will be settled & you cant help yourself.

Matt is now busy writing another "Article" for the American Medical Association, but the table said he wouldnt get the prize. I wish he could get it, for that \$100 would help us poor folks a good deal. You ought to come here, as you & Matt both have got your reputation up for being "not very good managers" you might keep each other in countenance. We are in debt & nothing to go on this year. But are hopefully looking forward to better times. But I intend to get ready this year to make my pocket money myself hereafter. Raise a great many chickens & all kinds of poultry & learn how to manage this year & then next year "reap the profits." I want to learn how to make butter. Did you ever receive the Daguerreotype of Sanna's little girl that I sent you.

You ought to write to us very often, as it takes so long for a letter to get here. We have a railroad now from Wilmington to within seven miles of us, & will soon have it all the way to Montgomery. Also you know Selma is getting to be something of a city, has a railroad & has looked up wonderfully since you went away. I wish you would make up your mind to come out here, & settle. Old North Carolina is waking up & is trying to be respectable. And then you ought by all means to come & try your chance for the young lady, I have set my heart on for you. She is very rich & has all her property in her own hands, & is a first rate manager You would like her I know. So come & see her if you want come to see me & Matt & Bobby, write just as soon as you get this & tell me how your affairs stand, & tell me your present plans.

Your affectionate ~~brother~~ sister.

Caroline Troy.....