

Ilion

Feb. 26th

1865

My dear Brother

I received another letter from you, the first I have had in a long time, & was beginning to think you were certainly coming. You can't think how sorry I am to find you are not. Is there anything in the world I can, now say that will make you leave that mean mean old place I have tried every thing I could, but have never succeeded in showing you how very anxious I am for you to come back, or I know you would come just on my account, if for nothing else. Now just let us have a little chat here all to ourselves, (Matt is gone) to Wilmington & I am here alone) let me speak first. I want to see you, want to see my own old tannery Bud Thomas, you know I used to & do now call you Bud Thomas, & O? I can't begin to write like I feel. I am afraid you have such a hard time of it. How in the world do get anything to eat, now when every thing is so high. I sat down determined

to argue you into coming, but I find out
what I knew before, that arguing is not
my fort. & it all ends in begging.

I believe that you can make a fortune
in California, but not with any less work
& worry than in Alabama or here. I do really
believe you could ^{make} a fortune, yes a fortune,
here, easier than there, & have a great deal
more pleasure while doing it. You would
have to work hard & constantly, but through
pleasant kind of work.

One thing you ought to recollect, & that is, that
a man is not a man until he is married,
that is, he never feels settled, that is one job, he

has to do, & it is always jumping up in his way
& he loses so many precious minutes putting
it down, And then two heads are so much

better than one. But I strongly advise you

to marry a rich girl. Let me pick out

the girl, do the courting & marry you off

& set you up house keeping & I will

please myself, I know, & I think do

you the greatest favour that any body

ever did you. How I do wish you were

well married, & back home, your own nice

little home, like mine.

I do wish you could come out & pay us a

visit, if nothing more, before Fall. Come on

now. dont wait for Fall or Spring. It will
be all the same to you, but a great deal bet-
ter to me for you to come along just as
soon as you can get off.

We all want to see you so bad.
If it is possible you must come now,
& tell us what you have done & what are
your plans for the future, that is if
you come on a visit. But I hope
you will fit every thing so that you
can stay, if you take a notion.

Now is the time for our promised
visit. I shall look for you. & you
ought not to disappoint me.

Mat is wanting for my letter, he
is going over to put some letters
in the office, and I shall close
certainly expecting you in a week
or two.

Yours affectionate sister
E. C. C. J.

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E.C.C.T.