

from his Mother

Reily, Butler County, Ohio, August 24, 1853

Reily

Dear Willard We received your letter of June the 3 about the first of the present month. I was at that time confined to bed with a neuralgia a kind of rheumatic affection with which I have been afflicted the last four years. Its attacks do not continue very long however and I am again able to resume the various responsibilities of the kitchen department and occupation for which I hardly believe nature ever intended me. If so would she not have endowed me with an adequate portion of physical capacity. I know you could not repress a smile at this accusation of nature's neglect in her arrangement of the fitness of things were you looking at me at the present moment. I have half a mind to let you guess at my meaning until you come and see but not to leave you in suspense I will tell you. I weigh one hundred and seventy-eight lbs. You will readily agree readily agree that I am not an adept in the cooking establishment. I am however its only member at present. Hired girls are an extinct class among the things that we are, in our neighborhood at least. We pay half a dollar per day for washing, one dollar and a half is asked per week. I have five boys at home. They are all at school today. Tomorrow Decatur begins plowing for wheat. Our crops the present season are good. The health of the family generally is excellent a blessing for which I well know we are seldom sufficiently grateful. It is a good gift not appreciated while possessed, the same might be said perhaps of all earthly enjoyments, but health is the first in the catalogue of terrestrial comforts, in its absence the world professes few bright spots. I have forgotten to except your Aunt Priscilla's health which has been on the decline some time. She resides on the farm with David. Or more properly speaking David with her. They are not getting along very well since the death of your Grandpapa. He left no will and the heirs, David excepted whose portion was sold by legal process, proposed that they should continue to receive the proceeds entirely of the property during your Aunt's life and discharge the debts against the estate which it was thought could be easily accomplished in a short time. They would not listen to this proposal wishing a deed of the whole to David's children which the heirs did not consider a reasonable requirement. David having had his portion both prior to, and subsequent to his father's death. John Cregmille administered. There was several unsuccessful efforts made to induce the heirs to sell, and finally an amount of over one thousand dollars was

brought in which force s the sale. John in the name of his father became its purchaser at half its value. It is so said by judges. All parties felt a delicacy and a sympathy, none would reject the proceedings. It now appears the heirs so-called are only nominal and inherit nothing. Since the result is known, they are talking of an investigation.

I have visited Greenveill win company with Wilson P. and Ellen. It is a business like looking place, dry and pleasant enough at this season but inundated with mud in the winter. I think Jacob is doing very well with his paper, but he talks of turning farmer believing it to be an occupation better suited to his constitution, probably the result of the recent election has something to do with this kind of talk. He has just purchased a lot with a small dwelling which he is enlarging a little at present. He is spending the summer there printing and studying by turns. Raymond is working journey work at different offices. He was at Indianapolis at the time I was at Greenville. It is more than a year since he and Sewell were at home. Victor was here in company with Mr. Pottingen 2 weeks since. He is a railroad agent at Camden. Olivia and Mr. Carroll left here three days since, they have just finished an addition to their house in Camden which is quite a commodious one. Wilson has also complete theirs which is the finest looking country house between Reily and Greenville. The is my opinion only and you may reasonably conclude that my judgment ^{of} ~~is~~ architectural beauty not very perfect.

You tell us that you think of returning home this fall. I hope no difficulty may arise to thwart your designs such an unexpected and happy occurrence would afford us more real pleasure than we have experienced in your long absence. Each member of the family that I have seen since the receipt of your letter are anxious that I should write immediately and encourage your return. To see you and your family is the first wish of my heart. Yet I tremble at the thought of the thousand dangers attending so long a journey, dangers against which no human foresight can guard. My surest hope and confident reliance for your safe arrival should you really undertake the hazardous journey again is the unseen power that protected you in times past. I shall think of you and look for you more than ever for improbably as such an occurrence might appear I have ever cherished the belief that I should see you at home again, but do not be

influenced by anything I am saying but reflect, will, exercise your judgment and act accordingly . I have always suppressed the desire to urge your return home fearing that your compliance in case it should take place might be followed by regret. I have often heard it said that an extensive traveler is seldom satisfied with a permanent location. If this is your case you might like Ohio as well as Oregon. But what do you say Amanda to this stupendous undertaking with 3 little children, it will doubtless be a tedious and toilsome travel but youth health and perseverance can accomplish almost anything, I would be most happy to see you and those little granddaughters, yet I am not selfish enough to wish you to make any sacrifice for my gratification.

I will only say that a dutiful son ever make a make a kind husband in any land at all periods of life and under any circumstances in which changeful fortune may please to place him.

Willard you desired to be informed of the Larison family. They left Reily about 10 years hence and located in Ioway soon after. the discovery of the mines Mr. Larison accompanied by his son James emigrated to Clifornia where he died soon after his arrival. His son is still there. The children I believe are all married except little deformed Nancy and two boys who reside with their Mother in Ioway, on land I think of their own. Jane that you remember used to live with us is living in Ohio. Also Allen who married Rhody Davis. Dr. Jameson I have not seen for some years, he has four children by his second wife and is looking very old, they say his head is quite white. Anne Donner is doing bad indeed. Add and Mary you know are married and doing pretty well.

Jacob Griffin resides with his wife and son in Illinoise. Sewell Harris visited Delaware the present summer, found his mother and sister we.. Our Aunt Spruance is still living, I received a letter by him from her. I also received one from Mrs. Mearim and one from Susan Griffin of Philadelphia whom I expect you do not remember. Uncle Jacob Stont and Aunt Sarah are living, the late I presume is about 100 years old, she is your great grandmother's sister and Judge Stout is a brother. There is also sever other of the sisters living.

Children
The boys have returned from school, took supper, played chicken, made all the noise they could, eat water mellon and peaches and finally to my relief gone to bed. It is growing late, if I think of anything in the morning I will scribble it down with

my steel pen which in its superannuated state can do nothing better.

Thursday August 25

er
The boys are up running about the floor which in its dilapidated condition conveys to one writing in the adjoining room the somewhat annoying rapidity of their movements. But they are children so let them alone for ~~they/are~~ children should be more happy than it sometimes is. There is a railroad building from the City to intercept some point in Indiana passing near perhaps touching our farm. There is some misunderstanding about this end of the line among the stockholders at present, not until the difficulty is settled which must be speedily as the work is progressing under a very energetic contractor can we designate the precise location through our neighborhood, it was commenced last spring and is to be finished two years from that time, land is selling along the route in Indiana but little improved at 10 dollars per acre, that is the sum we are asking for ours, land has advanced in Preble County since the completion of their? in some places ten dollars on the acre. None has been disposed of in this vicinity lately.

Rebecca Ann Wheldon is married to one Applegates sons and has been the mother of a daughter. S. Gray has married a second wife. Cary Gelwin is following his trade in Reily, has a family of 5 children. You must wait until you arrive for the balance of the new. Write immediately should you receive this. You are apprised of the great world's fair now open at New York. Olivia has invited me to accompany her and Mr. C. there and to Delaware, if I go I shall not stop to see what the world is doing but go to my native state which I can reach in fortyeight hours from here. Yours in hope, E. Rees

Elizabeth Gaston as obtained a divorce and is married again in Iowa. EH still in Reily.