

Dear Ellen

Mr Bailey left us yesterday morning and by him Joseph will receive the thermometers & Oliver Cromwell, and I'll a little present from her Aunt Trish. I have been very much mortified at not having been able to go out to get some trifle for each of my Darlings but for the last month I have been very unwell, two pretty severe attacks of fever that confined me to my bed a week each time and in the intervals a little slow fever hanging over me that has weakened me exceedingly without confining me but obliges me to pass a part of every day on the bed the weather is so fine that I shall be able to take exercise soon which will I hope restore me.

I have several nights left out the green house plants by means of a Thermometer which enables me to guess what the night will be and severe as the winter has been thought some seedling yellow yepamine with no protection but the house side has lived through it in the open air. I do not know whether Mr Webster or Mr Bailey will mention Spindexter's bill. Mr Webster was one of the committee and seems to have interested him self in it. he told me (but this is between ourselves) that the next session they would bring it forward under a different shape and try to obtain a grant of land that it would be easier to get 50,000 acres of land from Congress than a small sum of money and if the land is well located it may be a principal liberty. Mr Spindexter who came to take leave & explain the matter to me told me he could be of great service to me in the location upon which the value would depend entirely he says he brought it forward late in the session when nothing could be done to enable the members to make up their minds

give it the advantage of one session which would justify their taking it up alone
when Congress meets and dispatching it. I have been told it was a popular
measure, but after all the feeling that I have can hardly be called hope, so faint
that I have scarcely thought of it. for my self I have within a trifle of energy
but to be able to assist my dear children would be happiness too great
I am afraid for me - George is gone to school they say a very good one
I shall be on my self in May, and think it possible if the school does not
deserve it's character that I may bring him back with me. we have been
much disappointed in Harriet, her understanding is very mediocre, and she is exor-
cely vain. her flirtation with Brown went so far at last that I was very
glad when she went away. I suspect he is more deeply touched than he has ever been
yet though it thinks if he is kept out of her way it will blow over. she is
after all but a common place character more wax in her mother's hand, whose
side she should never leave, and whose reputation has shed a halo over her
head which her own acquirements or natural powers never could have done
however great allowances are to be made for a new & trying situation in
which she was placed she was very much admired, & flattered, and is no wise
deficient in the little flitting ways of attracting the young men. adieu my
dear daughter kiss all the darlings for me and also dear Joseph, remember
me particularly to his family and other friends, not forgetting good
Mrs Core say something kind also to Armine & Edith of your household
as I am acquainted with. I wish if Joseph does not object that you would
visit Mrs Webster when she returns. God bless you in case this
scrawl but I am still trembling from the effects of last night's fever

your ever & unchangeably

Alfred Sturtevant

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