

Montgomery, January 17th, 1854

Dear Parents

Your last letter written principally by Dr. Cohin came early to hand and we were sprru tp jear of grand mothers and sisters sickness but was glad to heare of you all recovering & sincerely hope you are again enjoying good health. I myself had written you two letters since I arrived home & before we received your last which I hope have reached you in due time & I think Peter has written one at least - but I know we have not written to you as often as we ought to - and all the cause I have to assigne is the press of business for our business continues to increase gradually so that it keeps four of us quite busy so much so that we have given out going north this winter after our spring stock. Consequently neithter of us will not be to see you all this spring but it is our calculation to come on in July - Peter says he is a going but he has a house to build this summer as his olde one is getting to small - So I think he will finde that it will want his attention at home and should that be the case I expect I will come though I thought when I was there before I would not wish to leave home again so soon for I had such a dificult time in getting home before that I all most promised myself never to leave again and Narcissus made me promise the first thing after my return never to leave home again or even think of it - but since then it maybe necessary that I should & I have commenced talking before her about going next summer & I think if it should be necessary for me to go she would give her consent - Our business & business relations with all is as good and satisfactory as we could reasonably wish - the more we doe the more we make & the we have to doe - so I could say the more a person has the more trouble they have in taking care & managing it -Our sales last year was near 50.000 \$ out of which I think we will realise a handsome profit at Anderson we sold 43000 \$ worth of goods at the same time making in all about ninety three thousand dollars. Our little town is improving verry fast & it looks like a thriving & prosperous place with lots of schools churches and activity - we have a verry able Baptist preacher permanently located at this place at a salary of 1000\$ a year Peter & me gives \$100 of the amount besides some to the methodist as we our selves belongs to neither we have to give eaquel to bouth.

Lands & all other property has rapidly advanced - land is worth from 5 to 12\$ per acre Corn one dollar Cotton 8 to 10c per bl -I bot last week a negro woman for a cook 27 years old and child 4 months for 1000\$ but after trying her so fair Narcissa has come to the conclusion that the one we have before is as good as we can finde. Negro mens is worth 12 to 1500\$ & hire for the year from 200 to 250\$ for field hands womans 120 to 180\$ - the weather so fair this winter has bin unusual mild scarce any rain & the roads excelant but it is dificult to get cotton in market which makes money very scarce at this time but we doesnt think it will be so long for the cotton is still on hand which will bring the money when in market - Short is going to school and is learning fast Kate grows fast but is now unwell Narcissas is fat & I am in good health & Peter & Family are about the same with all our friends &

relatives The Country is generally healthy & prosperous and uppon the whole things never  
looked more prosperous than at the present & I think we are reaping our share of the  
opportunitys that prosperous times offers give our best love to A.J. & family & particular  
remember me to Huldy also to sister & family an accept the same for your selves

your son R. S. Willis

Envelope:

Seal: Montgomery Tex.

Paid 34

Short A. Willis  
Hunting Creek P.O.  
Caroline Co  
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