

The Mail for Mount Pleasant leaves Ch. City on Friday & comes but once a week. If you should not get this in time, you may direct to Camden, Longtown 27th April 1835

Dear Charles

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James Clement Furman
1809-1891

I received your letter of 22nd last evening. The distressing event to which it principally refers should teach us to remember our latter end: it admonishes us to prepare for that change which has been coming upon our family, & which in the common course of nature we must calculate upon, multiplied ^{by} ~~as~~ ^{many} ~~as~~ ^{off}. It is said that death leaves a distinguished mark - it has been verified in the case of our dear Susan, who had few equals within in point of character or intellect. The circumstance that she looked forward with great anxiety & pleasure to the prospect of obtaining my aid, this summer, & thus, of finishing the Biography of our Father, if possible adds, if any thing can add, to the pain & distress which her sudden death has inflicted. She has brought this work nearly to a close, & expects, with the aid she looked for from me, to finish it as soon, but the Lord has otherwise appointed. He has taken her to himself, more to me to suffer sickness nor sorrow.

I understand that Richard has in his possession the fair copy of the Biography so far as it has gone. The thought has occurred to me, of getting it from him, with the aid of such Memoranda as Susan may have left, finish it & prepare it for the Press, connecting with it a Memoir of Susan also. — It is due to the memory both of our Father & Sister that this should be done by some one. What is done, should be prepared carefully.

I wish it had been in your power to come up, or that you could come now. It would have been peculiarly gratifying to see you at this time, as we could talk our things more satisfactorily than we could discuss them in a correspondence by letter. Kindred the time of year does not admit of delay. I have thought that it would be best for the girls to remain with me this summer. The health of neither ~~man~~ ^{of} ~~them~~ ^{them} is good, and I should fear would suffer from a residence in Town this summer. They have no intimate, delicate ^{friends} whose kind attentions

would be calculated to soothe the feelings of a burned & wounded heart. Every thing would
also conspire to win the recollection of this life. Indeed they would behold nothing
but associated with some remembrance of this life would be calculated to dissipate
the sorrows which under the best circumstances they will truly feel.
Added to this they will ^{not} have those facilities for taking exercise so
necessary for the promotion of health. Feeling these things, I
believe they would cheerfully remain with us, rather than
were it not for the ^{to which} ~~consequence~~ you would be subjected, & the fear
of ~~injury~~ ^{injury} William would sustain if left to work to the
Negroes. I mentioned to them that I was desirous that
William should remain, if you would consent to it, would
aid him in his instruction. They say that so much of your
engagement depends upon having Wm with you that they
can hardly ask you to part with him. I feel that the
subject is painful & embarrassing - But, as I have thought and
would be glad, could you not come up & spend some time?
Imagine that the Rail Road office such conveniences that a
journey into the country now is not what it once was. If
you should agree with me that it would be best for them
to stay to remain with us, I would also let Wm stay, could
you come up & spend some time. If you should be obliged
to return again to Town, might you not stay another of longer
visit towards the close of the summer; or in July or August, & stay until
frost. After the crop is laid by, which will probably be in July or
early in August, I shall have horses at command. At present I have
one ~~at~~ at the service of the girls whenever they ~~wish~~ wish to ride
out, which Susan used daily, when the weather was good. Maria & Ann
do not wish to lay any constraint upon you, but are willing to do

whatever you prefer. If it is your wish that they should return, they will
return immediately. If you think that it would be well for them to remain
here, & particularly if you would be willing that Mr. should stay with
them, I think they would be pleased to remain. Permitting themselves
do all in our power for the restoration of their health & the promotion of
their comfort. We would also take every care of them. I think that it
has been said to me that persons from Charleston can not leave the city &
return at any period of the year by the Rail Road, taking care to
go beyond the sickly country before they stop. My residence is
29 or 30 miles North of Columbia & 15 above Camden. The country is
probably as healthy as any part of the State. It is quite as much
so as that in the neighbourhood of Capt. Baker's - indeed, I would rather
take my chance here than there. This place being well known you would have
no difficulty in finding it. Let me repeat, that we would be extremely glad to see
you here, & immediately if you could make it convenient.

I regretted exceedingly to see Mr. May's ^{Publication in the Baptist} remarks upon ^{the South & the remarks to} the
which it has given rise, inasmuch as they are calculated to defeat the scheme upon which we have already
expended so much time & money. The Whiggish proceedings of our Committee has been the true cause of our
want of success. Previous to the appearing of this article, I wrote a private letter to Mr. Elton, Professor
in Brown University, whom you probably remember, to know in what light he would regard a call to such an
Institution, as ours. I have just received a letter from him making some enquiries respecting ours: and I
should be glad that if things were as they ought to be, he could be obtained. From all that I ever
heard, he is a much more eligible person than Professor Hooper. I was informed some years ago,
from Mr. May's having consulted with Brown University, that the College was upheld by Mr. Elton.
Among other things, I enquired of him his view respecting Slavery & the movements of the Northern
people on that subject. On this point he was quite satisfactory. You perhaps remember his
remarks upon it when he was in Charleston. He says that his opinions have undergone no change,
that he deeply regrets the incendiary spirit & proceedings, which have evoked the conduct of many of
our brethren at the North & have uniformly used my influence against all anti-slavery societies.

My dear brother, we would all be extremely glad to see you up here.
I hope you will make it convenient to come. The girls are most
anxious on the subject of return to the city. Mother's health
is not much improved. And Elton has had an affection of the
liver & has in his side of the liver. He has been given Lee medicine
and applied a blister. He has had two or three other cases and better

all has been confined to her bed for several days. She has spent the greater part of the day in tears - It can not be the case of being open all over for the summer, nor can she consent to be killed in any way without her, or yet she dreads the consequences as it regards Maria's health. They are both however willing to be guided by your determination - And say if you think best send if they will go - It will appear as pleasant to have them to remain with us, and if you will allow William to remain we will take all possible care of him - I believe he has

[Handwritten signature]



Charles M. Furman Esq.

Charleston

South Carolina

enjoyed himself very much, & he has spent his pains in making himself acquainted, with several occupations of agricultural pursuits - he frequently spends his afternoons in the fields, and whenever he has any thing to attend to, in the dairy, garden, or poultry yard, I often find him by my side - John has attended very punctually to his lessons, until the late measles went which has cast a gloom over all our feelings - Remember us affectionately to Mrs & Mrs Gray and all engaging friends - Mrs Jent - Maria says she fears as present affectionately J. D. Furman (Harriet Davis) in spite of thinking, or of having what used to be for the best her health is not good & she desires an extract

The I suppose that John was very unwell all last summer with the fever complaint, but he says he has now a little better, till a few days ago. I hope that what we are saying will be the means of restoring his health. He is little better than he was.

Original in the Special Collections
 Furman University Library
 Greenville, S.C.
 Copied May 5, 1965 for
 Charles E. Thomas for the
 Fairfield County Historical Society