

Society Hill March 31<sup>st</sup> 1835Maria Dorothea Furman  
1799-1870

I think My Dear Anna that we cannot com-  
-pliment each other upon our faithful fulfilment of promise.  
This is only the second attempt I have made at writing  
to you, and I have had the pleasure of hearing but once  
from you, tho' I have had the satisfaction twice subsequent-  
-ly of obtaining intelligence respecting you, thro' Dr. Balfour, and  
 thro' Mr. Thomas. Writing has become so great a burden to me  
that I detect myself constantly <sup>in</sup> postponing it, as long as I  
can; indeed I find it both an unpleasant, and injurious em-  
-ployment. I was grieved to learn that Susan was suffering  
from excitement when you wrote. Her sufferings are so great  
when she has that to endure, that I dread its very name. It  
requires the vigilance of a friend to guard the poor dyspeptic  
against the too great indulgence of his appetite, as to  
poor Mr. Mims is lawless, and I have been quite indisposed  
for some days with severe headaches, which I attribute alto-  
-gether to want of self control in this matter. I was so  
childish as to eat a bit of Dick's wedding cake, and  
I assure you that it was not long down thro' I most sincerely  
wished it up again. I feel better this evening however. Harriet  
and myself walked over to Mr. Williams Mr. Williams this afternoon  
she has been very polite, and attentive in calling to see me,  
and in sending flowers, and soda biscuits; the latter are made  
peculiar as to make them, simply with milk and soda  
I am agreeably disappointed in Mrs. M. She appears to be  
really an unpardonably sensible woman. I had by some  
means acquired the impression, that she was vain, and  
pretentious, but if I am not greatly mistaken I labour under  
a very erroneous impression. We have but few opportunities  
for visiting. James here is busily engaged in ploughing. So  
that we have have the use of them except to go to church on  
Sunday. I have passed my day with Mr. Williams. He has  
his carriage when James went to Linton, with a request that  
we would go and pass the day with her.

This is really a very pleasant place, <sup>most</sup> persons have been very  
polite in calling to see me. I suppose Mr. Thomas informed  
you of our excursions to the Court House, James went to deliver  
an address before the Temperance Convention, and we embraced  
the opportunity for taking a little ride, and changing  
the air somewhat. Our visit was quite a pleasant one, we  
passed two nights with Mr. Hugh Lids, and one with  
Elyse Hunt. We called at Mr. Washington Dargans, but  
the family were all so sick, that short as our visit was  
unusually intended to be, we were induced to shorten it, by  
the various intrusions we made upon the time and atten-  
tions which were due to the sick. I did not see Mr.  
Dargans, who was at his own, nor did I see Mr. D. Briscoe until  
after I had got into the carriage to come away. Mr. Ford  
was then also very sick, and Mr. W. D.'s two younger child-  
ren were sick of scarlet fever; but they were all better when  
Richard left them, he having staid three days after we did.  
Margaret and Mr. H. received us with their accustomed kind-  
ness. I find that she thinks seriously of accompanying  
Mr. H. to Richmond. Elizabeth Brodie will probably accom-  
pany them, they wish her to do so at least, and had  
written to her to that effect, but had not received an answer  
when I saw them. James contemplates leaving  
home on the fourteenth of April for Virginia, and  
Harris purposed leaving the day after for Fairfield. We  
expect to be with you therefore on the sixteenth. Mr.  
William McIlwain, and his husband accompany Harris  
to her father, so that Harris will probably have a  
large company. I expect they will pass the night with  
her. Tell H. that she can take ~~the~~ the family part  
of the party in any whole and entire; for my part  
I shall be content with a rug. It has just occurred to  
me however, that as Harris might find extremely incon-  
venient to accommodate so large a party, if she would  
write me a line by Col. Davis's boy, and horses, which can be  
sent down for Harris, saying exactly how it would  
answer, that we could then make some other arrangements,  
say stay in Camden on the sixteenth, and dine with you  
on the seventeenth. I hope H. will not hesitate to say no  
to our plan if it is at all inconvenient. Mr. and Mrs. McIlwain seem of  
course ignorant of it.

I shall abide at Beavertown until in journey to town.  
I promise myself some rambles in the woods, and wild of Long  
with you May has done. I have as yet taken for your good.  
My needle work too progresses very slowly. I have not taken  
My Calico slaps out yet nor have I completed or finished  
so that I begin to fear that we shall be obliged to take  
back some of our work unfinished. I was truly sorry  
that you could not attend Richard's wedding. The party  
was very large; a good representation James says of the  
District. The supper was uncommonly handsome; abundant  
and elegantly arranged.

Mr. Beards, the young man who  
was in Charleston last winter, preached here on Sunday last.  
He has established himself at Mobile, and is now travelling  
soliciting aid for erecting a Church in that place. He is  
an acquaintance & appears of the Scotsborough family.  
Says that he is a correspondent of Maria's. Mary Ann  
Barton ~~is~~ accompanies Mr. Beards to Philadel-  
phia. She goes to complete her education with him, so  
this gentleman informed James. It almost amounts to a  
certainty that Mr. Beards will remain in Philadelphia.

Have you heard from Charles? or from any of our Charleston friends?  
I commissioned James to make certain enquiries of Dick respecting  
the behaviour of the servants, their success in house keeping &  
but he found, not suitable opportunity for instituting them.  
I dispatched a long letter to Miss Choda the other day; but  
have not yet written to Miss Maria, or Elizabeth. I feel badly  
about it, but I do not know well how to remedy the evil; writing  
makes me sick, and I have no health to lose. I am anxious  
to hear about Elizabeth; perhaps Honnilla may have received  
a letter lately. James little girl the old large is a fine  
child, healthy, and quite the usual one caps; and is altogether a  
Davis. I & H. think her a striking likeness of Mary Glenn, many  
think her like Franklin. Richard is still with James  
and will supply his pulpit during his absence. I see by the  
paper that Mr. Fuller is preaching in Charleston. I presume  
from what was said, that he is attracting considerable attention.  
I am glad to hear that William has been so good  
a Child Selection. I hope he will go back to town quite an improved  
little boy. James and Harriet August to be affectionately numbered to  
each, send all of you. With best love to Sarah and Honnilla and  
a kiss for little Call. Remains My Dear Susan & John your affectionate  
M. W.

920  
Society of Friends  
April 21



Miss Ann. Eliza Furman.  
Langston.

Mount Pleasant P. O.  
Fairfield, S. C.

Mail

336  
Mama - the writing makes her sick,  
as does eating.

Original in the Special Collections  
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