



LETTER FROM AMERICA

From Thomas Story Horn to Thomas Horn

CINCINNATI, OHIO, UNITED STATES - SUNDAY JULY 4TH, 1852

My dear & affectionate Father,

Thank God I have received your very kind and affectionate book of the 10th. We were glad to know that all is well with you at 42.

Now with regard to the South I am quite at a loss what to think about it. Since I have named it to parties here I feel very doubtful about it serving the purpose. The first drawback is that the States of Alabama and Tennessee are very much subject to fire(?) and *** and that our *** left this state went to *** and was compeled [sic] on account of the climate to return to the Northern States. In the next place we have been advised not to go to a slave State for without coinciding with the slave holders it is hard to get along. That to be neutral would not do for they would always be jealous of us ***ing the slaves.--- And my dear Mother you are quite mistaken with regard to land in the Southern States rising in value, some times it is so, but more often the purchaser of land in these slave states looses by it for town(?) down south do not go on head(?) as in free states for instance the other day a person was telling me that he had bought land in the state of Mississippi at 2 dollars per acre and now would sell it for 75 cents. I am quite sure that land of any sort(?) cannot be bought at the price you mention in your last. The land that Grop(?) has is not cultivated and had no house atached. The last I had from Grop is quite a drawback for he speaks of being squatted down, and so forth -- and all this after ***ing his 80 acres for two years. You say that ten acres would do for us now. We could not manage so large a quantity of land --- ourselves and as negro labour is so high it would be great outlay to keep it in proper cultivation.

I see around this city houses with from one to two acres of ground supplying all for family use and supporting a cow. Now I have been advised to buy land near a rising town, in a free state and build to suit ourselves.

[over]

July 14th Since commencing this my regular letter the weather has set in so intensely hot that I was quite unfit to finish it in time for the Mail. We have had the thermometer from 100 to 106 all the last week the nights almost suffocating. My dear and affectionate Mary and baby suffer very much. Now since I wrote the beginning of this letter I have had some conversation with men who have lived in the South and they say that it is not so warm in summer as here and that the climate is not so changeable.

We are rather concerned about the health of our dear little boy it is so very difficult to bring up children here more especially those of English parents. Betty(?) wants a description of him, he is very tall, nicely plump without being too fat, Black eyes Dark hair as to who he is like I can not say, some people say he is like Mary and some me, he is quite a pretty intelligent looking child. I now enclose a lock of his hair he has it brushed up and curled on the top of his head which his dear mother takes great pains with. I am sorry to say that he is quite lost for the want of good air and some *** to walk in, Cincinnati has not a park or a piece of ground where children can go and walk.

You ask me how *** and Brian(?) are pleased with me all that I can say is that in March last I asked Mr. Smith if he was satisfied with me and he answered that he was quite so and that he had no thought of **ing. I have not enjoyed(?) them y the ** again so we will go and see the south and know all about it but I have to say that at this time of the year the river is quite low and the heat of the weather is too great for us to leave this city. We have been advised not to go before a month or two. Before that time I hope to have a letter from Grop and some from you as to what you think of things.

Now my dear and affectionate father I am sorry to say that we have been compeled to call in the aid of a medical man for my dear and affectionate wife. She complained of her head so much and he was affraid of epileptic fits he recommends her to keep herself quite quiet, this is what she can not do as she has the baby to look after and all the house. Now for my part the heat that we have had for the last few weeks has been more than I even/r felt in the West Indies and I do now think that it it be as bad in the south I do not know how you will stand it. Thank God we are so so(?) and I hope that in my next letter I will have to write and say how we intend to do. give our dear love to Mr & Mrs Stephenson and inform them that my dear Mary will do all she can to write to them next Mail. Tell(?) Story(?) that I thank him for his few lines to us and give our dear love to Betty and I will write to her as she has wrote to us. Give my own dear love to sister Betty ** May(?) has and all friend and accept the same. My dear affectionate ***th. ** God help you the prayer of **

T.S. Horn