

Copy 1849 July 5

Dear Lyurgus. Your letter written on the 7th & 9th June
 came to hand by yesterday mail - I am truly sorry to
 learn of your indisposition, but trust I pray that you
 have entirely recovered ^{by this time} and that you will enjoy ~~some~~ ^{improved}
~~repeated~~ health in future. We are all well, excepting ~~some~~
 little ailments - one died a few days ago; - Pitts Child by Lady
 Ann, born about six weeks ago. I am now at Richard,
 where I have kept Lou & Peter for the last ten days in
 consequence of the sickness of my place caused by the Pond
 near the house, which is full of water all the time - the
 rain has not yet ceased, such damp & gloomy weather I have
 never witnessed before - I anticipate much sickness in the
 country. We had a great meeting at Wheelock on both Saturday
 and Sunday. Your sister Lavinia came forward and took
 the Assurance seat, at which the whole congregation melted
 into tears. Every body thinks well of Lavinia - they say she is
 very much like her ^{dear} mother, in ^{her} way. I am proud of this, and
 believe she will make some work of ~~the~~ ^{her} Salvation of her soul.

That we may all meet in Heaven is my constant prayer.
 God intended we should meet there, he designed we should be happy
 and ^{to} enjoy his love ^{even} amidst the trials and sorrows during our
 short probation here on earth, and ^{to realize} a glorious immortality
 beyond the grave. Your Mother and three little brothers are
 there - I think of them daily and only waiting for ~~that~~
 to come it shall please God to take me from hence that
 I may join them, never to part no more! Lyurgus, you
 know not how thankful I feel ~~to~~ ^{to} have I seen your

Sister making her way through the crowd to come near
to God for I had been praying especially for her that morn-
ning, and I did not ^{forget you Sycamore} and have never since, Ceased praying
for you ~~and~~ Your father can't forget his absent son
though all others may for a time forget you. Your
little sister Rhoda is as lovely as she can be, she is always
in a good humour & seems happy - she is very affectionate
and kind hearted. Mrs Wright thinks she is a wonderful child.
Rhoda says she dont like proud people, but I know of no-
one who is more fond of fine dresing than she is. She
made out a very expensive bill and sent me the other day
for dreses - I got them for her, for she sent word at the
same time that she was going to show me and the Trustees
what she could do in the way of learning when the Exami-
nations came on. It is very fond of reading, she reads News
papers and every thing she can get hold of. She will be very
proud to get a letter from you - write her a long letter.
I wish Mr. does not come to see me - ill would if he would
let her. S. has talked a great deal about the Pitchgun family
and abused them, and does not stop even shorter of insulting
the female part of the family. I suspect the poor Scamp
thinks we are afraid of him. He knows I am in the Church
and that I will not do any thing - but he knows ^{too} that he
might as well make a Mountain as to scare me. He wants
my property - but Sycamore, remember what I say - never
while I live, nor after I am dead, will he get a cent of
any thing of mine in this world. My Will is made - it
is fixed strong enough for him - he may kick up against
it after I am dead, but he will have more than his

match to kick against - he has already whored and ~~given~~
away ~~away~~ nearly all the property which he inherited from
his father's estate. He was his father's ~~his~~ mortal enemy
and has begun now on one without the least cause
of provocation whatever. When I came home ~~and~~ ~~my~~
thing to please him - I shamed him ~~fatherly~~ kindness - but
~~this was not what he wanted~~ - he saw it was in
bad health, declining every day and ~~he~~ ~~not~~ ~~live~~
long at best - and believing I would out live her, and
that he would be disappointed if he did not get a large
portion of my property now, is the secret spring and
cause of his Enmity against me. I am sorry for Mal - for
I love her dearly - she is my own child - but she left me
and is now the Companion of my Enemy. I never did like
me - he cursed me once in Drakes will and all the Pettibones
and all the Fobsons in the bitterest terms imaginable - &
the cause of his Enmity against me was ~~the~~ ~~account~~
of the close friendship & brotherly feeling which existed
between me and his father. He hated his father because
he was a good man. I - is cunning, deceitful, and
has no honorable principle in him whatever. A
more rotten and blacker hearted ^{man} ~~than~~ ~~him~~ ~~lives~~ ~~not~~ ~~in~~
this nation nor no where else in the world. Beware of his
friendship, trust not a secret of yours to him, trust
him in nothing, depend not upon him, for long
ago he told every ^{thing} ~~or~~ you that you did in your
foolish youth, and laughs about it. ~~When~~ I made
a jup about the treatment you get at Spencer
he said I was a "Damn fool - that I ought to be

You up and give you a hundred more lashes. Dont you
answer a single letter of his, dont write him a word - and
act ^{with} such a silence ~~that~~ ^{it} sends him as to give him no
grounds ~~whatever~~ to know any thing of your mind - I
dont allude to his name to ~~anyone~~ to whom you may
write. I have more friends now than I ever had before - and
~~if~~ ^{if} he alone he will expose himself so that he
will be left alone - already David Holton begins to boil
all over - and would be like a house of fire on him if he
makes the least attack on me; and there is Martin Holton
who is as brave as a lion would hounce him if he had to hunt
him down to do it. Let him but make an open threat against
me and he will find his hands fuller than they ever were
before - so you need not be the least uneasy about me - I
can manage my affairs with such ones without ever getting
into a papsaw. Write to Martin - direct your letter ^{to} ~~the~~
town he ~~sends~~ you as a relation ought to.

I am glad to learn that your letters are easy to yourself to learn.
I think you will disappoint the Evil-prognostications of some of
your would be friends, especially when you graduate & come home
like a plain, downed headed man - without ostentation & pretence.
Moris I wish you knew "Swatts the Dictionary" and was obliged
to helch up big words for deep learning, especially the technical
terms of the sciences of law. I dont expect you to Law - will
return ^{to us} with big words in your mouths only - but that you
write ~~even~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~knowledge~~, ~~discretion~~ ~~and~~ ~~sound~~
sense, with ^{plenty of} plain English words in your mouths to express your
thoughts ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~. The day is coming when your learning will not
only be exceedingly odious to ~~you~~, but it will ^{also} be a source
of great satisfaction to you. You will know that you are
superior to no one, dependent on no one, for knowledge, which will
~~create~~ ^{itself} a satisfaction in your minds which nothing else
scarcely can afford - there is an independence about a
man of learning, which is not forced like mere eloquence,
but it sits so naturally on a mans face that in place of

being disgusting it is admired. Much knowledge combined
with wisdom makes the great man, and when you are
storing up your minds with knowledge be a constant worshiper
at the Shrine of Wisdom - learn the way of good sense, truth
and direction - "For all her fathers are teachers of pleasurable" - One of
the best steps you can make towards such an attainment
will be to ~~examine~~ ^{examine} and understand your own self. There is a
most excellent little work On Self-knowledge written
by John Mason, which I would recommend to you and
Lou - to read during the vacation. I read it when I was about
your age and found it to be the best adviser I ever had - to
that book I must say I owe much of my ^{affairs in the}
world - I also read about the same time the book of Proverbs.

I want you to read every thing carefully, read with a critical eye
improve your mind & style of writing and I shall wish you
to write the history of the Choctaws when you come home. You
or Lou will have to do this on your hands, can write your
minds upon it and not only save the few who left us
of our fathers but get a name in the world for yourselves.

Well I cannot but hope that you and Lou will ~~return home to me~~ glad & to
disappoint our Enemies, Enemies should not have any such Eni-
emies in the world. Enemies will I have had my fair share
of them in this nation - and yet I have never had a fight with
a Choctaw in my life - I ^{have} escaped the pistols and the knives - I never
even received a blow from one of them - the full bloods
have always treated me with great respect, they have

honoured me and still continue to do so. My plan of
whipping Enmities has been always to let them alone - keep
myself still, keep my own thoughts to myself - make no threats -
go on with my own way, and with my own plans, as though
I had no one to oppose me - I never condescended to notice
them. However or at least I believed I was brave enough
for any emergency - felt no fears of being whipped - ~~my~~
When Enmities rose up against me I always depended upon
time ^{& circumstances} to bring them down and not once have I been
disappointed - invariably I have stood firmly upon the
earth and knew them very low beneath me, or coming
to me as friends. I have tried to be right - kept a Conscience
void of offence - loved my Country, sought the
good of people and spared no pains to build up good
works - ~~my~~ should I then be alarmed at the sight
of my foes? To have got mad and made threats would
have been foolish - made things worse - defeated myself
and all my plans of doing good. And notwithstanding
I have pursued this course no one has as I ever heard
called me a Coward, and supposing some fool had
said so that would not have made me one, and would
not have affected me at all in any feelings. It is enough
for me to know that I am brave. I am brave enough
to ^{discharge} fill all the duties of life, such as God designed I should
do. ~~What~~ you ^{may} give to follow in my footsteps, wherein
I know you are right, and ~~of course~~ ^{the} better example and
do more good than I ever did in the ^{live end} "duty of my heart".

As the Cholera is now in Philada I would advise
you not to go there during the vacation - you had

letter you and Sam both stay in Novak - be careful
one of what you eat - dont eat any fruit - no Melons
or any thing that will bring on Cholera - keep out of
the night air - keep yourself from being rained upon -
dont allow your feet to get wet - Be regular in your
habits and keep cheerful - you had better have some
Cholera Medicine by you - the attack generally comes on
in the night - it is easily checked when taken in the
first stages. I got a letter the other day from the
Agency which states that the Cholera is disappearing
from there - I look for it here this summer.

I shall start down to Mountain House to attend
William's funeral the day after tomorrow. I
have heard no word from Sam's father or
any of the family since I wrote you - I
Your Cousin Tryphena Wall Stearns is dead
in Danversville a few days ago after a long
sickness. She left four children. She died very
young.

Jeff Wall's wife is supposed to be dead also.
I saw old Capt. M. Hamble at the Wheelock -
last Sunday - he made many inquiries about you -
so did Joseph Duke when I saw him at Spencer.
Thomas Baird is ~~going~~ ^{going} to go to College - I
shall try my best to get him off when the weather
gets cool and the Cholera subsides - The
Cholera is so thick on the Rivers now that it
would be unsafe in the extreme for him to
go before winter. I have written this in
haste -
Yr father. P. P. Pitcher

Came & took the artesian well. Your grand Mother is
in good health and is now about leaving
to return to Rio River.
See how that his letter
retains the well -
8th July 1847. I shall write again before
long. After came down with me on 2nd
not come.

George Pitcher
Newark
Delaware State.

I don't like the little house at all - but I don't think
there is no more to be said. I came here, I don't know
on but Saturday. This is Monday morning and I don't
the point of looking for some. Like the family connection
are enjoying your health and family. The small
well. Yesterday was a foggy day with no wind. I don't
the name was pitched - After you all in law - and
remember you are our friend. I don't know how