

[NOTE: I am pretty sure this is not from Mary A. Baldwin. I think it is from a different Baldwin. I think the letter was written around the “Uncle Sam’s Farm” poem/essay. Perhaps not to waste paper?]

July 20 1863

Dear Friend Aurelia,

It is quite a pity to have any [???] paper go so far so long as we have so much to write.

This has been a long day to me a cold sullen gloom seems to [???] nature that bids us to farewell to “flowers and leafy borders” for the present.

A long time has elapsed since our first meeting and Oh! What changes has time wrought with is since that period but I have not yet forgotten one whose condescension and kindness long since [???] gratitude and love. There are times when the remembrance of an absent and apparently forgotten friend who has shared our thoughts our joys and sorrows in by-gone days will come thronging to the mind and awake emotions of regret and pensive pleasure. Such Dear Aurelia is my present feeling then chide me not for now intruding upon thy leisure, and addressing you unasked. I am at home this summer as you know, my health is poor yet and will be for aught I know forever, I have the blues now and then about myself, last week was confined to the bed but was blead and soon got up. I am weak yet as you will perceive by my writing. The Dock[sic] advises me to ride every morning, yesterday morning Father[?] and I went out on our return home we called on Mrs. Slater. I never saw a person so poor in flesh before. She cannot live but a short time. Give me any disease but Consumption.

This morning it rained and we did not go and probably that will be the last of my travelling for health. Sis saw [?] Dobbing[?] Saturday he asked her how I was she told him I had been carried down to Gilsmans[?] that day, he said he heard that I was not expected to live the day out, he thought he would call (so much for his love) I thought I was a going to write you a long letter when I commenced telling my yarns – but if you will write to me I will give you a good posting up on matters and things in general. Give my respects to Mr.[?] Marsh and accept my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness. Yours in Friendship. [???] M. Baldwin.

[NOTE: In the margin]

You must excuse this miserable writing for my pen is so course and I am in a great hurry it is near school time and I have a lesson to get so good by E....

P.S. Now A___ you must do as you said you would about writing – answer this as soon as possible and make that very soon. We must keep up our correspondence if “he” won’t be jealous and I know he won’t – of course not – tell him you must love your childhood’s friend yet. Now write.

P.S. Write write write. Will you, can’t you, won’t you. Yes, yes, yes.

[NOTE: Sideways up a margin]

Forgive us for scribbling so.

Uncle Sam's Farm

Of all the mighty nations in the east or in the west
Oh this glorious yankee nation is the greatest and the best
We have room for all creation and our banner is unfurled
Here's a general invitation to the people of the world.
[?], Then come along come along make no delay
Come from every nation, come from every way
Our lands they are broad enough don't be alarmed
For Uncle Sam is rich enough to give us all a far.
While the South shall raise the cotton and the West the corn and [?]
New England's manufacturies will do all the finer works [?]
For the deep and flowing waterfalls that course along our hills
Are just the thing for washing sheep and [?] cotton mills
[?], Then come along with the [???)
Our fathers gave us liberty but little did they dream
The grand results [?] from all this mighty age of steam
For our mountains lakes and rivers we all a blaze of fire
And we send our news by lightning on the telegraphic wire
[?], Then come along with the [???)
We are [?] to [?] the nations and our motto's "go ahead"
And we'll tell all foreign powers that our people are well fed
And the people must remember Uncle Sam is not a fool
For the people do the [?] and the children go to school
[?], Then come along with the [???)