

Mrs. Taylor Erwin

Houston July 18th / 65

My dear friend

I felt very much relieved to hear of your safe arrival here, which we learned through Co. Sharpe, we had heard such terrible accounts of you having been attacked by Jay hawks, and with of every thing, that it was indeed a relief to know that you were all safe, and that these rumors were mere news without foundation. We have been passing through another great excitement since you left, the arrival of the Yankees, and I must say the last was even more than the first, the trial of giving up my country was terrible, but God grant that I may not have long to live

under their detested rule, with few
exceptions, this is the greatest trial
after all, by the bye, I must
tell you how my sable damsel
loved me, the third day after
the arrival of the Yankees, who
are quartered in the Court House,
she declared her independence, by
forsaking me, about ten o'clock
at night, and fleeing to one of
their Quarters for protection, my
surprise is better imagined
than described, when I came in
found the gallery, where we were
sitting to find that Henry and
Clara had both decamped, and
strange to say had moved out
all their things, and we had
not heard them, they are living
together and keeping a garden
boarding house, I was forced
to believe that Clara would
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way she did, if she had not been
influenced by Drew, I can get
along much better without her
than I ever supposed I could,
but poor little Henry, it was
a great trial for him to give
her up, he cried for several days
when he would think of
her, he has seen her twice
since she left, she gave him
some watermelon, and he told
her to take it, he would not
eat what few ~~remains~~ ate, Henry
told me yesterday that he wanted
to write to Sadie, and tell her
how Clara had treated him,
but he says she is not as much
to blame as the Yankees, he talks
constantly of dear little Sadie,
and does not forget her in his
association with other children.
Dr & Mrs Board had next week
for New York, on their way to

Indeed, I have given them the
pictures of Henry and Sadie,
and they will have photographs
taken in New York and sent
to me, they have sold their place
on Main street together with
some vacant lots, and will
ever return here again to live.
I look upon them as fortunate
people, I only wish that Pa could
have, a large number of our citizens
are going on to spend the summer
Mrs Shirley has left, also Mrs
Herriot, many others are only
waiting until they are given
standing on the route.

Col Ward was here for a few days,
but has gone, a cutter started
for New Orleans, I heard that he
is waiting in Galveston for a
steamer. I was greatly shocked
the other day when the news
of Hattie Mc Farland's death

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works. Mr. Morrison had
just returned from Mexico
and was also quite ill with
fever, I heard that he is recovering
slowly. Saw old house on Main
street does not look at all fa-
vored, as there is a large United
States flag, flying from the
scaffold gallery, it is the head
quarters of Col. Clarke.
Miss said it is a heart-aching
to see and hear of the condition
of our large plantations, I found
things bad about, in the same
condition in Louisiana, Col
Water has abandoned his place,
having only eighty hands to do
the work of three hundred, they
hardly found a large boarding

house on the island, and are going
to try and make a living in
that way, he is certainly the
most distinguished man that
I have ever seen, our country is
ruined, there will never be any
the crops planted in Texas, so
the planters all say.

Rosa was still in Matamoros
when we last heard, and are
told by persons coming from
there, that Mr. Gray's health
is miserable, they are going
into the mountains to spend
the summer. I have been so
disappointed in not having
found you, I hope my day that
some one will come and bring
me one of your sweet letters.
Your family are all well, Pa's
singers are still on the farm at
work, and have promised to stay
this year out, when Pa says