

1563

near Mansfield Decoto Parish La Sept 9th 1863

W. H. H. H. H.

Houston Texas

Dear William - yours of the 23rd ult received at

Alexandria on the 5th inst. came to hand last evening, and I feel under great obligations for the information and advice given. I had previously decided not to cross further west unless this part of the country was likely to be invaded and your letter convinces me that I was right, you being on the spot where all the necessary information can be obtained. I can judge better than I can in my opinion the probability of sending letters to Boston - money would not pay, you would be giving five dollars in Confederate money for one in Gold. Besides all this risk, you would not send the carriage back for your mother, because it is so out of gear that it would not reach home and we had no horse hireable to take it - the only good horse we had was stolen by Murrells when he ran away, and I could not trust surely unless I loaded in case of a necessity of moving, again we wanted every horse & mule that we had having lost four on the way. I should have not given you your visit to see Sharon but my Ponia more so poor and worn out that I feared they would not take her home. They are now in better order, but my Puggy is out of gear and must be repaired before I can travel any distance, should I be able to get it repaired and the news we receive from the eastern side of the Mississippi & elsewhere will warrant I may attempt to visit home, my inclination is strong that way, but my duty requires me to give all my attention to the very valuable property I have under my charge. This very letter if it is success but my duty is not less imperative.

and I feel equally interested

You will no doubt have heard of the death of Edward Alcott
on the 19th Ult^o. Poor Alice without a loss, our only child and
so promising a boy, I must die indeed when the intelligence was
conveyed to me by Messrs. Weeks and I was so shocked that for
an instant I feared that it would terminate my existence. It
seems that Mrs. Washburn had written to me giving the details but
that the letter miscarried & I did not receive it for a week
afterwards I have sent it by A. C. Weeks to your mother
from Melrosebury for her, just after receiving the news of
Dr. Alcott's death another favorite Grand Son, it is a hard
case but we must submit to the will of the Almighty and
God forgive me for complaining. The nurses of John & Maria
and your mother's servants, have been nearly all very sick
some with violent fevers. I have had three attacks of Chills
& fever. Mr. Johnson has had an attack also Mr. Easton yet
we have lost but one negro woman belonging to Mr. J. and yet
strange to say the Alcott negroes have been very healthy they
not over ten miles west of us and were in our old settled
place here though therefore would be more healthy. I
am now with Mrs. David supposing that a change might
have an influence on my health and I am improving
Mr. H. Hopkins is here with us and Mrs. Fox nurses left her
nurse boy. Brown is selling here now at 75¢ to \$1 the bushel in
bushel in the South. The best we brought at \$1 we brought Wheat
at \$1 for bushel. Flour is 30¢ to 35¢ but we are buying
Kears' flour at \$1.50 each. I have had no late news from home, your
much esteemed letter from New Orleans in answer to mine of July 29th came
very to hand

Yours
John Alcott