Jackson Mar 18th 1886

My dear Carrie

ALA. DEPT. OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY MSS

I was just on the eve of writing to know how your dear Father was when I received your letter a few days ago I was so sorry to hear that he improves so slowly I have seen several with their hip dislocated - who could get about very well with crutches and kept as well as they were before it happened Tell your Father he must eat a plenty of a light diet such as milk and nice bread & butter eggs Oysters lamb and nice young beef so as to keep up his strength and flesh If he keeps his strength he can soon go about on crutches which will be a great relief to him I am afraid he will doctor his

leg too much as I am a great believer in letting nature have time to heal broken limbs Cousin Ret-Berry Cousin John's sister fell out of the porch one night after supper and she was three months before she could walk at all - They did not do anything for it and it got well gradually - she broke her hip badly she limps now when she walks

I hope my dear brother will soon begin to improve as I know it is a great trial to him to be confined to his bed so long Be sure to give him plenty of nourishing food to keep up his strength I wish so much I could go to see him but I am so feeble I am hardly able to go about the house At one time this winter I thought I would go in a rapid decline but I have grown stronger than I was but I am gradually declining have a dreadful cough no appetite scarcely - I look around and see my relatives who are healthier than I am and have the promise of a long life dying before I do I think it a strange Providence

that my poor unprofitable life is spared and they are taken Cousin John Berry's wife 'Dannie' whom we all loved so much died the 4th of March She had been sick with a cold but was a great deal better and she was struck with Paralysis one night - after supper and died next morning at nine o'clock They sent for the Doctor that night and he thought she was better and left - but before he got out of sight she was dead Martha Emma went as soon as they sent for her but she was dead when she got there She was such a large fine looking woman she was like a sister to my children - her death was a great shock to us all and how much we will all miss her They telegraphed to Rhoda Eva to go to her burial she was sick and Annie Lou went - Mollie was down at Jessup with Mr Heflin else she would have gone She left a grown daughter who is a sweet girl and a boy 14 years old She was devoted to her children

how they will miss their dear mother
Cousin John is in great distress as her
death was so unexpected Martha
used to go every week and spend the
night with her - she was like a sister
to her Dannie was so kind and good
to every one She and Lama Jane and
Sallie are missed so much by us I
hope they are all at rest in the bosom
of their Savior free from the troubles
and sorrows of this life but they have
left a void in our family circle that
can never be filled You ask me about
Sallies dear little children she left two
little girls and a boy one of the twins as the
other died after she did - The oldest girl
is named Eva May is five years old
she is Rhoda Eva's special pet calls her
good auntie all the time Sarah Helen
the other little girl is three years old
she is a pet with us all - they can sing
beautifully both smart bright children
the youngest girl is the prettiest
neither of them favor Sallie The little

Boy the baby who is nine months old is the pet of us all - he favors his mother and is a beautiful child - one of the preachers prayed that he might become a bishop if he lived Bolling calls him Bish - all the time We have all set him apart for a preacher if he lives his dear mother used to say he was going to be her little preacher God grant it that he may grow up if he lives a holy consecrated man and win many **souls** to Christ He has grown to be a fat baby - sleeps in his little crib by my bed - sleeps all night - has a very good wet nurse she cooks for us and never gets in a bad humor about haveing to nurse him He has one tooth and we all made a great fuss over it when we found it out He loves me better than anyone else will cry to stay with me He cries for Mollie to walk him about as he has been kept so closely in the house this winter He loves all of his Aunties and knows them from anybody else He

is one of the best children I ever saw
is always laughing Poor little darling
he will never know a mothers love
It makes me feel sad to think I may
die soon and leave him but the
Lord will provide If I trust Him His
name is William Nathan Poor Mr
Land has had more trouble than any
man I know of He tries to be resigned
Mollie has been down to Jessup and stayed
some with Mr Heflin - she went to Jack
sonville while there - says she was delight
ed with Florida She expects to go to
Jessup again soon will not stay longer
than a month as it is sickly there
in the summer Mr Heflin will get a
place on the Rail Road soon nearer
home Mollie frequently talks about
her pleasant visit to you all
Rhoda Eva is kept very busy with her
school The man she teaches with has
a hundred scholars Annie Lou
wants to get married but I have
persuaded her to wait awhile as

my health is so bad Willie and Walter Branham are teaching school in Wilkes County near each other schools pay each about Forty Dollars a month and their board They are such good boys and an honor to their mothers memory Mr Branham says all that they are they are indebted to their dear mother for all that they are Her greatest ambition was to see her boys good and smart

Mr Branham is a merchant in Oxford - he is getting along very well is out of debt and makeing money Old Mrs Branham lives with him and takes charge of the younger children Flournoy & Bolling she is very kind to them but no one can fill a kind mothers place The weather is mild now Willie is trying to garden - she loves to work in the garden I am not able to do anything but stay in my room and see that the baby is taken care of I send your Father the Evangelist a paper giveing an account of Sam

Jones' sermons in Chicago You must read them to him Dr Lipscomb says he is a greater preacher than Bascom was He certainey does a great deal of good where ever he goes I was sory to hear that your Aunt Eliza had been sick we are "gathering home" as the beautiful sunday school song says and I trust that we will all meet around our Fathers throne in heaven My dear Carrie you must go to church and take the sacrament whenever you can Do all the good you can at home and to all around you let your light shine so that all will know you are a follower of Jesus my greatest regret now is that I have not been wholly consecrated to God and his service as I should have been but through the mercy of God through Jesus Christ I hope to be saved from my sins - Tell your Father this letter is written to him as well as you You and Laura must nurse him good and keep him cheered up Write me every week how he is getting along