

Fleetwood Nov 20th 1861

My dear Mary,

I have just received your letter & hasten to reply to it. Since I wrote you last, I have two cases of Typhoid Fever in my family George Hill, who is in the kitchen, & Frederick Howard, at the Cabin. There is so much communication between the Soldiers & the People in our neighborhood that it seems we cannot all escape, you must decide for your self, about coming at this time, all I can say I should be truly delighted to see you & the Children, Mrs Washington is thought better, but her little daughter is still low, you say you cannot stay in the Office at this time, (Altho you dear Husband did not stay in your room, he was confined in the room below but as you are opposed to going in your room, you must move in mine, as all the other rooms are occupied. I have just received a letter from Buckman, from Judge Moore, who says he has been there nine weeks, he left Mrs Moore in Kentucky, he expects her on every day, if she can get out of the State with safety, there are terrible times there, you will see from the papers, he wrote me he will be at Fleetwood in a few days, with Mrs General Smith of Kentucky, whose Husband is at Centerville, & as she is anxious to see him, she will come to Fleetwood, & he will visit her there. you see how I am situated. As to have Strangers, we cannot get Butter or eggs in the neighborhood, I have but 3 quarts of Bacon left, we live on fresh meat altogether. I have never been in such a fix before for Strangers, but I must do the best I can as it is our duty to be kind to those, who are compelled to leave their homes. I enclose a letter from Mrs Patton to you, which came last evening, you must write me immediately.

& let me know, when I may send to the Depot for you -
fare well. My kindest love to your Mother, & all the household
keep best, & let her me, Cousin Mary, & Minnie write in love
to you,

With sincere affection, your attached Aunt

Francis W. Gilman

I have enclosed \$6.00 to your Aunt Francis, to try & buy
me some Butter, as we cannot get it here -
Lucy Hunter & her will not return this winter, are now
all in a bad state, ^{that we cannot go to Hopedale or called} as said there will be a Battle &
Evansport, near Dimpries, there were all fire running for it yet