

Dec 22

Mrs. Emma R. Dougan

No. 227 West Sixth St

Eric

Penn

Greensboro, N. C.

Dec, 22nd 1875-

Sunday - 11.30 AM

My dear wife;

Your letter of the 14th, came to-day as you hoped it would and I had it for our 2.30 breakfast. I am very much distressed that you should be so pressed for money. It seems to me that Maria ought to have had more forethought than to let your general fund get so low - She ought not to think of paying anything on her mortgage = debt now, what is the use of it? It is well secured and the mortgage don't hurt the house a particle - It frets me to think that when you have gone to raise money for the girls' sake and been to the expense of furnishing a home &c, she should let you get so low, simply because she wanted to pay on that debt - It seems to me so foolish - It would be wisdom in her even, to increase the mortgage to help you now when you need it, and so enable you to help her whenever she might need it - I do not see how I am to

get my money hurriedly to get along
the week few months. I have nothing to sell
and can do nothing - even if I had it to do
because of this infernal book - It ties me
down, as you must see, like a chain cable.
If I am absent a day the train stops, there
is no remedy for that. I must keep straight
on. I have nothing to sell. I offered my
book case and desk both, for fifty dollars,
but cannot get even that. Molly died
last week and I cannot sell my reports as
I have to use them constantly. I have arranged
to get a little money but where the rest will
come from, I don't know. It will come
however. I am sure of that, only you must
not expect too much of me nor too quick
returns. I will do my best, and do it
cheerfully and bravely, and thankfully while
I have health, but you must not be im-
patient - I know that you think that if you
were a man you would do and do -
but you must remember that I am not

altogether like you in such respects
and must do the best I can. Whether the
course you would pursue would be more
successful, may, perhaps, admit of some
question, but whether it would or not
I am constitutionally unable to doubt it -
I can work and stick and keep of good
heart but I cannot be anybody but
myself, however desirable some change
might be - I hope to send you \$50 - to-
morrow - I may not be able to send more
than \$25 or \$30, (and perhaps not any) but
if I do not I think you may safely look for \$50 -
during this week or the first of next - I might
send you more but, as I wrote you last night,
I borrowed some out of a client's funds, which
have to be returned. I will do the best I can in
all things. only you keep up a brave heart
during - The vapors have all left me and
I am as bright and happy as I can be
without you - You must not fear that I shall
require you to return, unless I should be

ink - while nothing could equal the delight
of seeing you, it would trouble me if you
were here for I should know that you would
soon be unhappy. - This is a beautiful bright
day. The storm has passed and the sun
is loosening the sleek from the trees. There
are some threatening clouds rolling a-
round the horizon which betoken a boi-
sterous evening and colder weather af-
terwards - My eye got a bad fit yester-
day and I could do no work until
night - It is just that old queer feeling
which prevents any seeing what I am
intently looking at, and does not dis-
turb me any at other times. I only
catch a day or two when it comes on - or
usually, part of a day. The feeling of hate
to the North is growing so apparent here that
I wonder I should not better have ap-
preciated its strength - Everybody is talking

about the North and South, and the appre-
hension that there will be further trouble be-
tween them is more general than I ever
knew it - One man called my attention, the
other day to a fact I had not noticed be-
fore. He says that the North evidently hates
the South terribly and shows it, by the fact
that all the New York papers, from 1865 to
1870, were crowded with letters and
articles in regard to the South, urging emi-
gration there &c &c, and now there are none.
It is peculiar and striking too. - So, you
may just get your brain and heart
free of the raps of the South and get ready
for a sturdy, bustling and I trust happy
life in the North - I think I am cured and
already, I believe that I begin to see the
wisdom of that Providence which overruled
any hope and any ambition - I may be
wrong in this forecasting but it is my

conviction now. I have no sort
of objection to going to Levee, if it
shall seem advisable to do so. You need
have no fear that I will hesitate to go
anywhere that the way may open for
us to go, or where we may have a
reasonable prospect of opening up a
way.

Give my Christmas greeting
to all - I shall think of you often on
that day, though I do not expect to inter-
mit any work at all on account
of it. I am sorry that I cannot curb
the little one's draft on Santa Claus
but - hope she will pardon my remissness
just for this time. I will not close my letter
now, as I may wish to add something
more in the interval before mailing time.

God bless my darlings,
Albion W. Torrey

Douglas is sitting in the Sluopy Haller
which by the way, just fits him, perfectly.

and continuing "Hips of Thistles":

1-17-74-

Well, I have not received my letter
from you but I have a bit of news which
is not very pleasant but news never
the less. I have been working about
two hours on the colts, Dan, who seems
bound to follow Mollie - I have left
him lying under about a pound of
straw with only a quantity of strong
medicines in him and half a pound
of chloroform on his back - I don't
know what to think of the colts being
so - I am half inclined to Peter's
notion that they have been poisoned -
witched he calls it - If he dies, why
he dies and if he lives, he lives. That's
all -

Good night Darling -
Albion W. Torrey

I intended to have written a long Christ-
mas letter to Lodie after dinner but it
is out of the question now.