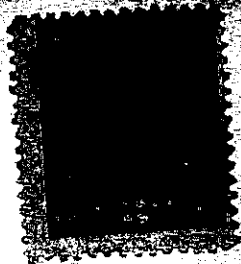


Jan 13



Mrs. Albert Bourger  
No 227 West 6th St

Eric

Perman

Greensboro N.C.

Jan, 15th, 1879

See Remond hire  
one office and a  
room of him  
and stick  
out my chair  
gle again.

Leuch help but  
think it would  
be best.

Wm. W. W.

Alston

My dear wife:

Your favor of the 9th inst was  
recd this morning. I am sure I do not know  
what to say in regard to your question. I know  
no more about the house you have, than I do  
about the one Jack built. I will say to you,  
plainly, however, that I see no chance for me  
to get away from here at present. I have no  
money, and no prospect of any except what I  
may make. I think I shall make some this year,  
but of course, am not sure, of more than enough  
to cover expenses. In order to get this, I must stay  
here and attend the Spring Courts. I think my book  
will pay for itself, by April or May, and after  
that will bring me in something. I will try and  
have you \$100. by April 1st but may fail to do so. I  
think your notion of having your mother with you "for a  
short time, if necessary," is the height of absurdity.  
If you were going to live with her anywhere, I do  
not see the use of your going away. As you going

worth to do not see how it is possible or conceivable, at this time, for the following reasons.

- 1- I should have to go, perfectly empty handed, & do not see how I could possibly pay my debts and take away a dollar, or a dollar's worth.
- 2- No man can go to a new place and begin a practice, which will pay him his board for the first year. That is just when I must have something. If I could go to an established practice, as the partner of some good man, I would do it, for your sake, whatever the sacrifice. That however, I see no present prospect of doing.
- 3d - I think it would be discreditable for me to leave just now.
- 4th - I think that it would injure the sale of my book and perhaps affect the interest in the patents injuriously. I have a hope to get some friends to lift the debt on the land and let me sell it off.

Now, you know I put aside the future until this manuscript was finished. Now, that it is done, and I have taken two or three days

of square looking at it. That is the way things present themselves to my mind. I do not want to hold out to you the idea of a home here. I do not want you to feel compelled to come here again. I want you to stay there and be happy. I am very sorry that you did not pay the rent, until April at least. I had hoped for that time to turn myself in at least. I will do the best I can through. Do not be discouraged. Whatever I can do, I shall do. I cannot work miracles more in the pity; nor make bricks without straw, I know you think that all that is necessary to secure success there, is just to launch out and make the venture. My heart grows cold at the very idea of an unsuccessful carpet-bagger trying to bull his way into a practice there. Take, for instance Eric. I am, it is true known to some, and have good kind friends there, but are they those from whom I could look for any business. Suppose it were known that I came there thoroughly adrift, would

no other way  
but for you to  
stay here and  
for me to stay  
here, until a  
more opportune  
season arrives.  
Perhaps I had  
better mention  
the Kensington Lane  
as it does not  
seem satisfactory  
to any in. I think  
I had better up-  
speak another  
agent anywhere.  
My idea was and  
is to keep the former.  
So it is. I think  
no more of going to  
sell the furniture  
at now, and if  
the plan will  
found your mother  
it is very good.  
Send, to Engle,  
and my en-  
able her to do  
a little better  
with you. I  
thought I would

I get any practice thereby. I am afraid not.

I should have to wait and wait and wait  
for them to find out that I could do some  
thing, and then I should start before it came.  
For your sake, I wish it were otherwise but  
I fear it is not. As to the house, it must be just  
as you and the girls can decide. I fear I  
shall have no interest in it, except through you.  
It is like tearing my heart asunder to write it  
and even now, I feel almost like saying  
that if you request it, I will throw everything  
aside and come as soon as the book is out.

My judgement leads me to negative it, but  
to tell you the truth I am broken hearted for  
my wife. I have had none since I lost  
the legacy. It seems as if your nature had  
been utterly transformed by that misfortune.  
I cannot get to you. Your life and mine have  
been separated and now a harsh fate seems  
to have put a further bar between us. I see