

Granitiville Nov^r 17th 1851.

Dear Friends,

I have had the pleasure of receiving several communications from you and hope, notwithstanding my remissness, to read many more from the same source. I trust you will not think, because I have not written you, that I take no pleasure in your letters or that I do not possess those feelings for you, which all brother whose hearts are in the right place, do have for each other quite the contrary let me assure you. The northern mail arrives here at night and when it brings any thing for me and I get fairly settled down in my big chair before the fireplace filled with "light wood & black jack" let me say in all sincerity, that I feel very much indeed obliged to you for the letter in my hands. When it comes to writing myself however I must confess that I do not feel like writing as I did in days gone by. the hard knocks I have had to take in the (rightly named) Battle of life has knocked what little poetry and, I had almost said, kind feeling I did possess clean out of me - the long and short of it is, I like to hear from you all, but it is hard work for me to write any thing but a business letter. I have taken the responsibility of

of adopting rather an eccentric, ^{course} in removing
my family to this distant country, far from friends,
the scenes and associations of earlier years, but I
believe I made a good move in coming here, we
find many intelligent and well bred families to
associate with, which makes it pleasant for
Lucertia as well as myself, and I am getting on
in my business exceedingly well, so well that
our Agent - an old "Scotsman" - a scientific manu-
facturer who has written a treatise on manuf-
says (not to me) I am the best manager of
~~Carding in America~~ - don't let this get
talked of out - I like this climate
better than New England, we are sure of good
cool nights in the summer while the days
are not so excessively hot as in N.E. - The
winter here are nothing comparatively - the
saying here is, "three hard frosts and a rain" &
it is a very true one - we have three or four days
"right smart" cold, cold enough to make the
water skin over a little (she came in the other
morning, highly pleased with a little sheet of ice
she had found in a dish) then it will mod-
erate away and be warm or rain like scissors
in fact the winter here may be termed
the "rainy season" - as for your lowering, black
everlasting ~~leaden~~ looking skies and
showing, shaking, howling, wailing winds and
weather, we have none of it here - I like this

and often - our right regard to father, mother and all family
and the thoughts of your sloshy snow - oversteeped
out feet and all the attending etceteras sickens
me, but I believe Susanna thinks it would be
a fine idea to paddle round in a snow bank
for a while - — Nowhere I suppose John keeps
you informed of all things concerning this
part of the Country, climate, products, manners
& customs &c therefore I will not bore you,
Our family are well and in good spirits. Ella,
Willis and the little one are hearty as bucks,
Will is as fat as a butch boy and about as
ready for a fight. He says I must buy a pony
for him and a "black fillin" to take care of it -
Well Jim I understand you are not well if
you can get away for a month or two from
aboard the cars and come down to see us. I
think you need such an excursion - try it -
You say you want a Mercantile education
that is well enough but not strictly necessary
a large majority of the richest, smartest and most
successful business men in this country have
been and are men whose education is inferior
to your own. My advice to you is, learn well your
trade - book keeping - but get thoroughly versed in the
manufacturing going on around you - how much
every machine will do - how much the card & many
spins &c costs per yd of cloth - how much the materials
cost - become a good judge of wool, cotton etc, compare
the cost of the Middle ^{etc} goods with other concerns in fact
and on comparing to know what we may expect

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Graniteville Nov 17th 1851

Br Jeemes,

I have had the pleasure of receiving several communications from you and hope, notwithstanding my remissness, to read many more from the same source. I trust you will not think, because I have not written you, that I take no pleasure in your letters or that I do not want possess those feelings for you which all brothers whose hearts are in the right place, do have for each other, - quite the contrary let me assure you. The northern mail arrives hereat night and when it brings any thing for me and I get fairly settled down in my big chair before the fireplace filled with "light wood & blackjack", let me say in all sincerity, that I feel very much indeed obliged to you for the letter in my hands. When it comes to writing myself however I must confess that I do not feel like writing as I did in days gone by, the Hard knocks I have had to take in the (rightly named) Battle of life has knocked what little poetry and, I had almost said, kind feeling I did possess clean out of me - the long and short of it is I like to hear from you all, but it is hard for me to write anything but a business letter. I have taken the responsibility of adopting rather an eccentric course in removing my family to this distant country, far from friends, the scenes and associations of earlier years, but I believe I made a good move in coming here, we find many intelligent and well-bred families to associate with, which makes it pleasant for Lucretia as well as myself and I am getting on in my business exceedingly well, so well that our Agent- an old "Scottsman"- a scientific manufacturer who has written a treatise on manuf- says (not to me) "I am the best manager of carding in America- don't let this get talked of out- I like this climate better than New England, we are sure of good cool nights in the summer

while the days are not so excessively hot as in N.E.- The winters here are nothing comparatively- the saying here is, "three hard frosts and a rain" & it is a very true one- we have three or four days "right smart" cold, cold enough to make the water skim over a little (Ella came in the other morning, highly pleased with a little sheet of ice she had found in a dish) then it will moderate away and be warm or rain like scissors in fact the winter here may be termed the "rainy season"- As for your lowering, black everlasting leaden looking skies and shivering, shaking, howling roaring winds and weather, we have none of it here- I like this and the thoughts of your slushy snow- overshoes wet feet and all the attending et ceteras sickens me, but I believe Lucretia thinks it would be a fine idea to waddle around in a snow bank for a while-- However I suppose John keeps you informed of all things concerning this part of the country, climate, products, manners & customs etc therefore I will not bore you. Our family are well and in good spirits. Ella, Willis and the little one are hearty as bucks, Will is as fat as a butcher boy and about as ready for a fight- he says I must buy him a pony for him and a "black fellow" to take care of it-

Well Jim I understand you are not well, if you can get away for a month or two jump aboard the cars and come down to see us. I think you need such an excursion- try it-- You say you want a Mercantile education, that is well enough but not strictly necessary a large majority of the richest, smartest and most successful business men in this country have been and are men whose education is inferior to your own- My advice to you is, learn well your trade- bookkeeping- but get thoroughly versed in the manufacturing going on around you- how much every machine will do- how much the cardg. weavg. spng. &c costs per yd of cloth- how much the materials cost- become a

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good judge of wool, cotton etc. compare the cost of the Middle^{sx}-
goods with other concerns- in fact look about you and get all
the knowledge of your business in particular that you can obtain
for "Knowledge makes the man"--Yours Benj- write soon and often
Our high regards to father, mother and all hands

6-26-65

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In 1846 Benjamin Porter Battles married Lucretia Olds in Lowell, Massachusetts. It was the 16th of December. Ella Battles, Benjamin and Lucretia's first child was born in Lowell a year after their marriage, December 12, 1847 and Willis two years later.

Benjamin Porter Battles, sr. was interested in the manufacture of cotton goods. With his twin brother Joseph and others he started about 1811 a small cotton factory in Easton, Mass. but soon removed to Dorchester and was employed by the Dorchester Cotton and Iron Factory until his removal to New Market, New Hampshire in 1824, where he was engaged by the Newmarket Manufacturing Company until 1846.

Benjamin Porter Battles, jr. seems to have followed in his father's profession, for from Lowell he moves to the South three years after his marriage. At leaving Lowell he was presented with a large Bible and this letter of esteem.

Respected Friend

As you are now about to leave us and go to fill some other station in life, to form new acquaintances, new associations and to make new friends. We present you with this Holy Bible as a token not only of our respect and esteem for your kindness towards us and for the faithful discharge of your duty as an Overseer but also as a token of the great regard and interest we feel for your highest interests, your greatest happiness and your best good. We ask you to read it through with care and as you peruse its sacred pages may heavens richest blessings smile upon you and may you be led to seek an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away.

This must have been an attractive offer to take charge of a cotton mill that took this little family South so far from family and friends. In 1850 the family is living in Graniteville, South Carolina.