

From Florella Brown Adair to Samuel Lyle Adair

[page 1]

Grafton Sabbath eve

Feb[.] 17 1861

My Dear Husband,

You see by this date & place that I am again in Grafton. I learned by a note from Marian inclosed in your letter of Jan[.] 25 that she was quite unwell & wished me to hurry my visit in Lafayette & get back to stay with her[.] I came yesterday from Mr[.] S. Strenchams in Litchfiel[d] in the stage[.] found it terrable bad going & snow most of the way.

I got here about 4 oclock, & found Marian very sick. She was taken very suddenly with severe pain in one eye & then in the head[.] The Physecian called it the Neuralga. it run down her neck & back & produced the most excruciating pain[.] her neck & sholders were covered with a prickly red rash & after the rash came out, the pain spread all over her body, her feet & limbs became swollen & very painful, & this is her present condition. We can hardly touch her any whear without causing a scream, her systim seems to be in a very inflamitory state, much like inflamitory [MS. illegible] but the Doctor does not call it that.

Steven & Martha watched here [her] friday night. Adison & a young Lady last night & I expect to with Adison tonight, & shall as I get a few minutes time

[page 2]

write to you shall try to finish this & send by morning mail.

We are all well have had some colds & cough[.] I have had at night quite a sore throat but feel well days. I use salt & water applied to the neck & take it. if you are troubled with sore throat you & Emma better try it. I found mary sick in Lafayette & a number died but noone beside what I mentioned in my last letter that we were particularly acquainted with. Old Mr[.] Spitzer & several others were not expected to live when I left. Mrs[.] deacon Williams was very low & a child of Mr[.] Randels. Mr[.] Canfield there new Doctor was very sick[.] I should not be surprised to hear of their deaths any time.

In my last written in Lafayette I gave you a little sketch of how my time was spent there & I intended to have you on in the same way from place to place as I had done, but I find from your letter of the 28 & 30 which I found here that your mind still runs on the past & both the letters first 25, & then 28 are a repitition nearly of the same ideas. I feel grieved that I cannot make myself understood better, But feeling that Life is uncertain & that we may never meet again in this world I will try to express my sincere feelings to you, & if possable relieve your mind of the load & of suffering you say you have endured because

[page 3]

I did not answer that letter. at the time I really expected to.

In one letter I gave several reasons, why I did not write at that time, perhaps they were not good reasons to your mind, & I am free to admit that I am sorry that I let the time pass without writing & if I had it to do over again I would do differently from what I did. I am sorry too, your mind & Emmas have been so affected towards me, & as you plainly say you find it hard to believe what I say, I do not want to say harsh things or do any thing that may grieve or ailenate your feelings & if I have at any time I am willing to confess with all my heart.

In all that has passed, I can say sincerly & honestly that I have never designedly wronged you, & if I have by negligence or any other cause made you feel anxious or caused mental suffering, I am sorry. You speak as though there was a mistery about it, some thing I was unwilling to tell all about[.] now there is nothing, & never has been, but what I am willing to have you know & have told repeatedly in my letters. If you do not believe what I say why ask me to say it over in almost all my letters. Again you say "immagination has had a wide range.["] I hope you do not immagin that my affection for you or my family has in the least abated by my staying hear. if you do, you have not understood my

[page 4]

feelings[.] If you have had such thoughts, they must be creaturs of the immagination truly, I can honestly say, & if it were the last I even should say to you, that I never loved my family[,] each member of it, or my Husband any better than I do now & have ever since I left home.

Perhaps you may not believe it, but I have & tried to do what seemed to me best for my family & myself ever since I left Kansas[.] I may have failed in judgement, but I have not intended to do wrong & have tried to do right. I do not lay up any thing you have said, & so far as I have said any thing that seemed to you to be harsh or uncalled for, I ask your forgiveness.

I am sorry that so much of our time & so many letters have been filled up with what seems to others to be a quarrel about something & they cannot tell what. Marian opened one of your letters while I was at Lafayette to see if it was necessary to remail it & "she said that she was scart [scared] to see how you felt." when I was at Hudson several asked me "if you were unwilling that I should come home & why you seemed to express so much unwillingnes to have us stay now we were here."

When I was in Lafayette people enquired a great deal about what you said about things in Kansas[.] I could not tell much. I have some money for the church, which was given me there but think it best to keep till I go.

*[written sideways in the left margin of page 1]*

I have sent for Charles to come on here the forepart of March & if all are well at that time we shall start south to Xenia first & on to other friends[.] Charles does not seem as contented & happy as Ada[.] she tells people that she wants to see her Pa but does not care about going back to Kansas.

*[written sideways in the left margin of page 2]*

If my letters cause you pain, I hope you will burn them & not read them over & over & make yourself sick or keep you awake, but forget & forgive all, & believe me as ever your affectionate Florella[.]

[P.S.] I shall try to go to Oberlin as soon as I can leave Marian[.]

*[written sideways in the left margin of page 3]*

It is late & I must soon wake up Adison & try to get a little sleep myself[.] you & Emma I trust are well & sleep. Ada is well, dreaming I guess[.] if Marian had been well I thought of going to Kansas but now I think it not likely[.]

*[written sideways in the left margin of page 4]*

I do not tell you this to make you feel bad & call forth letters of explanation, but to ask if it would not be as well to let it drop & try both to do different[.]