

Ashbourne 12 Month 5. 1833

My dear Theodore

Had not the cares of the world measureably interfered to prevent my writing to thee yesterday - thy acceptable letter should not have remained a post unanswered - but if the truth must be told it found me on a market day busily exchanging the iron of mammon for the store of Ceres. - Better late than never I wish thee all joy - and am sorry the rules of the post office do not permit enclosures as I should certainly transmit a due quantum of frankincense & myrrh - but in lieu thereof I have scribbled some nonsense on the last page of this epistle which thou may peruse if thou have time between this day & this day six months. I need not assure thee that I rejoice very sincerely with thee & Hannah - I hope thou gives me credit for it. -

If young James Henry have all the perfection thou ascribes to him - (especially his father's beauty) he must be a rare child. I have not yet acquired a taste for nursing so as to be a judge of what is beautiful or sublime in the infant countenance - but from the raptures of nurser I judge it must be a very enchanting occupation. It is all the same story with them the world over. Don't be frightened by their contradictions - nor wonder why a beautiful child may be like an Owl - saving thy presence for reminding thee of a cognomen which thou wilt not be ashamed to carry: - and do not think that I make any wicked allusion to the Owl & her young ones! -

I can well imagine the state you must be in for I have witnessed the arrival of many heirs - I know the peculiar interest of the matter - and I believe I have some faint glimmering of ideas on that confused state

of feeling of which thou speaks - though it is quite impossible
fully to comprehend their extent till one is first initiated. - I
have not yet learned to comprehend much simpler matters
connected with the affection - and why should I know anything
of the more abstruse? - I have no clear ~~idea~~ idea of Love, what
it is - how it is felt - how to get into it - or in fact any thing
about it. I understand love to sisters - to parents & to plants (!!)
but farther I cannot go - I have no distant idea of the
thing usually called love - and I doubt sometimes if I have
sense even to understand it. - I suppose all this mystery
is now clear as daylight to thee - & I must only wait till
my turn comes, if it ever come. -

Richard will I presume give you good accounts of Liddy -
she continues steadily to mend. - If "Aunt Betsey" answered the
boys rhyming address I think she must ~~amuse~~ amuse mine too - tell
her so. how odd it seems to me to hear thee calling her "Aunt" &
her so. how odd it seems to me to hear thee calling her "Aunt" &
"Uncle Eben" seems odder still. - I hope Thos Cole is better - I send
him very badly in not answering & note I had from him some time
ago - months I believe - procrastination is my only excuse: &
then forgetfulness - & then both together. - My love to Betsey
& Mary & my love & congratulations to the grandfather &
grandmother in their new honors. - Mind and write
to me shortly as thou hast promised. - I had the honor
of introduction to thy "cousin" R D Webb's wife - and like
her much: it is however rather a pity that she clips her
words. - A bashful stranger - (that's me) - is thus in danger
of not understanding the fair one - & so has to ask
twice - Thine very dear Theodore always
affectionately Attended



Harvey, William H. 1833. "Harvey, William Henry Dec. 5, 1833 [to Theodore Suloit]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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