

Mother is Sally Saunders Clayton Leftwich Smith b. 9-28-1807

To son. William Jasper Smith b.1-26-1830

New wife: Hannah Matilda Fithian b.9-18-1840 Sutter, CA

m. 11-6-1856 Amador Co. CA

Lynchburg, Virginia

January 25, 1857

William-my ever dear and beloved child--I received your kind and affectionate letter a few days ago, and hasten to answer it. I was delighted to hear from you, as you well know I always am, and congratulate you with all my heart on the most important event of your life, your marriage. You know that I never wished you to remain single and as you are old enough and fully competent to judge for yourself, I feel satisfied you have made a judicious choice, therefore I fully approve of your conduct--my own heart tells me that no man can live happily in this life without a good wife. My only objection to your marriage is that I fear I shall never see you again. But, my dear child, you must not forsake your Mother entirely, but continue to love her as a child ought to love the Mother who gave him birth, who watched over his helpless infancy, who taught the first sound that fell from his lips, and who endeavored by precept and example to instill into his mind principles that would do honor to his station in society. Think not, because I write in this strain, that I am jealous of your love for your wife--NO, above all things, love your wife, cherish her with that tender affection you can have for no other.

And now, as you have just entered the marriage state my dear children, suffer your Mother, who above all things desires your happiness, to give you a word of advise. You are aware there is no perfection in this life. We all have our faults, our peculiarities, our educational prejudices, therefore, we must be forebearing, one with another. Let each enjoy their own opinions, cultivate a spirit of forbearance and indulgence, and by all means beware of the first cross word. You think now,--"Oh Mother, that caution is unnecessary.* I know it is while the honeymoon lasts, but time will cool the ardour of your love, though I trust it will become more pure and calm, more deeply genuine, as you become better acquainted with each others imperfections, and learn more fully to prize each others good qualities. Study to avoid anything like a dispute, even in fun. To indulge in these things we naturally become accustomed to it, and it is a growing evil, like all other evils, study to please each other in all things. Two persons who have chosen each other out of all the world of mankind with the design to be each others mutual comfort and enjoyment, have in that action, bound themselves to be good humored, affable, forgiving, patient and charitable.

Now, my dear children, if any little thing occurs to wound your feelings, don't ponder and pout over it until you make a mountain our of a mole-hill, but in love, immediately have a mutual explanation. Do this privately. Let no third person share in your confidences. Make a solemn covenant with each other, that you will have no secrets one from the other, that you will live alone for each others happiness, and if you will take my advice, your *** life will be one of perpetual and unalloyed felicity--God bless you, and may you live in this world so as to reap a blessed reward in Heaven is the sincere prayer of your Mother.

I hired Burwell out for \$200.00 Eda for seventy-five, amid Norburn for \$175. The rest of the slaves are at home and all well except Amanda who has the chills occasionally►. I was greatly disappointed that the boys had decided not to come home in the Spring--I wish you would try to prevail upon them to come. It would be so delightful to have you all together once more. Surely you do not intend to remain in California all your lives----I have often wished that the gold had never been discovered.

Be sure and send your daguerreotypes. I am very anxious to see your little Lillie. If she is as pretty as Leslie says, I don't wonder at your falling in love with her--Kiss her for me--not for yourself--and tell her to write to her unknown Mother. Be sure and tell me all about yourself and the other boys. Give my love to all of them and remember your Mother never sleeps without first committing you to the hands of an omnipresent God. Mother

P.S. Rose(Aunt Rose Glasscoek) has a kind, affectionate, and tender husband. I only wish that all my daughters may be as fortunate, but, as your old grandma used to say, "If a woman can get only a tolerably good husband she ought to be very thankful."