

Ms 124  
50  
Ravenswood. March 23, 1839 -

My Dearest Wife

I am at My Cousin's Gorham Davenport  
whom I think you recollect, He is a Merchant in  
Mobile, but lives about 4 miles back, on the Spring  
Hill road - He has about 12 acres of land and a snug little  
Cottage, keeps two horses, two cows though unfortunately  
neither of them gives milk now, & cultivates a fine garden.  
His wife is a charming woman - they lost their only  
child, a son about 3 years old, in 1837 of small pox -  
Her parents were French who fled from St. Domingo  
during the insurrection. - He insisted on my staying with  
him while here, For two days we have had rain - this  
morning it is clear & cooler, the wind I believe from  
the north. My health is still improving I think - I  
want exercise for the last two days the rain has kept  
me in doors. I think I shall go next week to Pen-  
=sacola to my brother at Montgomery, -

Mr. D. rides into the city in the mor-  
=ning & back at night in a light wagon - He is now  
working in his garden, as he does every morning before  
he goes in - sowing beets & other garden vegetables - His  
garden is as forward now, as yours in Portland is in  
May - I should think the Season here was full  
two months in advance - the potatoes, corn, onions

Ravenswood. March 23, 1839 -

My Dearest Wife

I am at My Cousin's Gorham Davenport  
whom I think you recollect, He is a Merchant in  
Mobile but lives about 4 miles back on the Spring  
Hill road - He has about 12 acres of land and a Snug little  
Cottage, keeps two horses, two cows though unfortunately  
neither of them gives milk now, & cultivates a fine garden.  
His wife is a charming woman - they lost their only  
child, a Son about 3 years old in 1837 of small pox -  
Her parents were French who fled from St. Domingo  
during the insurrection. - He insisted on my Staying with  
him while here.

For two days we have had rain - this  
morning it is clear & cooler, the wind I believe from  
the north. My health is still improving I think - I  
want exercise for the last two days the rain has kept  
me in Doors. I think I shall go next week to Pen-  
=sacola & to my brothers at Montgomery. -

Mr. D. rides into the city in the mor-  
=ning & back at night in a light wagon - He is now  
working in his garden as he does every morning before  
he goes in - sowing beets & other garden vegetables - His  
garden is as forward now, as yours in Portland is in  
May - I should think the Season here was full  
two months in advance - the potatoes, corn, onions

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
MMN # 99347

Date: March 23, 1839

Description: K.B. Sewall description of Mobile, Alabama



Cabbages &c. are quite high - & we had this morning fine  
radishes for breakfast. - His wife is out helping him  
hoe & plant - in a few moments we shall ride into  
town, I have some little business to do there & at 1 o'clock  
I hope to get a letter from my Dearest Lucretia - I have  
heard nothing and I feel very anxious - This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> March  
if you had written me even on the 13<sup>th</sup> - fifteen days  
after I sailed from New York I should have it to day -  
I fear, you are ill, pray do, on receipt of this write  
me often - How I wish you were with me - You  
would enjoy this climate - I think it would have a good  
effect on your hearing - but it is time now to go - I  
shall take this in with me & perhaps fill it up &  
send it by to day's mail - Adieu My Dearest wife -  
Our Darling little Eunice can now talk I suppose quite well -  
Kiss her for her papa & say I have preserved the wings  
of a flying fish for her - & I think I love very much  
God bless you both & preserve us all - you ever affectionate

Afternoon in the City - I was disappointed in getting no  
Letters from the north - nor papers - it makes me homesick -  
It has been a charming day - The gentlemen that I  
had letters to I have found very pleasant - Two of them  
Lawyers - one a merchant - Mr. Aikin - Mr. Jones -  
& Mr. Taylor - There with my cousins from my  
acquaintance so far in Mobile - As to Mobile it is  
rather a pleasant city - the land rises gradually

cabbages &c are quite high - & we had this morning fine  
radishes for breakfast. - His wife is out helping him  
hoe & plant - in a few moments we shall ride into  
town. I have some little business to do there & at 1 o'clock  
I hope to get a letter from my Dearest Lucretia - I have  
heard nothing and I feel very anxious - This is the 23 March  
& if you had written me even on the 13<sup>th</sup> - fifteen days  
after I sailed from New York I should have it to day -  
I fear, you are ill, pray do on receipt of this write  
me & often - How I wish you were with me - You  
would enjoy this climate - I think it would have a good  
effect on your hearing - but it is time now to go - I  
shall take this with me & perhaps fill it up &  
send it in to day's mail - ADieu My Dearest wife -  
Our Darling little Eunice can now talk I suppose quite well -  
Kiss her for her papa & say I have preserved the wings  
of a flying fish for her - & I think of her very much  
God bless you both & preserve us all - you ever affectionate

Sewall

Afternoon in the City - I was disappointed in getting no  
Letters from the North - nor papers - it makes me homesick -  
It has been a charming day - the gentleman that I  
had letters to I have found very pleasant - Two of them  
Lawyers - one a merchant - Mr. Aikin - Mr. Jones -  
& Mr. Taylor - There with my cousins from my  
acquaintances so far in Mobile - As to Mobile it is  
rather a pleasant city - the land rises gradually



back from the Bay - & then extends in all directions nearly level  
covered where it is not cleared and settled with the long leaved  
pine ( *pinus palustris* ) - it has some of the ap=  
pearance of the plains at Brunswick - Many of the  
buildings are very pretty - The Dwellings are mostly of wood  
and painted white - The most are one story Cottages  
painted white - but there are many very handsome  
two story ones - The Merchants & Planters Bank  
and the Barton Academy are very handsome buildings  
The principal retail fancy trade Streets are Dauphin  
& Royal - The latter is parallel with the River  
the 3<sup>d</sup> back on it are the Hotels Banks - Post  
Office - Court House & Lawyers Offices - The  
finest Street for width & extent is Govern-  
ment Street, which runs at Right angles  
to Royal St & directly west - it is wider than  
Broadway (or as wide) as long ~~as~~ though the ~~houses~~  
~~and of it~~ houses are few and far between on the  
most of it - The Barton Academy is on this Street &  
a handsome new presbyterian Church - There are  
some delightful Cottages & gardens on the outskirts  
of the city - Spring Hill is about 7 miles back  
that is West. There is a small island just in front  
of the city which gives it the appearance of being built  
on a River - I promise that my next letter should be  
neater - but I fear you can not commend this on that score.  
again Adieu my Dearest Wife ever yours  
K.B.S.

back from the bay - & then extends in all directions nearly level  
covered where it is not cleared and Settled with the long leaved  
pine ( *pinus palustris* ) - it has some of the ap=  
pearance of the plains at Brunswick - Many of the  
buildings are very pretty - The Dwellings are mostly of wood  
and painted white - the most are one story Cottages  
painted white - but there are many very handsome  
two story ones - The Merchants & Planters Bank  
and the Barton Academy are very handsome buildings  
The principal retail fancy trade Streets are Dauphin  
& Royal - The latter is parallel with the River  
& the 3<sup>d</sup> back on it are the Hotels Banks - Post  
Office - Court House & Lawyers offices - The  
finest Street for width & extent is Govern-  
ment Street, which runs at Right angles  
to Royal st & directly west - it is wider than  
Broadway (or as wide) & as long as through the upper  
end of it houses are few and far between on the  
most of it - the Barton Academy is on this Street &  
a handsome new presbyterian Church - there are  
some delightful Cottages & gardens on the outskirts  
of the city - Spring Hill is about 7 miles back  
that is West - there is a Small island just in front  
of the city which gives it the appearance of being built  
on a River - I promise that my next letter should be  
neater - but I fear you can not commend this on that score.  
again ADieu my Dearest Wife ever your

K.B.S.



to care of Gorham Davenport - Mobile. Give  
my regards to all. To our dear Eunice I can only  
send a kiss for that she will understand better  
than words. God bless you both. Your own Dear  
Sewall

[continued from bottom]

to care of Gorham Davenport - Mobile - Give  
my regards to all. To our Dear Eunice I can only  
Send a Kiss for that she will understand better  
than words, God bless you both. Your own Dear  
Sewall

[address sideways]

Mrs. K. B. Sewall  
Care Ezekiel Day Esq  
Portland  
Maine

P.S. I see in the papers the news from the frontier - &  
that you have been in Maine much excited - I  
hope it may lead to a speedy settlement of the  
Boundary line & with bloodshed. Do write me -  
& direct to care of B. C. Sewall - Montgomery or

P.S. I see in the papers the news from the frontier - &  
that you have been in Maine much excited - I  
hope it may lead to Speedy Settlement of the  
Boundry line & with bloodshed - Do write me -  
& direct to care of B. C. Sewall - Montgomery or