

Ms 124
51
Mobile, Wednesday 3^d April 1839

My Dearest Wife,

To day I start for Montgomery on board the Steam boat Factor, I shall probably return in two weeks. you can therefore direct all letters after the receipt of this to Mobile, care of Gorham Davenport Esq.

My health is pretty good, still I think improving. The weather is said to be backward & cold on some of the cooler days, I have felt the effect of the weather slightly. The country looks charmingly. The road from town to Mrs. D's is lined with Cottages & fine gardens, a great deal of the way it is lined on both sides with the Cherokee & Monthly rose, now in bloom. They cover the fences & present a beautiful appearance - the Cherokee rose has a beautiful white flower - the monthly rose a red flower - the monthly as you may suppose from its name, blooms every month - O I would that you were here to enjoy the ride with. Last night there was a Ball in town to the Military. I had an invitation, in fact I have had one to two Balls since I came - [?] ones - but I thought it not prudent to accept - The D's went. Mrs. D's mother lives in town & she stays with her whenever she attends Balls or parties. So last night I rode in alone in the carriage & was Major Domo at the Cottage - I have already told you how

[Handwritten note on the left margin:]
P.S. I am engaged to dine at Madame Follin's the mother of Mrs. Davenport to-day. she is a very pleasant old lady - Mrs. D. & a cousin will be there - & Dr. Davees formerly of Philadelphia. Kiss our Darling Eunice - Your KBS

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 99348

Date: April 3, 1839

Description: K.B. Sewall on settling in Mobile, Alabama

kind Mr. & Mrs. D. have been to me, and I must again allude to it. I fear I shall never be able to repay them. Mrs. D. is a charming woman I know you will love her if you ever become acquainted. & if she should go north this Summer I hope you may become acquainted with her. I wish she could stop with you a while. If you were keeping house, I should insist on it. They think some of going north this Summer.

In my last I spoke of our residing here. That letter, however, I have not sent. I will now speak of my prospects. There is a firm here (one of the first in the city) by the name of Stewart Thornton & Easton - Lawyers. Thornton has just retired from the firm. Mr. Stewart & Easton I have seen. Mr. S. is from Philadelphia. They want some one to supply the place of Thornton - and there is some prospect that I may have an offer from them, either to come in as partner or at first on a Salary. Mr. Stewart is one of the first Lawyers in the place. He is a gentlemanly and agreeable man - & I understand from Mr. D. that he is pleased with my appearance, if now I can make a favorable arrangement with them, such as will at once give myself & family a Support, will it not be my duty to accept it - and will not my wife under all the circumstances, judge it best for us both? I have labored to long for nothing that I think I ought not to omit any

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opportunity that will at once reward my labor, with
a Support. And on the Score of health I sincerely believe
we shall neither of us Suffer by the change. At least
will you join me here for next winter on trial - a
winter residence here will certainly be good for you. &
the next Summer you can Spend in Portland with your
Parents. They will not object to this arrangement - I
believe I can not do better than to Settle in Mobile -
But how shall we live here? In a cottage (very small) at
a few miles out of the city, with a garden & potato patch -
having a cow & raising our own poultry & all our vegetables
in a pleasant neighborhood - I can take care of the garden
& ride in and out (Keeping a horse) cheaper than We
can live in New York at board - Mr. Davenport says
it did not cost him Six hundred - the first year he lived in
the country. He had two Servants - one horse - one Cow -
Wife & son - her mother part of the time. His brother or
Mr. Tobin (a young man in the Store) every Sunday. And
I can assure us to live as they do is very pleasant -
We could at first live cheaper than they do - for we
should have less company. They always have friends
at Dinner once a week - You must not think by
living in the country here is meant the same as living
in the country in Maine - though you might be
four miles from the city the land is all divided into
small lots from 5 to 10 or 20 acres & there is a contin-
uous neighborhood. & the ground being sandy is always
quite dry & the road & walks good. But my paper is full

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#1500 - I had
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28 acres for 1000.
paying 500 of it
between this & Jany
next & the balance
in one or two years -
The necessary build-
ings could be put
up so as to make
it comfortable for
500\$. - Mr. D.
says it is very cheap
he says he would
pay for 10 acres
three years ago &
most of the land
between him & the city
is held at 200 per
acre, more at 300.
This is the whole story
so far - I shall write
again from Montgom-
ery. Adieu, adieu
your own always.

T. B. Sewall
April 3^o 1829

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

You may show this to your father if you please & do
write me on receipt of it by mail your whole mind on
this subject - I shall expect a letter from you at Mont-
gomery. & one in answer to this as soon as the Mail can
bring me one. - A lot & house can be bought for -
about 2000. Dollars - within about 4 miles of the city - land
can be bought 5 to 10 acres & a house built for about =

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[Address sideways at center]
Mrs. K. B. Sewall
Care E. Day Esq
Double Portland
Maine

[sideways at bottom]
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