

Dear Mrs. May

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

My dear lady

I have been informed of your great family  
by affliction - through which indeed to overwhelm you with  
grief, and make the future even more gloomy than even  
when the question is forced upon us by such visitations,  
What can we promise ourselves? I know the  
strength of your parental feelings - your anxious  
and concentrated devotion to all that concerns the  
health, prosperity and happiness of your dear ones,  
and consequently must know the sorrow and  
anguish caused by the sudden death, almost at  
the same moment, of so many dear ones. To  
attempt to offer consolation to a family thus be-  
reaved would indeed be a vain effort. I might add  
word upon word, and sentence upon sentence without  
affording further comfort to you and them than that to  
be derived from the assurance of my sympathy and  
prayer, the sincerity and ability of which you would  
know not so much from what I might now say, as  
from my past feelings and conduct. Let us then  
fore, as far as possible, endeavour to banish all fruit-  
less sorrow, and seek to find religious resignation  
and profit under these and similar afflictive dis-  
persations of Providence. The history of the past  
few years is crowded with sad and melancholy  
changes in our social and domestic circles, as well  
as our pecuniary ruin, and disastrous revolutions in  
our political relations. Would that they ever now  
were at an end, instead of our being in the midst of the  
most gloomy and painful

For more than a week I have been visited by the severest of my attacks, confining me to the bed almost entirely for the time mentioned. To my surprise I went through another Epidemic, not however, without the assistance and aid of Morphine and Stimulants, my eyesight is failing, my inability to get up and down Stairs increases, and the necessary exposure would subject me to the use of more Opium and Alcohol than when out of practice. Consequently I can not look to my profession as a means of support. The wants and sufferings of the people of Galveston lost since were however, call for my humble efforts, and I hope I did some good to the poor soldiers, and the poor generally. I know not what I will, or can do this winter. Employment is not only a thing desirable, but with me a necessity, moral, and pecuniary, if physically I could follow what I am best suited for by education and habits.

My son Weymouth spoke to your hospitality when he was in your County. He is now in Brownsville. I shall be most happy to hear from you frequently. Anything connected with you and yours will interest me. I hope to learn that the rest of your family have escaped the Fever, & are now in the enjoyment of full and vigorous health.

Remember me in the kindest manner to them all and accept the assurances of my friendship.

Yours truly  
W. V. Bennett

Judge W. Jefferson  
I am at present stopping in Galveston, but direct your letters to Houston. They will be forwarded if I am not there.