

The Filson Historical Society

Mss. Silliman, Susan (Forbes), d. 1878.

A

.5584 Letters to sister-in-law, Hen-
4 rietta (Silliman) Dana.

1849

45x6

3 items.

Susie Nov 18th 1849

but I only miss her in a pleasant way baby
sleeps all the time & is as good as it is pos-
sible for a baby to be. He begins to look a little like
Alice though we think he may have black eyes
as they have only a brown here now. Our room
is rendered very comfortable by two easy
chairs & the next thing we want is
decent-light they use Stearine candles
& though better than tallow they flicker
so badly that one eyes feel rather sandy
after writing by them hoping soon to hear from
you though my two last don't deserve an
answer you affix sister Susan Benjie is going to
say his own say to James but I must send my love
to him & Fanny too. Dear father - I notice what

you say about Seaman's salt hair not seen since
yet. When did he write you to go? When he arrives I
will give him the information - The journal I have read
with much pleasure & think it an uncommonly fine one in
the Miscellaneous department. I will find time to send you something
more about the effect of magnetic lodestone etc. health
from the fragment Paul, per August. Susan & I have translated one
article on his key & growth of the Chin. Cichona tree a copy of which
I will send you (it was made for the need. sent here). I rejoice to know
that you are getting much good out of pleasure, & it is about my best
rejoice to know. I am perfectly satisfied with what he may do in
the garden or ground of B.S. in moving or planting. The book I shall
look for impatiently. Be with add something to the parcel. Do not forget
that you owe us a telegraphic message one of these days and be
hope it soon may be like some of its predecessors sent in an opposite direction.
I am surprised at some result on the Magazine. I suppose the Geo. I was a
must have had some person inquired attached to it. It gave much more than
he is his age & 3? What of Holmstedt? Does it contain today or B.S. Has Croker
accepted answer of the nice like minerals? What did C. H. D. say to
the paper in New York? What fine or curious things did he bring? I'll be
on the trail of a fine lot of autographs has fallen at Salt River, up wh.
ancient them I intend to take C. H. D. on an aquatic excursion.
I rejoice that the printers have begun to diminish your cares on the Micrology
weekly page printer is one. I'll be copy of 4 numbers to assist of Nature just
will give & Blanchard. He'll be a summary will read it to you seeing my much to
your delight. I fancy it a just your duty to look for such an use as you will
with. They notified him a copy of your Zoology with a request that he not
notice it before the French or British Academy. He'll be read all accounts always
if you send this to Popay's egg and St. My & H. Popay's. Paul with a note to
the latter it will reach him of their at at Ketchikan. I'll be sure to find them
your papers on physical geography & Zoology. You affec. Pro. Thee

Nov 18/1849 Louisville Ky.
Sunday night 10 o'cl

My dear Mother
my last Sunday evening sheet
sent to your address was not working. I being
called a letter and I feel that I owe
you more than I can repay. You agreeable
and oft repeated favors have been one
of the great sources of my good spirits.
Indeed I have so much to be thankful
for that it would seem very wicked to
have one murmuring thought. I have
been shut up in this room for nearly 4
weeks & I should not much care if I was
to be here another month if my spirits &
consolation could be as good. I could
not wish more speedy & happy termination
to the evils that must be for you one of
my best & most beloved friends than
his fullness to my unmarried self. Dear
little Fanny will I suppose be as happy
as Alice. Susie does not give up her
devotion to the little blackie. He knows
her & Langens & crows whenever she comes
in his way. He had him up in my
room all this rainy Sunday morning.
It makes you feel sad when that
his mother says he is a slave & must

1576

he brought up to rough usage for when
he is grown he can never get anything
else so when she goes to the washroom
he is left in his basket to take care
of himself & brought out of doors with
out any covering even in damp
weather I have written a letter to Mrs
Tombull & to Mr. Skinner this week
and have not tonight much that
seems interesting or important to say
& yet I feel as you say desirous of
having my chat. Benjie has filled
up his letter with almost all that
is to be told. Mrs. Dr. Miller sent me
a beautiful bouquet of some of the
last roses of summer plucked in the
open air by a nice looking colored girl
today so near December too. The great-
est complaint that I have to make
against Louisville is the dirt the
children accumulate more dirt in
half a day here than in 3 days at
home indeed. if you could see Alice's
pantys and stockings you would think
she had been riding the charcoal man
"to unload" when we put the water
pitcher out the window to cool it

he comes filled with the floating
black particles & the children's arms &
faces are not more than 15 minutes
after washing free from dirt. The day
wedned at Mrs. Vandell Linte Sally
though very clean with a fresh white linen
apron after dinner looked as badly as any
linte Irish child you could pick up in
the streets but since I have been here
longer I excuse any amount of dirt on
others. Susie wished me to tell Fannie
about Martin's pigeon. The beloved black
baby whose name is Wyatt has a brother
2 years old and a linte boy gave him
a tawny blue pigeon Martin delighted
& happy played with it all day & at
night took it to sleep with him, in
the morning he ~~found~~ his pigeon would
not open its eyes nor move. His mother
told him it was dead, he said
no! no! sleepy but by & by when he
brought it something to eat & it would
not wake the poor little fellow
died very hard "because the pigeon
sleep all day" It has been mentioned
once or twice that Mrs. Bean had left

...pied with the children ^{Susie} lessons and
in the afternoon they walk out with
Mary Ann. She handles baby very nicely
Will your waiter get her your nurse show?
You must thank Julia for her letter
we did not see Faith's hand this
week The children look for a letter
to them whenever we receive one
We had a letter from Mrs. C this week
with one to Alice from Maria & Anna
& Nathie's wife to Susie. I have been to
church today heard ex-president
Munfrees who is here on a visit to his
son The walk was a short one the
church seats not very comfortable
the sermon rather prosy upon Jude
taking for text. that passage in 14th of
Luke about being bidden to a feast &
taking the lowest seat. & on my return
home I found I was much more tired
than I have been since the day
before my baby came and this must
be my apology to Faith and Julia
for not writing them to night
My best love to dear Mother and
many thanks for her gift to our baby
boy we hope she will write her name

in it - if possibly could - one letter - feel like it -
45x6
David will not be with you - Tell you are ready to see him at Christmas - Give your boy a kiss from me - who does he resemble? - I shall miss your pen - mine begins to look like Alice - no more - feet are like hers but - enough of baby talk - as well as all other - at this time

very much but yet rejoice that you were kept no longer in suspense and am much obliged to you for furnishing a playmate for my boy may they be as good friends and as sympathizing as their fathers. if they should be as good what cause for joy we proud mothers should feel if we live to see it.

My baby is not very playful his head is large but he was the smallest child at first though he has grown the fastest and has now more than doubled his weight. 2 days after my last letter to you was written Dr. Bean as we called her left and I had the comfort of my little one all to myself as he was such a right good sleeper he was no trouble at all

Your son has certainly made his debut in society before mine. only an hour old! quite too young for visiting! my young man being more

discretion waited until the day which
completed his 4th week and then
with the rest of the family, resided at
Dr. Vandell's where we spent a very pleas-
-ant day. There was no company but our-
selves Miss Eliza and Dr. David took petition
-ing that we should be invited there alone
which I considered quite a compliment.

The Dr. showed us some beautiful children
whose mouth and eyes were as perfect as
in the living frog. We had a novel
dessert - a large pound cake with
liquid sauce such as we serve with
apple dumplings and a large dish
of Calves foot-jelly with apples & nuts.
Everything is done moderately but in
good taste at Mrs. Vandell's & she & Miss
Eliza dress more like the Eastern ladies.
Mrs. Wm. Richardson a lady of greater
presence than Faith called and took
me to ride on Thursday last. out on
the Bardstown road as far as Cave
Hill Cemetery on the way we passed
a large field near Bear grass creek
where there were many thousands
of great-fat-pigs covering the hillside

It is said that there are over 40,000
waiting for the ^{coming of} cold weather to have
an end put to their existence.
It was one of the most disgusting
sights. The calls have accumulated
very fast and I have a tiresome
business in returning them yet Mrs.
Vandell has offered to go with me
so I shall have good company all the
time. I hear from Lottie quite regularly
every week she & Mr. D. were quite surprised
and offended that Mrs. Stoddard did
not come within friend Mrs. Knapp
as she had engaged to do.
Mr. Hollister brought the Banner and Ban-
ger for my husband to see and in the
burlesque of Father's lectures to the Freshman
my baby figures - How did they get
hold of that? the foolish fellows this
stock of wit is very small. What does
Harry say to the baby? Alice talks to
her brother & she & Susie are quite trouble-
some with their kisses for every time
they come in or go out of the room if he is
on the bed or the lap he must receive
a salutation. Every morning I am occu-

You must affect congratulating sister Susan

1849

Sun. Dec 2nd 1849

children and baby were in the nursery
 there but the former became almost
 famished waiting for their dinner until
 the older people had finished as we
 did not sit down till 4 o'clock
 we rode home by moonlight. which
 much delighted Alice. I asked old
 Peter the Coachman if he would come
 for me at Mr. Richardson's at 10, and
 bring me home He took off his hat
 made a profound obeisance and
 said "Please missus scuse me", I'm
 not sparish (g) my knees in prayin (g)
 and wants to go to the "love feast"
 "if missus will allow me off"
 So telling old Peter I was glad he
 thought of a life beyond this I "cused"
 him and decided to walk as it
 was only a short distance so dressed
 in my plaid green silk and my blue
 sash with a feather in it. I went and
 as Mrs. R. told me she should have
 supper at 9 supposed myself safe in
 returning in season but it was near
 10 and needing my baby to see I had
 to make my escape from the supper room

as soon as possible. The clergyman Mr. Malley was there and
 asked a blessing in that supper room. He was being called
 to order by a
 rap on the
 table from Mr.
 Richardson
 who stood with
 Mr. Malley at
 the head of the
 table but
 Dr. My paper's
 gone and I'm
 when she's party
 doing our best
 need facts
 letter and
 your self
 ten
 Dec 2nd 1849
 back com to
 James Haggerty
 of the bridge

from Church with Benjie and we
 read him parts of your letters and
 he begins to feel quite as if he must
 come every Sunday between while
 to know what news there is from
 our home. We are thankful to hear
 every week so good an account from
 each one that we love at home
 and are very happy to rejoice with you
 in your progress towards perfect recover
 I have still to report progress my
 self though I have taken a little
 cold and my diary apparatus has been
 a little out of order in consequence
 though it is now better and will I
 trust give me no worse trouble.
 Invitations to parties have poured in upon
 us this week. Tuesday evening we were
 asked out to Mrs. Hamilton Smith's place
 "Villula" 6 miles out of town, to which I of
 course sent a declination. Benjie went

Wednesday we were invited to Mr. Pease
Benton to dinner and to Mrs.
Clifton to pass the evening. The dinner
invitation we declined on account of its
being lecture day there must be no distrac-
tion of mind but we went in the evening
and this was my debut in society here.
The party was small and not so much
dress as I had expected to see in the
the part of the ladies. The supper was
in some respects different from those
at home in having meats of all kinds
and coffee is served around the
room by the young negroes after people
have finished eating and when the
ladies returned to the parlor the gentle-
men went back to eat in the supper
room if not to drink. ^{There were no drinking at all more noticeable than when with is unexcusable} Two elderly ladies
one looking not unlike Mrs. Denison
the other stout sat at the upper end of
the table while the gentlemen were
helping the rest they discussed
after the manner of the "pomological
society" all the goodies. My baby had
been quite good & I was none the
worse for this exertion though I did

not feel quite enough at home amid
so many strangers to enjoy myself.
The next day was Thanksgiving
and many visions of last year were
mingled with all my thoughts through-
out the day. Quite did I then think that
my Thanksgivings were to be kept in
Louisville hereafter. We were all to
go to Mrs. Wolfe's and there we met
a company of 16 among whom was
Mantell and Miss Eliza Gandyell.
The rest except the Vernon family
were strangers a Mrs. Sample who was
formerly of Pittsburgh told me that
she knew Mrs. Wardly, of Mr. W.'s second
wife she knew nothing herself but had
heard from her friends that she was
very popular. We had a very nice dinner
and agreeable company, a saddle of venison
and ham roast ducks boiled turkey
and all the vegetables this market
yields and for dessert ice cream,
a large pound and ditto sponge cake
Calves foot-jelly & plum pudding that
Mantell said tasted like home
comprised our bill of fare. My