

Dayton O. Aug. 4th.
1864

Dear Aunt-Mary,

Mother does not seem able to write, and my hand too trembles at what has become an unwonted task since dear Ones have gone; yet we are anxious to hear again from you concerning Edward. We hope you will give us the earliest intelligence of him and pray that it may relieve us of all fears for his safety.

Mother thinks he must have taken refuge with the Doctor's relations stranger cases of disappearance have been on record, and it does seem as if there was ground for hope.

We are now of us feeling well. Father will be down here with

the combined attack of heat and deep sorrow; poor old Father! he thinks of every body but himself. Mary has returned with Len and Lib, she was well while gone, but Len and Lib were both sick. Mother in her anxiety for Father and Mary bears her great sorrow better than we feared she would, but I know too well that, it will take years to even soften this blow, doubly strong! I felt at one time that with my lively children, and Howard and Mary I might yet cheer up, but now that that hope is taken from me, and now that sad faces are around me, it will be a harder task to regain the cheerfulness that ought to surround little children.

I do not give up, but am determined to try hard for it, remembering Luther's desire to have me do so, and Howard's last message "Poor dear Gus, he

grief must be almost insupportable give her all my love and tell her to bear up for her children's sake."

My letter is too sad to do you any good, dear Aunt Mary, but as we are all in trouble perhaps it ^{will} not harmonize with your own feelings.

Aunt Ann says give her love and tell her how anxious she is to hear from Edward. Uncle John has been very unwell, having had several large boils. Love to all from all, and

Goodbye.

Auguste.