

Washington

22nd Dec 1858.

My Dear Daughter,

Altho. I have just written
to your dear Ma, I will not return
until I reply to your welcome letter,
which came to me two days since.
It was welcome, as I have said,
tho its contents gave me great dis-
-tress. The fact that your dear Mother,
had not recovered distressed me
sorely. And what added to my afflic-
-tion was, that I could not fly to her
relief, and devote those attentions,
which love and affection would
prompt me to render. I would
claim it a sacred privilege, to
wait upon her day and night.

I feel that no child of mine will
be wanting in any point of duty,
that can alleviate, or soothe the pain
and sufferings of their dear Mother.
It is not only that they are bound
to soothe her physical anguish, but
so to act that they will cause her
no mental pain.

The depth of mental an-
guish which a Mother must feel
for her children, can only be felt,
and known by a Mother. Hence
when Daughters particularly, render
to a dear Mother, all the little tender
offices of filial affection, Oh how
sweet it must be to a Mother's heart,
and how consoling to her hopes.

I was happy hear that her good
friend Miss Mary Seaman was

with her, and no doubt rendering
most agreeable, & kind attentions.

I do hope that no one while your
dear Mother was ill, ventured to run
to her with complaints, to harrow her
feelings, and increase her anguish.

Altho' distant my heart is with
her, and my prayers, poor and
unworthy as they are, have been of-
fered up in her behalf; and for her
recovery, and happiness. This embra-
ces all that is most dear to me, on
earth. For well I know that she can
only be happy, in the welfare of her
children, and the excellency of
their conduct, and characters. You
my dear Daughter, are the eldest of
her Daughters, and on you devolves
the important duty of setting an ex-
-ample

to your younger Sisters, as well, as exerci-
-sing an influence on your brothers, for
take my word for it, you can have much
to do in forming their disposition, by the
exercise of gentleness, and tenderness to-
wards them. I can never forget nor
cease to feel, the controlling influence
of my dear Sister Isabella, four years
older than myself. I do not recollect
that I ever mentioned it in my family,
only to your dear Ma. Her kind and
gentle manners, have more influ-
-enced, on my disposition, and the for-
-mation of my character, than all the
rude floggings that I ever received.

Measure my dear Daughter, these hints,
and act upon them. Give my love
and kisses to your dear Ma, and all
the children. Tell her a happy Christmas
Yr Father
Samuel Houston

Not more again. Tell my dear Ma & my dear
to write to her tomorrow

a letter from General Sam
Houston.

Capt. John Sparks.
City