



Brooklyn, N.Y.
February 4, 1879

Dear Boy.

I am so tired I am almost
crazy. It is a week tonight since I
came down to Avery (when Susan
left) and I am awfully tired - lifting
him and minding him and running
up after the others. For the last three
days and nights Avery has been very
ill and he is now - yesterday I was
terribly worried and I feel very anxious.
Dr. Johnson calls it bilious fever.
and says the weather causes it -
it's such changeable weather - hot
one day and cold the next. People
are dying all about us - worse than
has ever been known - I can only leave
Avery a few minutes at a time - and
have been out of the house but once
in a week. Johnson thinks it may
turn into scarlet fever - he thinks he's

sure to have it. You'd never believe
how he has fallen away in the last
two days - he eats nothing. I hope
for the best and do all I can - but
I am very tired. I'd hoped to get a
little night-rest after getting Emma
down into Mother's room - I am afraid
I'll have to sleep and he'll get more
cold by being uncovered if he gets
pneumonia has gone certain he breathes
fearfully - I am sorry I have such
bad letters to write to you - I do my
best yet seem to be continually in
trouble. Emma enjoys herself in
her Grandmother's room - she looks
very white - but did not lose flesh
like Dudu - Dudu is very thin. She
eats well and her ear is doing well.
Julia buys them everything that is for
sale - her baby is doing well - Tom is
in very poor health - he grieves so for
Janie and having no business -
it's very hard for them - I shall get
a new nurse the last of this week
as I do not think Susan will return.

I am to have a colored man help
me clean my room tomorrow and
then we will all go up there again
and if Oreg don't get the fever I
will give you a new set of shirts.
Mother does not want my nurse to
sleep in the parlor. I can get time
to do so little sewing we are all in
trags - It is so hard to sit here
night after night alone - and no
one to share my anxieties - I
try to think that if he does die
I've done my best - you don't know
how worried I am. He breathes
so strangely and kicks and
fights the covers off so I don't see
how I am to prevent his killing him
self. Mother is about the same I
want to get the children out of
her room. they love her too much -
Pam received your letter today he
was much pleased - he goes to
school - I don't know how he
progresses as I've no time to go on.

To day I received a love by mail
They demanded it at once and
it was very good to see his
trembling eagerness to open it and
hear him say Oh B's purse: A B's
piece money. Oh B's love. he would
not let me touch it and kept
me opening it for him all the
morning you were very kind to send
it to me - and the money too - I am
very much pleased and thanks
you for it and also for thinking
of it - I received yours of the 25th 6th
today, thanks for it - I am glad that
you are well - try to keep so - How is
the Van Tassels Reef warm?

I never knew any so restless as he
is tonight I must stop writing I am
so frightened about him - I'd wake
someone up - if there was anyone I
could - I am glad I'm so nervous
With lots of love I am

your
yrs.

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answ " 13/79



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