To: Mrs Eliza C. Trask
Springfield Plantation Dec 5th 1827

My Dear Wife,

I am happy to inform you that I received your favor of the 3rd of Novr last evening. It gave me great pleasure to hear that my wife & children & family were all well. I wrote you immediately after my arrival here on the 18th or 19th Novr. Since then I have been in very good health - have stayed on the plantation riding around it twice a day when the weather permits. We have summer weather yet. On the 1st & 2nd Novr we had two smart white frosts - but the roses are still in bloom & the weeping willows are still quite green. The drought has been extremely severe - so much so that forest trees on the poor hills have in many instances died. The cattle are very much emaciated through the country. Yesterday I got all hands into the field near the house to clear it of cotton & corn so as to let the stock in. Next week I hope they will have good pasture from about 6 or 700 acres. James is as careless as ever about such things - always in a hurry and nothing done as it should be done. He has a large crop of cotton - a poor one of corn. I think he will have 500 bales of cotton. We had roast Turkey on your Thanksgiving day. The Rev. Mr. Chase & Mrs. Gildart's family dined with us. Mr. Chase informs me that your uncle P.C. has joined his church. Mrs. Betsey P. Stanard is also & one of her brothers. Mr. C. says he is a very fine young man. I wish you would answer your cousis letter. They say she is a smart intelligent & handsome young lady. Your two cousins Filipps are elders in the church at Homochitto. My brother says they are smart young men & lead in their public worship in the absence of the clergyman with great propriety. I go tomorrow on a visit to Mr. Carmichaels, Mr. Brandeis & Pinckneyville. I expect to spend two or three days
with them. I intend to leave for New Orleans about the last of this month, & my present intention is to cross over to Mobile & pass through Alabama & Georgia to Spald. I hope to reach home sometime in Feby. You will not forget the ice house. Have you a good stock of charcoal? if not apply to Mr. Day & get a quantity - say 150 bushels - try to keep yourselves warm. Tell Lydia papa when he returns will whistle for her & dance her. I must write to Bill & Ned. I have not yet seen Harriett. She will spend a month or so longer at Hatchez. She goes visiting yet as much as ever. Remember me to all friends, after receipt of this you may stop writing to me - for I hope to be on my return about the middle of Jan'y. I am sincerely yours ----

I. E. Trask

Uncle James & Aunt Emily all send love

To Masters William & Edward Trask

My dear boys,

I was very happy to hear by your mama's letter to me, that you were good children and that you attended to your books & were mindful of the instruction given you by your cousin Eliza. I hope you will continue to be good boys - that you will attend to that your mama says & be obedient to all her precepts. You will give my compliments to Cesar & Lucy - tell them that their friends are all well here - & want very much to see them. Tell them also that I am glad to hear so good a report of them as I have read from their mistress. I hope they will continue to do well. Cesar must keep neat - be careful of the hay & have the horse in good order when I return. I suppose you have snow now & plenty of ice - the weather here is warm as summer. Robert has just brought in a full grown apple from the garden of the second crop. I walked out in the cotton field yesterday & helped the negroes pick cotton
two hours. The negroes say they want to see Massa Em & Ed. Old Sago said"when you fetch um". I said perhaps by & by. "Ah Massa" by & by me be dead & me never see um". I had an apple or two in my pocket & began to eat one, when one little negro cries out Massa give me a piece of apple then another and another do give me a piece. So Pa had to divide his apple just as he would do to All & Ned. Some of the young negroes are the best cotton pickers. Isaac has picked as high as 245 lbs in a day. The birds are very numerous about the fields. Yesterday Pa heard a mockingbird singing very prettily just then the blue jays and other birds set up their screams - mocking stopped a minute, looked round - then rocked them - then sang - at last he seemed so vexed with their discordant notes that he flew off. Granny Judy wants to see you. She says she raised a great many ducks for you this year but you could not come. The pond is full of ducks & geese & the yard of Turkeys & chickens. The wild ducks too come & light in the pond. Then we shoot them. Adieu. Give my love to cousins Lucy & Eliza Pynchon & sister Lydia.

Yrs L. E. Trask
Tell mama she must take care of her lame shoulder. I want to advise to get a chamois skin & to make a jacket. I wore mine & have no rheumatism. I suppose Eliza & Sarah are at
Write to Israel & tell him he must write to his Ma.