University of Va. Dec. 3, 1855

Dear Major:

I will not put off writing any longer although you have not written to me. I have not put it off thus long (as you know) for any reason, other than my want of time. I wrote to brother Bernard some three or four ago, but have not an answer. I have come to the conclusion that he did not get it, as I do not think he would have neglected me so long. About the time I wrote to him, I received one from Home, and thought that writing to him would answer the purpose of answering your letter. That is, for time, until I have written to all. I have been here now about nine weeks, and have received only two letters from home. This is the fifth which I have written. I have walked to the Post Office, day after day, with the hope of hearing from home, but in vain. I think if you all would imagine how delighted you would be were you in my situation, you would write to me often. You all are at home, seeing each other every day, and talking about things in which we are interested, do not consider that my only chance is by letter. I know that nothing is meant by not writing but then, I would like to hear rather oftener than I have up to the present time. It matters not what you write, just so you write something, it the hearing from home and not what you write about.

I would be very much pleased to come home at Christmas, but do not expect to do so. The lectures will be suspended for only one day.
To my dearest son,

How time flies! It seems like only yesterday we said goodbye. Though I have often wished for your return, I must admit, it has not been easy. I hope this letter finds you well and happy. I am writing to check in on your well-being and to express my love and pride in you.

I know you have been through some tough times, but I trust that you will continue to grow and flourish. Remember that you are not alone and that I am always here for you.

With love,

[Signature]