Philadelphia April 25 1837

Dear Frances:

Your letter of the 8th inst. reached me on the 21st, four days ago. I see from the Post Mark that it did not leave Buckingham Court House until the 16th, showing that it lay there eight days after you sent it to the Post Office. I wrote to trace about a week since, and shall a letter from her in a few days.

I remember that you sent your love to Sister Susanna, and thought that I had written to you what she said, but as I did not at the proper time I will do so now, so far as I can think of it. I am certain of this much, that she is very friendly indeed, and asked a great many questions about all of the family, and was exceedingly sorry that she did not have the pleasure of seeing mamma when she was in Buckingham. I think she would be pleased to receive a letter from you. I have received several from brother James since I have been here.

The South Carolina student that you saw account it was not knocked down in the story, but was rotten. It happened in this way. When he arrived at the depot he was very drunk, and a houseman seeing his condition, asked to let him take him and his baggage to a certain Hotel to which the student
agreed, and instead of carrying him to the Hotel, he carried him to a place where he could be kept safe. He brought all of his clothes, and every cent of his money, and also the coat and vest which he had on. So when he awoke next morning (for it was night) he was minus everything except his hat, boots, shirt, and pantaloons, and the huckster's green where he saw never see him again, and if he ever see him, he would not know him. He was then made drunk again, and turned out into the street in the condition in which I have mentioned, and was very soon taken charge of by the police, who kept cage for several days. He told them that he was a medical student and came there for the purpose of attending the Philadelphia College of Medicine. They then informed Dr. McClelland of the fact, and informed the chief of it. All of the southern students have a meeting immediately, and took him out of the cage, and carried him to the boarding house at which I then boarded, and took care of him until he could rent his own. He is now attending the lectures. His name is Becto, and is said to be of a very respectable and wealthy family. This must for getting back to a northern city. You have no fear about that getting back of me.

If you are much afraid of "sin," you need not wait until Sunday, but write before Sunday always and then I will get it fast enough. You know if you put off things, you only do them for Sunday, which you should have done before, you will commit a "sin," so if you fail to write to me in due time you will have the "double sin" to answer for, in the first place of not writing to me, and secondly of putting a thing off for Sunday which you should have done before. But enough about sin, it is too late to think of much else to speak here writing about it.

Tell the Mayor to stuff the goys and salt into my home and set them fat for me by the time I get home. I want him to shake his foot's liniment and greasy. The faculty have agreed to give me a premature examination by the 20th of May, and pretty soon after that I shall be at home. Write to me often.

I am doing pretty well since I moved my walking. My eating is much better, and agrees with me. I am also within two hundred yards of college, and in a pleasant part of the City, being near the squares where the air can circulate freely.

Your truly,
J. Austin
If you are much afraid of "sin", you need not wait until Sunday, but write before Sunday always and then I will get it that much sooner. You know if you put off things for Sunday, which you should have done.