

[Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers](#)

VMI Archives

Manuscript # 00103

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Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his mother, Diana Minor Maury
1840 November 10

Fredericksburg Va
10 Nov 1840

My dear Mother,

I shall devote my spare time this morning to you. I got up earlier than usual for the purpose of showing the cook how to manage the stove. The parlor stove I wrote you about is a great improvement upon the old plan. It sits in the dining room, & with less coal for the day than it used to take for our fire in the grate, keeps both dining room & parlor warm. The door between them is thrown open, & we sit in the parlor. The parlor fireplace is on the summer arrangement, fire screen, etc. up so that you see besides the economy of the fixture, we have gained in personal comfort to ourselves, & in the saving of labor & trouble to the servants neither do we have any dust to contend with. The cooking stove has not had its trial yet; but I have no doubt that we shall gain as much by that as with the other.

'The boy' comes bravely on; Nannie, tho' not sick, is feeble. 'The boy' is to be called Richard L. He is a fine looking fellow; & is decidedly the pet with his two aunts. I think Kate too is allowing him to divide the place in her affections, where little Annie, your little namesake, reigned supreme before. Since Nannie's illness I have taken to teaching Betty. She begins to read, & is very fond of entertaining us, by reading aloud at night her little stories for our amusement. She is docile, though one has to be firm with her and she soon finds out the length she may go with each one. They are both very affectionate children, though unlike in their disposition---I hear Annie's merry little voice saying "Beakfak is weady, beakfak is weady".-----Betty is devotedly fond of flowers; Annie cares very little about them--she takes more delight in associating with dogs & cats than in arranging plants & flowers. They both often talk about their grandma, & grandpa. Annie is sitting in my lap she says I must tell you to send her some toy things. Cousin Ann wrote that they must say what she shall bring them from England. Betty said "tell her she must bring her whatever she thinks proper. Annie said "tell her to bring me some candy, & some sponge cake."

Aunt Gatewood did not make a visit to Louisa, as she intended. After she went from here to visit her daughter near Spotsylvania Court House she was taken sick; she had a severe attack there of chills & fevers, & after her recovery, she returned home. Uncle Minor writes in good spirits; the same may be said of Aunt Goodwin. Old Mrs. Crutchfield is in town on a visit to her daughter who married a son of Mr. Young who used

to keep a tavern here. She always inquires kindly after you. She is a nice old lady. it seems as though I am not to find an opportunity for sending Pa the clothes that cousin Ann left here for him. It is a very nice suit of black & besides tending to make him comfortable, I think he would be pleased with (#1, continued)

them. I do not perceive any improvement in the leg. If Nannie & I be well enough in the spring, I should like to make you a visit. Ask Betsy if she could make room for us & `the boy.'

The political excitement which has been great with regard to the presidential election has subsided in a great measure. Pennsylvania & New York have both cast their votes for General Harrison---of course he then is elected already. I received a letter last night from Washington & from a Locofoco---he said it was given up there & that Mr. Van Buren acknowledged his defeat. For [Kemp's] gratification I will not close this letter till I go down town to hear the latest returns from Virginia & elsewhere.

Well, I have returned---Maine, New York, & Pennsylvania have all gone for General Harrison. Virginia---"Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone"---returns are in from all but eight counties, which last spring gave a Locofoco majority of 45---The Van Buren ticket is 900 ahead.

Nannie, the children & all hands, send love to both of you, & to all the kith & kin.

Your affectionate son,

M. F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to S. Wellford Corbin (future husband of daughter, Diana)
1857 February 6

Observatory
Washington
6 Feb 1857

My dear Sir,

Your letter was received day before yesterday. I meet you with its frankness which it invites.

The 'failing' to which you allude is a grievous one; it constitutes the chief but not an insuperable objection to the continuation of your visits to my daughter. She is wise and discreet, I defer to her judgment and approve of the answer which she has given you and by which she requires one year to elapse before she shall be pressed for an answer to your suit. She is a dear child.

This will give us time Mr. Corbin to become better acquainted with you.

In the meantime permit me in the indulgence of that solicitude which the relation you are seeking to establish are calculated to excite in your behalf, to express the hope that if you have not, you will lay off and pursue a regular course of reading & study.

Very truly yrs.
M.F. Maury

**Ferdinand Maximilian, Arch Duke of Austria
to MFM
1857 December 10
Contemporary copy**

Sir!

I avail myself with real pleasure of the opportunity given me by your kind offer of the "Sailing Directions" to express to you my warm and sincere thanks for it, to tell you how since years I observed with intent interest and admiration your noble and unequalled efforts in order to hasten the improvement of the scientific part of our profession.

I trust you will accept this little present, as a token of my gratitude towards a man whom all seafaring nations are bound to look upon with respect and thankfulness.

Believe me Sir

Yours truly

Ferdinand Maximilian

Arch Duke of Austria

Milan
Dec the 10 1857

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to Diana Maury Corbin
1858 May 9

Observatory
9 May 1858

My Dear Nannie,

Yours was a sweet letter. It and Mr. Corbin's did our hearts good. We miss you so much! The flowers look lonesome, and the songs of the birds sound loud. This is little Lucy's birthday – seven years old. It will be ten years I reckon before she will be cutting out. Her Ma pitched into her and the 'boy' ⁱ last evening. She found a moss rose in flower this morning. Davy and the boy went fishing in the wagon at the Little Falls yesterday. They were gone all day but didn't get a nibble. Molly is rubbing her chin with a lotion. I hope the appliance will drive those bumps away. As near as I can calculate it's just about seven years since you went away. I have not seen Betty since, and we have heard from Dick but once and Glumⁱⁱ twice. Went to the Capitol with cousin Anne and Mary Friday. Mit and Ellen are with us. Ellen is going this morning to the [uney's] to make a long or short visit as the time may go. Your Ma and I only want a little stirring up to perpetrate a visit to Dabney next Thursday or Friday to stay till Monday.

Our hearts were touched by the conduct of those excellent people who greeted you with so much kindness, consideration and affection on your arrival at Moss Neck. Such a welcome must have gone far towards making you feel comfortably at home right off the reel. Life is made up of trifles, and our greatest happiness often depends upon a word, the glance of an eye, the tone of the voice, or what is more expressive but more indescribably still, the manner. What a boon, a pleasure and a blessing are pleasant manners! They give grace and confer happiness. They embellish, set off and adorn character far more than jewels and precious stones. Cultivate day by day pleasantness of manners. Let us analyze it. Of what or in what does pleasantness of manner – that trait which give grace and elegance to woman, comeliness and the power of doing good.

After church Davy, your Ma and I dined alone. The children stayed down to the Sunday School anniversary. But I was speaking of the Christian graces and human virtues and those traits which you should cultivate and which embellish and adorn the character. The one great point which after duty to God you are to keep constantly in view is to identify yourself with your husband, and strive mutually each to make yourselves the companion of the other. There is but one way to do this, and that is by teaching yourself, my dear, to take an intelligent interest in those affairs and occupations which are from time to time engaging his thoughts and time. The husband's affairs are in the married life the "affairs of state." He provides; and to say the least, the wife who seeks to be posted up in everything that concerns him, especially in the everyday affairs of life, does nothing more than render gracefully a grateful homage. Do you my love first set the example and if you do not win back tenfold, I have much mistake the character of the man who won your affections. You must learn the servants by name, the cattle and the fields too. You must learn of Wellford in the morning what he is going about for the day and take that lively interest in his occupations which you would do were they your own. The "farm book" will help you to do that. And if its dry details be mastered for the first year, they will be dry no longer – for then you can tell him when to sow, how the seasons and the signs are, etc. Then

hospitalities and good-neighborhood, a smile of welcome and a gentle voice from mine hostess makes a sauce that is savory for everything. And the poor, I do not mean more especially objects of charity, but those who are in a more humble sphere of life than it has pleased God to place you – never lack, as in your little heart I am sure you never do – in consideration for them. I must not caution you against the bad taste of patronizing for your manner of life and good breeding secure you against that. What I meant to say is merely to caution you against the foolish habit of waiting to be spoken to. Speak to everyone without waiting.

There is no trait perhaps which is more winning than that of a generous confidence. Self examination, constant, close self examinations are indispensable. There are some of them that may be made all the better with the assistance of our husband. Make Them. Confidence begets confidence.

I would have you both bear in mind that this is the time for you to accommodate and adjust yourselves to each other, and with two such comely dispositions to work upon, this may be soon accomplished and that so thoroughly that all your future life will abound in good result.

Then too my dear you must not forget to treat with affection and show solicitude for all of Mr. Corbin's own friends and relations. They are disposed to be kind and good to you, meet them a little more than half way.

As for reading, with your good taste you cannot go well amiss. Only in selecting authors, do not select merely for amusement – select for profit also.

I am writing you a very disjointed sort of letter my love, but I have been thinking so much of you, and missing you so much and loving you so tenderly since you went away, and my heart was so full and head so empty that I hardly know what I have said.

Did you plant the yellow jasmine at Farley vale? The "boy" will go down on his "own hook" Tuesday – Great boy that.

You and Wellford should write every mail to us – Goodbye, God bless you both. Yr. aff. Dad
M. F. Maury

ⁱ The "boy" is Matthew F. Maury, Jr.

ⁱⁱ Glum = Eliza Hall Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1858 May 31

Observatory
31 May 1858

My dear Nannie,

You and Mr. Corbin are as still as mice. Even "the boy" has fallen into that 'Sleepy Hollow' down there in Carolina - Wake up, you Rips- Don't you know that you've had a terrible hail storm along the river, and that it has made a clean sweep right & left of your neighbor's crops -? What did it do to yours? We should like to know. Then don't you know that your Ma has been afflicted with all sorts of imaginings - that she has been on the [ca] several times of being down upon you like a streak of lightening and hauling you up by telegraph to see how sick that [wetting made] you? Don't you know that we have been all married & [gaining on] marriage and that [we are gone/was our goal] - [Tom] & [the] [park] as - Tennessee [Mat] & a nice girl & that Dick Holland is trying to and [can't], that his sister [Dee] is coming to spend the winter with us - that you & Mr. Corbin are to [matr] -that there's a courting couple walking round the grounds every evening- that there's no such thing as sunshine nowadays- that the wheat is all turning to straw---- Dear me child, wake up and tell us how you are & where you are -- the last time we heard of you, you were riding 'long the road side --But where's "the boy" & where's his pen? I can tell you what- if we don't hear from him soon and often we shall be sending after him-

I am turning down a layer of every row in the garden. A slip from every vine & [conifer] and the [] & the [], to be planted next spring at a country place of ours in Virginia. I don't reckon you know where it is. It's down on the North side of the Rappahannock River if you know where that is. It will be a pretty good place for roses.

Your Ma was in bed all last week till Saturday. Totts has been at home for two weeks with a sore foot, and [Davy] missed two or three days from school with winter chills- The sun flowers are coming up & he has got well. Mit & Ellen are with us still--The trip to Carlisle is knocked on its head. I hear nothing of N. Carolina these times. The little parson's wife & son (M.F.M of K'y) are with us. Kiss the "boy" & Mr. Corbin write I am your afft. Dad.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 August 15

White Sulphur
15 Aug '58
My dear wife,

I received yesterday your no. 2 with Nannie's letter. Bless Dick and Davy's heart for the attention and comfort they give you. Great boys are Dick and Dave. Sorry Sr. E.* does not mend more rapidly. Sally F. and Nannie Gordon are talking of the Sweet Springs tomorrow. The difficulty is this: both places are crowded. If they give up their rooms here and can't get in there, they can't get back here. Nannie looks thin has a cold but is well in other regards except a bad cough. William I never saw looking half so well. Black Sallie is also enjoying her visit. Dick and your cousin Georgia take to each other. She wants him to escort her back to Washington. Bob and his family are here - "Sophy" and hers- and many of your last summer acquaintances all of whom inquire after you. Nannie is very pleasantly spoken of and Wm Dick and I will leave Wednesday or Thursday for Ridgeway. Send letters there. Mr. Norwood preaches this morning. I wish I could be of service to Thompson.

I want to go home.

Love to Sr E* and all the children

Where is Betty?

**Sr. E= Sister E - Maury's niece Ellen Herndon daughter of William Lewis Herndon*

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter, Diana Maury Corbin
1858 September 12

Observatory
Washington
12 Sept 1858
My dear Nannie

You and Corbin are as still as mice. If you are coming, why don't you come along?

The General and Sally got home yesterday. [Wrottesly] sends his love. Charles has been in this country. Dabney and Nannie are with us. He has been ordered on a board to try prisoners in Washington and he hopes to be ordered on another for Tactics and to tarry for some months yet. Dick Holland appears to be enjoying his visit. Our Dick has also relished it keenly. Dave has set into school, the "boy" not, and I am leaving Totts and Glum in Dick's hands till I get through with the "heft" of my book work when I shall take them up in the old fashioned way, and go back to breakfast lectures. Lucy gathers fruit and flowers and makes herself happy in giving them away. Betty is at Jessie's and after her time is up then she is to make Jno B. a visit at the University and then to Richmond. Bless her heart she is trying to eke out her time as best she may. Your Ma was never looking so well or more beautiful. Fanny is cooking again and we have no dining room suit yet, "don't [tease]" Margaret Anderson. I am going to go lecturing up in Ohio from Nov. 22 to Dec. 3 Have not begun to get ready yet. I want to deliver 6 lectures a week for two weeks. ---raise money enough to send Dick to school, pay off bills and leave some "shots in the locker". I think I may be able to make out enough to furnish Farley Vale if you will let me do it in a plain way. At least I can buy all the furniture for the estate that you will probably want. Let me know about it, for I do not like the idea of his purchasing any of it and so lay himself liable to be taken hold of by the tongue of slander and malice, and of finding his acts and deeds misinterpreted by mischief makers. Now if you can rough it along upon \$500 or \$1000 - here's at you.

I have an elegant fight on hand! Bacheⁱ has been stealing the M.S. property of the Observatory and trying to forestall me. It's an elegant fight. Bob - bless old Bob- has gone with our band to Church. It's time for him to be back for the white folks - so good by - with love to Corbin.

Your aff daddy
M F Maury

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ⁱ Alexander D. Bache, Head of the U. S. Coastal Survey

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to Diana Maury Corbin
1858 October 3

Observatory
Washington
Sunday night 3 Oct 58

My dear Nannie,

Your last letter announcing that you would be here the last of this week created as great a sensation and as much joy as if old Santa Claus himself had have stepped forward & announced that he intended to have xmas at the same time- It made glad hearts & smiling faces I tell you- It was physick to your Ma - regular Doctors truck - She has been asking for some time - has not been to church for two or three weeks- indeed she has been quite poorly- and the sight of you will do her a `monstrous heap of good' so hurry along. Thank Mr. Corbin for his letter; we will talk over matters when you come- **Quando- O Quando?** Name the day.

Betty & the baby were up Friday-but as cousin Fanny Perry & Ellen spent the day with us & your Ma had to go to bed sick, I did not see much of her- I carried her a flower to church. Lucy watches for Dave on the commons & goes to meet him every P.M. as he comes from school. Totts & Glum do philosophy at breakfast & yr Ma thinks the recitations prevents digestion. The boy listens & takes quite as much interest in the lesson as they do. I am busy with lectures, sailing directions, fights & correspondence. Your Ma pronounces the 10 first pages of No. 1 Lecture passable. Sr. E is with us, but is poorly. She looks badly. Totts is reading to Glum, Dave to himself. Lucy & the Boy have gone to bed. So too yr Ma. Yours coming will cheer her up, & help to make her well. Sally F. has not been up for a long time. We have not had any frost yet- How comes on that Farm Journal? I have some nice grape vines in pots for Mr. C. to take back to Farley Vale- The gardener is also preparing Rose layers & rose cuttings- I am thinking of some pear trees also- But I am afraid the gate will be left open, and that you will let the horses or the cows eat them up- Love to Mr. C.

Goodnight- Hurry along to yr affect. M.F.M.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 November 18

Rochester New York
18 Nov 1858

My dear wife,

How-dy! I staid all night in Phila. & in Albany. Arrived in [Auburn] about 3 P.M. yesterday. There, much to my surprise I was met at the cars by a barouche, deputations and soldiers & with music & banners escorted to my lodgings. The Rev. Mr. E. H. Creesy D. O. was my host, he had lived in Tennessee - under Bp. (Bishop) Otey. It appears I was civil to the Willard Guards when they were in Washington at the Inauguration. Hence the military escort. At night I lectured to a large and attentive audience in the At. Tel. and I reckon gave satisfaction for I only saw one sleepy head & that one was asleep when I commenced. I slept in the room where Bp. Hobart died- and came off at 7 this morning, arriving here at 11. I lecture here tonight then take the cars at 10 P.M. for Ann Arbor. Lecture there to-morrow night & so on to Chicago.

Now how are you all getting on? Has Nannie gone- and is Betty with you- & Totts & Glum & Dave & the Boy & Lucy How are they all? I must take a little nap if I can. God bless you all yr afft.

M.F.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 November 20

Chicago,
20 Nov. 1858

My dear wife,

Here I am in the midst of a great snow shower- This is my lecture evening- Tickets 50 cts. Am afraid of empty benches. I am to stop at Col. Graham's, but as I had things to attend to- I will not go till after lecture.

There was a great crowd in Rochester- Had a sick headache- & when the committee waited on me to escort me to lecture I entertained them by "cascading"- However I got through & left in the cars at 3:45 A.M. Traveled all day- Reached Ann Arbor at 8 P.M. Found an audience waiting for me- hopped out, went straight to lecturing- delighted the audience-rode a [rail] to a party, took a hot supper and on back to the cars at 10- travelled all night-in a sleeping car & reached this place a 9 this morning. So here I am - I have just had dinner- am going to try a nap presently- it is only 2 o'clock.

I told Moore of the [R] to send you a cheque- write yr name across the back of it, send it to the General and ask him to get the money for you.

Where's my Betty & where's my Nannie? I hope if the latter visits, the former comes.

Mrs. [Bland] has been [reading] along [here]. I do not know with what success.

I find nothing here from you. My head quarters will be care of B. H. Plixotto, Cleveland, till 30th. On the 22nd I lecture here-23 in Kalamazoo-24 no place fixed-Perhaps Indianapolis-25 Cleveland. 26-La Porte Ind-I reckon 27 here, 29 Cincinnati. & c.

The weather is very cold- Kiss all my children & tell me you all are well & happy- I want to astonish you with a present- Tell Totts & Lizinka & Lucy & the Boy to put their heads together & tell me what to bring. This is the House, where Dick & I stopped. This is a furious storm. Give my love to Mary & Sr. E. I hope they both continue to mend & [] must [that] [] [evening] of hers- it has [tormented] her enough.

God bless you. I am mighty tired of staying away from home.
yr- M.F.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 November 27

Chicago

27 Nov 58

My dear wife,

Since last I wrote I have lectured in Kalamazoo, Indianapolis, Cleveland, & La Porte- Make the children find the places- Tonight I lecture here- It is now 10 A.M. & raining- I go to Col Graham's directly. Hope to find a letter from you. Have had but one yet. Since last I wrote I have not had time to write you. I am very well- a slight cold. I do long to get over this task.

2 P.M. I am at Col. Graham's again- They are very kind. You never did see such gloomy weather- It has been gloomy since here I have been, for I have been in the lake country for more than a week. It is now snowing & storming furiously. But I do not lecture on my own hook to night, that's one comfort. I have so far not been able to find any letters here. I do not see what the papers say of the lectures generally, for I lecture and am off, and when I get back then the papers are out of date- had a packed house in Cleveland- They had to stop selling tickets- & turn off- House full.

Here is the summing up- I have travelled since I left home 1844 miles, have been from home 12 days.--10 days on my lecture ground & have lectured 9 times- and have made \$540. and the next 9 days, shall if rails will carry me fast & far enough shall make \$1000 I hope. I am dying to see you all. Kiss my darling Betty for me- Is she with us why don't she write? I suppose Moore sent the check for \$60- The truth is I have not had the time to send your acct. I forgot to sign purser's receipt for pay. So if you want money, get Mr. Harrison to fill up the enclosed and get my month's pay for you. Kiss every one of the children.

your affectionate.
M.F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 November 23

Kalamazoo, Mich. 23 Nov 58

My dear wife,

I received, yesterday, your letter of 17. That was my Auburn night. It's a great while ago. So Nannie went off and you are all comfortable. That's a blessing - except poor little Glum. What say you to sending her up to Frank Minor's?

I had a time of it in Chicago! Last night it rained worse than it snowed Saturday night, and the attendance was as slim. If it had been good weather I should have made \$600 or \$800 I reckon, as it was I made a little over \$50 only! I stopped at Col Graham's you know. He gave me a party last night nice party- He was a soldier - he would have me waked up in time for the cars at 6. He never got left. He would have breakfast for me at least the cook would. But bless your heart honey not a soul waked up til the knock came - so I was up and dressed and off in about ten minutes. When I arrived here Senator Stewart with a committee was at the cars to escort me to the Hotel. He and his wife leave for Washington Saturday. They will stop at the St. Charles. I wish you and Betty would call on her. She is very plain, but I want to invite them up to spend the day when I get back. You have got to make up your mind old lady to turn over a new leaf. I tell you. I shall want friends this winter and you have got to cultivate them for me. So you had better set to and make calls, renew acquaintances and leave many cards. Get a nice hack and go like a lady, and don't over do the thing by breaking yourself down. Take several days.

Betty is a sweet child. Kiss her for attending to the English [roses].

I want to write to Nannie, if I can get some paper. Make the Boy, Glum and Totts find Kalamazoo on the map and trace me from place to place. I'll go and look for some paper. Good bye. Think about Lizinka and Ridgeway.

Love to all yrs
M.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 November 28

Chicago Ill
28 Nov 58

My dear wife,

This is Sunday about 2 p.m. I reckon. It has stormed furiously ever since yesterday- as the day before. I go off at 8 p.m. for Cincinnati. Pretty good audience last night, though it was a dreadful night. I enjoyed the whole night's rest mightily. I shan't spend another night in bed, till I get to St. Louis I reckon. They tell me here that I have improved vastly in appearance since last Sunday. I wonder how you all are - got letters - Wells and Sr. Ellen, sent from the Observatory. Two more weeks now and I'll be working my way homeward.

I am mightily tired writing - have been at it now since I got here. If I go down stairs a lady will talk me to death. What a blessed thing a little quiet is. Kiss all my children for me and give love to Sr. E Mary and the Gerard's.

God bless you
Your aff
M F Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his daughter, Diana Maury Corbin
1858 December 1

Cleveland

1 Dec (1858)

My dear Nannie,

Have just time to thank you for your nice letter to your Ma, to hurrah for Dec. 15. Send her & say I hope to be stopping in a day or two after you & Mr. C. get there --- You see I am choosing the proper time.

God bless you
yr. afft. Daddy

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 December 1

Cleveland
1 Dec 1858

My dear wife:

I arrived here yesterday at noon and seem to have bewitched the people last night; as I did those of Cincinnati the evening before.

There was waiting for me here a large package of letters, in it 3 from you, 22, 23, & 26- with one from that smart little witch "poosy". Bless her heart, tell me what present to bring her & all. Nannie's is a charming letter. Am so glad she is coming home the 15th- I shall be turning my way homeward about that time.

Last Monday there was a change of R. Road times, which has played sad havoc with me- in consequence of which I can't get to Detroit for a \$112 lecture to night but take over at Toledo for \$50. I left Chicago at 8 p.m. Sunday for Cincinnati. when I was due at noon Monday. But bridges had been washed away I did not get to Indianapolis till 1 p.m. 112 miles for Cin. I was to lecture there at 7 1/2, and all the trains had gone. So I thought I would see if I could not charter an engine & go down on it express- I found the Pres of the Road, told him who I was, & what I wanted. He fitted up an elegant car, sent me down in it, alone, & would not let me pay a cent- I arrived at 7, and found an immense audience, lectured, got in the car directly after came here, lectured, and had an elegant night's rest. I lecture in Chicago again Saturday, & Monday in St. Louis, on the 11th here & Buffalo 10 & 13, I reckon.

Betty is elegant for coming to stay with you, wish I was there to help you along with the gals. What does Frank Minor mean by saying 25th "cousin Ann coming next week".

I send you some slips. Mr. Murphy promised to send you Cincinnati papers- God bless you all yr. aft.

M.F. Maury

(Postscript)

Don't go out in that wagon any more. When you feel well enough make calls. Take Diana along & leave my card everywhere.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1858 December 6

St. Louis Mo.

6 Dec. 1858

My dear wife,

I arrived here two hours ago. I find your letter of 2nd and Scip's. Hurrah for Scip. The mails in this part of the country are all so irregular that I have to go to the Telegraph a good deal. They call for me to lecture presently. I go away Wednesday morning, but where to I don't know- perhaps to Springfield, or Terre Haute, or Vincennes or perhaps- I can't say. But anywhere where the most money is to be made. I am dying to see you all. I shall be visiting the kin to-morrow so I shall have no time to write. My movements for this week are very uncertain- All I can say at present, is I expect to be in Cleveland Saturday. What is the name of the Tea I must get? I have seen Dick Ludlow & Mr. Berkeley. I mean to be at home next week---ain't that elegant.

The good night's rest last night & the quiet day refreshed me much- But I was heartily tired of being lionized in Cincinnati.

Bless Betty's heart for staying with you. When is Nannie coming up? Hurrah for Davy & the children, & the books & the lessons-

Lecture time-
Good night, yr, M