

[Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers](#)

VMI Archives

Manuscript # 00103

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The letter discusses a rebus: A puzzle where syllables or words are represented by pictures or individual letters; a visual pun.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his daughter, Diana Maury Corbin
1859 February 17

Observatory
Feb 17, 1859

Dear Nannie,

We miss you every day, & invitations for Miss Maury keep a' coming. Frank and Lucy A are coming tomorrow. I bought a pair of shoes, had my hair cut and dined with your Ma at the Gerard's. The "boy" has Spanish at breakfast class. I have finished writing Sailing Directions. I sent you the last [Rural].

We have had a time with the gold pin rebus. The first is a [fras] "From"- Lt. Myers found out that.-- the three next - in-hos-spit-(spitbox)-able-(table) (Lt. McCauley-)the next- propose - (prophouse - Glum) - half soled - beings - in - fidels- (Totts)- Traducers - ([Tres_____] - me) & naves - ([]-Mc)-. I fled under (Dave) in-ex-tri-cable(me) em-bar-as(s) -men-ts (me) to- Iowa (Mc)-.

4 - 5 - 16 - & 17- are not satisfactory- Mc reads 4' "gamblers" -gable-[unders] no good- prop-house - shoe - on i.e.

proposition has been suggested for the gaiter on the shoe (5). no

go. Manshoeon - mansion. Also no go- Glum says he knows you have

solved it, "From inhospitable". - hurra!- hurra!! I've just got

it- 4 is house, Latin "domess" & sticks- "domestics-

"From inhospitable domestics, half soled beings, traducers, infidels & Knaves I fled under inextricable embarrassments- to Iowa."

Half soled may do for 5 - but it's a gaiter boot- Certainly

"To Iowa" for "I" & A is flat- Find it out & get the [pun].

(page 2)

The Aubicks & the Roys invite you & Mr. Corbin to parties.

Jeff Maury has sent me two boxes of Havanah Sigars! O ho! Dabney is now with Rose- they go back in the morning-Lucy takes cyphering lessons from Dave. Another officer has been ordered to the Observatory- Minnie Mason sent you a note this evening asking for flowers for the [] ball - Diana sent them- Mrs. Lanier has come. - Good night-Love to Mr. C. & you.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his daughter, Diana Maury Corbin
1859 March 16

Observatory
16 Mar `59

My dear Nannie,

Your welcome letter of Monday last came this morning and received much solicitude. We were dying to hear from you. Your Ma has been ailing for 10 days, for the last 3 in bed of a stitch in the right side. We suppose it to be an affair of the muscles. Your letter did a heap of good.

Mr. Watt is busy packing up plants for you. Plant the roses that are wrapped in moss just as they are moss and all. The vines - little twigs - are to be planted under the river bank. They have the purple flowers over the arbor & will climb the highest trees. Pull the moss away from the stems of the roses - not from the roots. I pay freight on them at least shall tell Mr. Watt to. Betty's going to house-keeping! Davey is going to be a lawyer. The "boy" ain't interested now when he hears Shakespeare read by anybody else but Fanny Kemble. Sister E came up for Church Sunday and staid til yesterday. Betty is up to-day. Molly is lonesome. She has been at your Ma to pop down upon you. I reckon she'll take you by surprise some of these days. Tell Brodie he had better visit Lucy & Betty here. That would be a nice visit. Uncover your jasmine. Love to Mr. C. God bless you, yr aff
Father

MFM

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his daughter, Diana Maury Corbin
1859 March 22

Observatory
22 March `59

My dear Nannie,

Your waif of Tuesday last came to hand this morning. I am exceedingly annoyed about the plants. I send you the receipt. Tell Mr. Corbin he must be sure to make the Co. pay. The market value of the plants was, Mr. Watt says about \$40. If they can be found soon they will live. But Mr. Corbin unless they are forth coming this week should refuse to receive them. He must make the Co. pay, for it is outrageous carelessness. They were delivered last week Tuesday p.m. just after 5 by Mr. Watts & 'Cap' on board the boat. I shall send this evening to inquire about them. In the mean time tell Mr. Corbin to stir up at people at your end of the line. Yr Ma is up again. Mrs. Young of S.C. was here yesterday inquiring kindly for you. Sr. E has been quite sick. Send last batch of copy to the printer today. The new medal came Saturday-But I can't write. I am annoyed about the miscarriage of the plants.

Love to Mr. C. Afft.

M.F.M.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Receipt, 1859 March 22

Rec'd of Capt Maury \$2.00 for freight on 2 Boxes 1 Bundle for S.W. Corbin
Fredericksburg Va. J A Pear
Clk

The date to the above receipt should be Wednesday 16 March '59 as that is the day on which they were delivered on board this boat by Mr. Watt the gardener.

M.F. Maury
Obs. March 22, 1859

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1859 March 23

Observatory
23 March 59

My dear Nannie

I went yesterday to the steam boat about the plants - 2 boxes and a bundle - could get no information. They are most likely to be in the Depot at Fredericksburg. I reckon Jno [Shippen] asked for plants or flowers. I send an invoice . They are put down dirt cheap. The roses ought to be put down at 30cts ea. Tell Mr. Corbin he must be sure to the Co. pay or deliver in good order.

Your Aunt E. is quite sick. Sent for the Dr. night before last at 1 A.M. Was better somewhat yesterday. Yr Ma is bright again, she dined yesterday at the General's.

This is Betty's day. Tell Mr. C. to pursue the plants. It's a sad loss to lose them.

Yr M.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1859 April 12

Observatory

12 Apr '59

My dear Wife

Got your yesterday's letter this morning. All hands were invited to Sallie's to-day. Dave and I went. Mary thought we all would be too many. They are all coming up. Sr. E & S.F. see Charles to spend the day tomorrow. Dinner ordered - soup, fish and roast beef. Totts will rig up a dessert - ice cream I believe. Morning - 13th Got Nannie's letter just now. Kiss her for it. I am sorry to hear about Dick. But such indulgences will not do and cannot be tolerated in one holding a place of trust like his. It is an affair in which feeling cannot interfere.

Stopped last evening on my way home at took tea at Caldwell's. Began with the Historical plays last night. Certainly I'll send tickets for Nannie. Sr. E & Sally rode out yesterday. I write this supposing it will be your last before going to Farley Vale. What are to be your mail days? You would like to go down knowing that "all's well" - I hope you will be so well and enjoy the visit so much. We are all dying to see you all. Can't you bring Nannie home with you. You may stay with her till 1 May if she will come along home with you.

Kiss her & Lucy & love to Mr. C., Charles & his father, Brodies & his'n, Jno & his'n, Saint & her'n.

Good bye - yr aft. husband

M.F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1859 April 14

Observatory
Washington
Ap'l 14, '59

My dear Daughter,

Your sweet letter came yesterday and to-day another from you Ma. I am mighty glad she is having a jolly time - we are dying to see her, but don't want her to come home before the first of May when you are to come with her. Dabney goes down tomorrow. I thought of you and the violets when he came to take leave, but concluded not to trouble him in the premises. He only came up to dinner yesterday and we only gave him soup, fish and ice cream. We have the rest of the dinner today. Yesterday was damp and Willie was sick which prevented our company. He is better. Rose staid up here last night, & Mary down there. Betty is not up to day- rainy- Totts got a letter yesterday from Glum. They did not [share it here] & Mary Herndon has gone off with it to the General's & I can't send it. She was well- had received the \$20-and liked my letters so much- it took such a long time to read them!

My "Brave" is very well & happy. He bought a jug of molasses yesterday. I found my [] [powder]. Have not made a pass at the P.G. for schools yet. Save child's letter- Let yr Ma bring it back. Sent a note for you by Dabney-

The Lord [] ball did not pay- \$1000 short. Had a request this morning to pony up. Can't do it.

Love to Mr. C- Kiss Lucy & buss yr Ma. []
[] yrs
aff Dad

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law S. Wellford Corbin
1859 April 16

Observatory, Washington
Apl 16, '59
My dear Wellford,

I received yesterday your very kind letter of the 14th. It would indeed be a great treat to run down for a week or two, but I do not well see how it can be accomplished. I have heard some things which led me to suppose that there might be a scene made at the next court that would not be pleasant. It throws you the prospect I mean - in a position of great delicacy, as well as into one in which great caution on your part will be required. Caution so prudent and wise that those who would (if there should be such) find fault with you may not have the slightest pretext.

If there is any change in the management of the estate of course you can take some part in bringing about that change. Without knowing much about it, I am clearly of opinion that with your management alone the estate may be relieved of its embarrassments much sooner than it can be by any other kind of managers. I go for the one man power and don't think much of a dual executive. Should any change be made, and should it be proposed that you should take the entire management of both farms, I hope you will not decline.

Dabney went down to King George yesterday. I have been interrupted in the writing of this. It is now time for the mail- so that just cuts me off with love to all.

Yrs sincerely
M. F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1859 April 19

Observatory
Washington
19 Apl '59

My dear wife,

Mr. Watt and I are preparing such a surprise for you and Lucy!. We miss you every day. We miss you in the morning, we miss you in the evening, we miss you at breakfast. I haven't had a flower since she went away! We miss you at dinner, we miss you at tea, we miss you by night and by day, we miss you all the time, but you must stay till you bring Nannie. Sally F., Jack, the boys and the General took us by surprise yesterday. Beef steak, mutton chops, soup and pudding. Betty rather pitched into Mary for so poor a dinner. Bad taste in Betty. Davy is unwilling to take Latin from Jno. Minor. The "boy's" reply was Solomon-ish - "Just as you think proper sir" - What say you? Sent Glum's things down to Kirkwoods' last night for Gilmer - shall send to see if he took them. Totts put some white wax in the bundle, Totts is a great girl. Read 3 Acts in Richard II last night- and sent the `boy' off to bed at 9. The frost has not hurt us yet. Jim Morton called up yesterday. Mr. McCauley has set up in the Grocer's business at St. Paul. Sr. E is so so. I wrote to Ann Thomas and begged that she would make Betsy come along. We hear nothing more from Glum. I am now waiting for David and the mail. we expect letters in it from you and her. Here he comes! Now for them.

A letter from Frank - none from you.

All well and send love
Yr aft [friend]
M.F.M.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1859 April 22

Observatory
Washington
22 Apl '59

My dear sweet little Nannie,

Your "one-horse" letter saying that your Ma & all are well came this morning. It has no date to it- so we infer it was written since hers of 14 & 16- But my dear child I am not a Yankee - why do you set me to guessing? I have sent to have a pair of crutches- I do wonder what has gone with my old ones. The pain has all gone out of my ankle- but I can't walk. But the worst of it is big ankles are so shocking. Totts doctored it up last night with hops - Totts is a great gal.

I finished King Henry IV last night. That "old Feldspar" as the boy calls Falstaff gave great satisfaction. "Feldspar"! So much for Physical Geography. The breakfast lessons have been quite interesting to Totts- We have got through to Botany. That is not one of my specialties, and I shall glance off from it after a breakfast or two. My "Brave" wanted to know this morning if any great men ever studied Latin. "O yes-" "Who?" "General Washington studied Latin- I studied Latin-" "That will do- I just want to be as great as you are"- The young flatterer! There was no school today. Dave went on. As he came a heavy rain came up & he got into one of the water pipes on the avenue to keep dry.

Come down for the Crit! I wish I could- I suppose you will be fetching her along up this way about the last of next week- That's about the 1st of May- always stand to your bargains. Was it not said that you were to return with her then? I'll give you tomatto plants- & egg plants, oh & every sort o' plants. It's been raining so- Ap'l showers- I have not been able to get the doctor up to say what ails this ankle.

Lucy is a witch- why don't she write a letter to a fellow? Mary has gone to church to day- I have some black Hamburg grape cuttings- If they take you shall have some.

God bless you all
yrs aft
Dad M

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law, S. Wellford Corbin
1859 July 4

4 July '59

My dear Corbin,

I returned from a trip over the Balt & Ohio R.Road Saturday evening. Found all well- Betty still here-The baby improved & both enjoying the visit very much.

A letter came from Nannie while I was gone. I did not see it- it was torn up. But from what her mother tells me of it, it increases our solicitude to a painful extent. She is morbidly sensitive & evidently very low spirited. We think the best thing would be for you to bring her to us.

Persons in her situation require to be cared for & looked after in manners & ways which no one can do half so well as a mother. It is of great consequence that she should be with her mother now- and we hope that you also will admit the importance of it & bring her at once. If you do not come as soon as a letter would reach us, write and tell us when to expect you. It is important that you should do this for some of our own arrangements depend on certainty as to Nannie's movements.

From the tone of Nannie's letter her mother does not think that she should be consulted at all- but that you should take her right up & bring her to us. The gloomy and desponding mood that comes over her now & then is to be avoided by all means- ugly consequences may be the result- Therefore we are so [honest] in urging you to bring her to us at once. It is of great importance to her.

Give her our most tender love, solicitude & affection with a thousand kisses. We have letters this morning praising Dick & making us very proud.

They have established a new chair- Physical Geography & Agricultural science & offered it to me. I have not decided to accept. Yrs truly,
M. F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law, Wellford Corbin
1859 Nov 16

Observatory
Washington
16 Nov. 1859
My dear Mr. Corbin,

I was glad to hear as by Nannie's letter I do that the prospects for an early division of the estate seem so favorable. It is clearly to the interest of the parties concerned, and it is gratifying that they are of one mind.

What follows is based upon the supposition that the four of you have agreed to share with you in cancelling the notes which you two have endorsed for your father. This being a fixed fact you are removed from the condition of one having antagonistic interests in the concerns and placed in the category of one whose duties and whose interests are of accord. Both the one and then the other now require the closest scrutiny into the indebtedness of the estate, in order that every claim that is not good in law may be thrown out. And it remains for your consideration whether when the Commissioners report comes up you should not have someone there well posted up, to urge the throwing out of all claims the least doubtful, and especially those for which you are bound. However this can be talked over when you come up which I hope will be long before Xmas. I am wishing somebody near by would invite me to lecture - so I might raise the wind for a visit from Dick and Dave at Xmas. I sent John Minor the Alabama speech in print yesterday with the request that he would hand it over to Nannie when he has done blowing me up about it. Sally Fontaine is not so well. The General got home yesterday - killed no "bars" and only brought home two "old hars" - Betty had gone for dinner yesterday. But we - your Ma and I - could not go - headaches- better today. We are reading Shakespeare o'nights- Letters from Dick & Dave. Totts & Betsy go to the [dentist] & all to school- except Lucy. She studies geography at home. William plays the guitar & sings. Sr. E. had letters yesterday from Dabney. All well but "Injuns" about. All hands sent in love with kisses to Nannie. Good bye- God bless you.

Yr.
M.F. Maury.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to Diana Maury Corbin
1860 February 5

Observatory
Washington
5 Feb 1860

My dear Nannie:

I got Mr. Corbin's letter several days gone. Tell him the 16th is quite convenient to me. I had promised Cip that he might go with us on the 9th - so it was quite a disappointment to him, was the postponement. I shall go down I think by the night train of the 15th and as I will not have time to go down to Farley Vale will have to come up to Fredericksburg. Crit is having a tussle with the head ache - got up with it this morning, went to church and has been wrestling with the thing ever since. Willie has been sick - a - bed for a week. Low fever - getting better. Cip burnt his finger with candy, and the girls didn't go to school but one day last week on accounts of the cold. Betty and Will dined here yesterday. Mary Herndon has been to Memphis. Jones is coming to [illegible] next Thursday. The Farmer is very low and the General is still there. The Physical Geography continues to engage and interest me. Lucy is [ing]. Glum 's bird sings - I call it her owl. Nannie Bill is a "honey"? We are invited to Henry's parties. The Aubick's gave an elegant [mous] party last Friday - Hauled the little Doctor home - Told me he had on his table invitations for every evening in the week and for some two days. Jennie Young and her sister Sallie are in Stuttgart studying six hours every day. Where's yr [Bobs & Tops?] We have not heard anything more of your sister Sue. Maria Newburgh's party comes off about the middle of the month so reports Dave. Everybody sends love to you and Mr. Corbin. It's night, your Ma has gone to bed. Hope she will be well in the morning.
Good night. Your aft. Dad,

M. F. Maury.

Postscript by Ann Herndon Maury:

Morning- am up, and better, but poorly at that. I wish I could come down with your Papa but indeed I am not equal to it. We heard through Mrs. Mason (and she from her son at College) that Mary Minor is coming to see you, but you seem not to have heard of it. Your letter to Molly was so pleasant. Sally E. is quite mistaken about the price of my work stand. It cost \$13. I don't think you can yet find one for \$8 but you can try. I am so glad you had a pleasant visit to Town. How came you to stay at your Uncle B's again; you must stay at your Uncle C's the next time not that I in the least object to your going to yr. Uncle B's but N. G. said when she was here that you never did go to your Uncle C's and you had been invited there so often. I love our Aunt Lucy dearly for her kindness to my precious child.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law Wellford Corbin
1860 April 17

Observatory
17 Apl 1860
My dear Mr. Corbin,

I still think you should insist on greater dispatch. Suppose you apply before the 19 July for a decree and the court refuses on the ground that K is not of age. Will that lessen your claim when she is of age? I think not. Try now and if you fail- no harm is done to the July effort. It cannot hurt much to try now, and a decree now would be worth money to you.

Lewis Walker in Rives' neighborhood wants to sell his farm so Frank Minor tells me-

I think you would do well as soon as you get Mr. Burton underway to mount yr horse and ride up to Lewis Walker's. Go up to Nelson & Amherst- also in the lower country- look at places- let it be known that you want to buy land- and then when you do sell you can have your eyes open.

Think you had better do that at once i.e. as soon as you set Mr. B. to work for the May term. it's an important matter take a month or six weeks for the trip. Nannie can come to us. On horseback the trip can cost you very little. Any idea of duty as a trustee should not interfere with such a trip. Tell Nannie we all go down to the General's today.

Is not yr Father the guardian of K & J till they come of age? And can the court appoint one without his request?

All well & good here. In haste. Yrs truly,
M.F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law Wellford Corbin
1860 March 14

Observatory
14 March 1860
My dear Mr. Corbin,

I used the word also, but "repudiation" is not the word-- Mississippi repudiates her lawful debts. It is not the lawful but the debts that have been made against the estate without the authority of law that I would have rejected it. I am glad to hear that the other parties come so readily into the plan. There is I imagine no time to be lost- and the initiatory steps cannot be taken too soon. I imagine your Uncle William will not come into the plan because he has no right in law to consent to any such arrangement for J. If he consents, he himself will be personally liable to J. for the amounts.

I am not surprised to hear that others would like to have Farley Vale. But I reckon it is the best way to let it go to the highest bidder. It certainly is the fairest.

What does Cip do all day long and why don't he write to a fellow. I am sorry that the Holly berries are all gone. I shall be glad to have any that you can start up- I have written to Tenn. for some beech nuts. I have a fancy for a beech hedge. The beech holds its leaves during winter and the lee of its hedge is almost equal to a green house-

Give my love to Nannie- I write to her mother by this mail.
Affectionately yrs
M.F. Maury

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1860 May 12

Observatory
12 May 60
My dear Nannie,

This morning your Ma and Lucy got a most pressing invitation from Jno. B. to come to the convocation. An omnibus is to run between the church and the university and they are also to have morning and evening services in the Chapel. The "Crit" is flirting in bed with the Rappahannock chills - But she has decided to go, and to take you in Lucy's place if you'll join her. She has a free ticket for you there and back. I have written to [Jesse] B. to encourage Mary with the hope that you will come instead of Lucy. Sally F and Cousin Ellen are going. Your Ma will join them and go up under Tim's escort Tuesday. Your Aunt Mary will be there with the Lynchburg people - and we will expect you up Monday to dinner.

The children are well of the mumps and will sit in the school Monday again. We hope the plants were safely received. All well and send love to Mr. Corbin.

Yr aft father
M.F. Maury

Telegraph if you are coming - yes or no - you need not prepay it. It will come to me without that.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1860 June 2

Observatory
2 June 1860
To my Nannie, Glum & Cip,

There was a gal in Mass, got a letter directed thus
Wood
Miss Ilzaide X
Mass

What was her name and her P.O.? Guess if you can, and if you can't. see upside down. The cherries are ripe and good. Ellen ?Snow is in the city on her way to F'bg. She looks badly. The Moore's and the Curry's came up to telescopes and strawberries this evening. There is a nice girl about Glum's size among and "Syd" is Cip's natural size. Good night.

Sunday night: We are invited to a dancing party at Silver Spring tomorrow at 4. No time is fixed yet for our breaking up here. It goes mighty hard I tell you - especially with Crit. We all went to church today. Sally Fontaine is going up the country Wednesday Bible lessons are underway. Cousin Ann and folks sailed yesterday for England. [] has gone to take charge of 4th Street while they are gone. The Minnesota grown tomatoes are nothing but Tennessee grown cherries! We miss you I tell you - One glance from his pop eyes and one look at those freckles would be worth a heap here I tell you. Totts has been improving ever since you went away so has your Ma, so has Lucy so Have I. Betsy stops school this week. We have sold the calf & get oceans of milk. That Shanghai peach tree is elegant and the gardens look fine- A present has arrived from Paris - guess - 3 great big boxes full of. They are from Admiral Hamlin and are splendidly done up in red [Mq___]. Where should we put them? Have you found out who the letter was to and where she lives? Give it up?

The [] are still at work. Totts has a splendid new trunk I tell you. Superb roses are in the garden. The Tennessee sugar trees have not come up! Nor has Dr. Storrow this morning. I am getting invitations to lecture next season and am declining all of them. Now here's a letter full of news- - Gus Mason and Sally Smith dined with us Friday. Totts and I went after them. Totts is splendid - who's going to answer it? Don't all write at once. Good n-y--ght - yr aft. Dad
We expect a hat-full of letters in the morning.

{at top of letter : x under-wood Andover, Mass - Ahh!}

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
MFM to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1860 July 9

Send this to Nannie.

Observatory
July 9, 1860
My dear Nannie,

Bless your heart for that letter. I'd give an eyetooth to see you. Ask your Ma to please have another one pulled and keep you till I come. Am glad to hear of Dick's arrival. I'll send the letter from him by Sr.E. who says she is going Wednesday - Am truly sorry about the chills. Hope your Ma will keep then inside. They have been troubling me also this cold weather. Tell Jno Minor I went to see Bob this morning. He was touched by his kindness and grateful to a degree. I am to try tomorrow to get a clerkship for him in the Census Bureau.

You said never a word about your Uncle Charles' wife- poor bird! N.B. stutters as Dave did.

Next week will be the 19th. I suppose you will be up then to court. Though things look so smooth in favor of paying off and dividing I can but fear something is to thwart it after all.

Betty did not go a - sherry - cobblering last night. Today I read [p] 230 of new ed. P.G. - in the last edition there are 389pp. I do not know how many there will be in this - But 400 at least I reckon.

See a letter I got this morning from my "Injun" yr friend Mr S.
Kiss everybody
your Dad, in haste -

note on verso of letter
All well. Aunt E. expected today must meet her
in haste
JHM {?John Herndon Maury MIA 1863}

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1860 Aug 6

Observatory
6 Aug. '60
My dear wife

Got this morning yrs of 4th. Tell Totts I was reading yesterday that admirable, sweet precious little book. The Household of Sir Thos More and thought of her as my Megg.

Tell Jno & Brodie & Lucy, and all the rest of the "Great Easterners" of the family that we want to go [to] [] Wednesday - day after tomorrow - Leave here at 7 -40 AM. take the steamer in Balt at 10 AM Arrive alongside the Gr. at noon. Stay 2 hours, get back to Balt. in time for the Washington train at 4.20 p.m. Round trip \$2.50. I have not seen Betty since I got yr letter and therefore can't make any arrangements as to accommodations. Betty does not know whether she is going. I reckon it would be a nice trip for Dick & Dave. If you think so, and they too, let them come along. Upon second thought Wednesday will be too soon. Thursday will be the day. I'll write Tom Bold we are coming Thursday. I'll bear Nannie's expenses too if she will come along - tell her I want her & Betty to go and to go myself out of civility to Bold. The trip would knock you up.*

Thursday at 7.40 AM we shall go - let me know who will come. Love to all.

Yrs.
M.F. Maury

If the boys & Nannie come, they should leave F'b'g Wednesday A.M. What of the trunk I'm to buy?

*Colloq. - to tire out, fatigue,

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law Wellford Corbin
1860 Oct 1

Observatory
Oct 1, 1860
My dear Mr. Corbin,

By the mail of this morning I got yr's of 29th Sept.

You are right not to go security for the parties named. My engagements are such as to prevent my coming down. Nor is that necessary.

I am not quite clear as to the amt. for which you want security. But be that as it may - show the papers to Jno. or Chas. Herndon. Ask them to draw up a deed of trust upon Farley Vale in my favor, and the negroes too if you want me to endorse for them - and have them regularly recorded. Then you can send or bring - better do the latter - the documents.

I leave the city Saturday morning - Can't you bring Nannie along - I think the sight of her would make her mother well - she had been under the weather ever since the trip North - and has not been well enough to be at the table with us more than two or three times since she came up. She is better to day, though in bed. It's a rainy "nasty" day you know. She was made quite happy this morning to keep the "boy" at home from school on account of the drizzle - about 9 - 10 it had set in for a regular pour - he came over to say she wanted him to go down the City! Somehow the rain does not seem to be as wet that way it is over toward Georgetown.

I understand that there will be a prior lien upon F.V. and on to the estate - That makes no odds - I write in haste to get to night's mail. Love to Nannie. Why doesn't she let us hear from her? to Mary Herndon Sister E. & all hands

Yrs truly
M. F. Maury

S.W. Corbin. Esq
Fredericksburg, Va.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to son-in-law Wellford Corbin
1860 Oct 22

Observatory
Washington
22 Oct 1860

My dear Mr. Corbin,

When I last wrote I was just on the eve of taking wing for Tennessee. I did not have time to write both to Charles & you, so I wrote him & sent the letter open through you. Now I write almost in as much haste, for I expect to leave for New York Thursday morning and to embark for England on Saturday.

Political affairs are in a very unsatisfactory state- so much so that shall have the country feeling quite uneasy. The state of your affairs helps to increase this uneasiness. I have had nothing in reply to my letter to Charles, but in the mere matter of endorsement you have given me all the security that I required, and such as under a more settled state of things would be considered by the most cautious timidity as ample. Nevertheless there is talk of disunion and how far property- land & negroes- in Virginia is to be affected by disunion both acts and deeds, it is simply impossible to foresee. It may not be depreciated at all- or it may be depreciated 1/3, 1/2, or 9/10th nobody can tell. No one you know ever objects to too much security. You are making it a rule of life & wisely not to go security- you do not wish to hypothecate your property for any new debts and there are many contingencies on the occurrence of which it would be better for you Nannie & me if I had a lien also on your negro property as collateral for the land. You understand I have no right to require this. But it can't harm you, may do you or Nannie good, & will add to my own comfort. Of course, I mean a lien to come in after present obligations for which that negro property may be bound.

If you think well of this proposition, get Charles to attend to it & let the expenses be mine. Drop me a letter care of Maury Brothers New York in reply & tell Nannie she shall hear from me before I sail.

Goodbye
Yrs truly
M.F. Maury

Perhaps it may be as well to state that when I offered to endorse I expected to endorse for both land & negroes and of course have a lien upon all- This I am still willing to do- so as to get the endorsed security.

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
To his wife, Ann Herndon Maury
1860 November 21

London
21 Nov '60
My dear wife,

Yesterday & the day before I was the happiest man in all London. Your two letters, Sister E's, our -Dick's - [Glum's]-Cip's- Nannie's to you, Mr. Corbin's to me- the latest 5 Nov-all came. Bless your dear hearts every one. I am so glad to hear you are on the mend, and so gratified to those darling precious friends for taking such good care of you. Kiss Sally Fontaine for me. I am just through with book. And have accepted an invitation to return on the New York Nov 28. Tomorrow go to Wrottesley whither I will write.

God bless you,

M

Matthew Fontaine Maury Papers
VMI Archives Manuscript # 00103
Letter to daughter Diana Maury Corbin
1860 December 9

Steamer New York
At Sea, 9 Dec 1860
My dear Nannie

This is our eleventh day out. When we left England we expected to arrive at New York tomorrow; but we have had a rough time of it, we are now nearly a 1000 miles off and do not expect to get in before Thursday. This is Sunday 11 a.m. and a beautiful day. I wanted to take them all by surprise by stepping in upon them Tuesday the 11th and as good luck would have it told "Crit" not to expect me before the 15 or 16th- so the "journey up the mountain" will be prevented by it, for I hoped to be in Wash. before or by the 15th.

Thank Mr. Corbin for his letter. Rutson Maury forwarded with an endorsement reporting "all well"- so it brought me the first news from home which was great joy for I was very unhappy about your Ma- It's all right tell him. I was at Wrottesley- Jansen & I- when your letter came. I delivered your message- he grinned. You can't imagine how cordial they all were- "40 time" herself came in the carriage to meet us at Codsall, & they sent us in their own carriage to the cars in Wolverhampton- the old lady insisting that we had not wrappings enough and fitting us out with hers even to London. She begged us to stay longer- so did they all. Her niece Miss Simpson was there. She took us to [Chiltington]. She hummed "Nelly Bly" for us as we went said you taught it to her & she had given away many copies of it. Davis the Butler has got rich and has set up on his "own hook." Webb the footman has his place- Simpson the gardener is to be married Xmas, and my Lord has built for him just in the edge of the forrest the sweetest little cottage you can imagine. While I was there Tom Bold was to see me in London.

If you had been in London this time, you would have thought somebody had come to town I tell you. Rail ways were placed at my service to see sights and engineers to show them & " put me thro'." The Navy officers there were planning [on] great blow out for me in return for "you all's" civilities to the prince, and they are going to send an expedition to the South Pole for me. At least Washington who is the proper person to move on it-pledged me his word so to do, saying he thought he could carry it. I made an address without notes before the Geographical Society. Had a great crowd. Ladies, Lords, gentlemen. Was breakfasted – dinner-ed & tea-ed-- oh it was a jolly time! but I would not give one day in my own sweet home with my blessed wife and sweet children for the whole of it.

When will you & Mr. C. be up- come soon- stay long. I am trying to pull the wires to get New York to send a messenger down south to enquire of the people there what's the matter? asking them to state their grievances- the terms & c. on which they would be

willing to remain in the Union. I may be too late, for my latest date as to things at home is 15 Nov- New York Herald. Things I have no doubt have assumed many new phases since then, but unless good me in each section muster themselves, I fear the Union is gone. I shall write to my Dave today to come home at Xmas. I enjoyed Jansen's visit vastly. I made many charming acquaintances, but none more so than Lady Ashburton & her Lord. I am to "come to them" when I go back. His mother has just had 50,000 trees blown down on her "plantation" in Scotland. Isn't it elegant. Our old landlady Miss Everall is just married to Scott Adir the fancy [Wollen] man. I went to the store & asked for her- there was a titter among the clerks & confusion with Scott. Jansen said he was jealous- didn't see her . Love to all hands.

yr Dad.