

Perissacaba Province of St. Paulo
Brazil Jan. 16. 1868

Dearest Augusta

I believe I have not written you since the 25 of Dec. first because the letter could not leave for the U.S. before the 3rd of Feb. & second because I have had no mail facilities for two weeks past. Since the date of my last we have traveled every day without intermission for a no. of days we continued our march over the poorest land you can imagine, i.e. from Saracaba to Itipitonigua and from thence to Parapanama from which place we returned through this miserable campo or barren lands on which there is no timber except in small patches; we then directed our course in the direction of Bacata which place is about twenty miles from the Teata river & at one end of a mountain of the same name; about twenty miles before reaching the above named place we saw the first good lands during this long trip, & when I say good lands I mean lands that will make from 40 to 60 bus. of corn without striking a lick with a hoe, plow or any thing else after planting, this amount of grain can be realized for three & perhaps four years without labor, but after that time it will be necessary to cut bushes, grass &c. that will spring up in that space of time; though the natives here abandon the land as soon as the grass commences to grow & clear other land which costs them but little trouble & they simply cut the small timber, vines &c. and burn it off and plant the corn with a hoe but as often with a stick by punching a small hole in the ground & covering with the foot & this is all except to gather

They never thin the corn but leave from three to eight or more stalks in a hill. The lands in the District of Bacatato is the best I have ever sen or even though could be found in any country, it is worth from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre, we have not yet bought but have deturmined to do so before returning home; at this time we are on our way to Aroguira distant about one hundred miles to examine a place under offer to us if the place comes up to expectation we will buy it though it is a very large place without improvements, though from what I learn, houses can be procured some distance from the place for the use of families. From a careful examination of things as they exist here I believe five hands can make more than twenty can on the best lands in our section, except in sections near the river flats I think. The country health & so far as the heat is concerned I do not find it oppressive as I have not taken off my thickest suit for two weeks part of this is the hottest month of the year in Brazil. It grieves me much to think I cannot return on the next steamer but it will not be possible to return to Pia in time to connect with it as we will have to travel on horseback about 400 before we reach Santos even, besides transacting the most important business that may require much time, as soon as possible after I arrange business I will leave for home on the first good ship or steamer. I find the best ^{the most intelligent} people of this country have collected on the good land in or near the towns leaving the inferior lands to the less intelligent & indolent, we have for some time past received every possible attention from the people both high & low & I find they all sympathize with the people of the south & express the greatest desire for our people to come to Brazil. I cannot give you any advise about the

management of our little farm, as I wrote you before
advise with John Wise, he can see & judge from circum-
stances what best to do. Should ~~we~~ make the trad
offered us, if the property is as represented, in less than ten
years & perhaps ^{five} will be worth more than I ever was,
unless something beyond the vision of man should inter-
fere, I believe this & think it will in some degree compen-
sate for the numerous sacrifices we will have to make in
this move: This part of my letter I would like for you
not to mention for various reasons, I will tell you all
I hope very soon & would do so at this time but everything
is yet to accomplish, be assured of the fact we will make a
cautious trade. What must I say about my dear chil-
dren who I so much wish to see, I hope they are all
well & hope the eldest is at a good school, tell them all
lovely, ~~help the~~ all & tell them to ~~be good children & obey~~
mother. Remember me to Joe who I hope is with you
also to Lucy & to all my old friends; it is now after
11 P.M. & I have traveled all day & feel much fatigued &
~~that~~ retire, hoping to find something to finish this vacant
space in the morning so good night dearest or ~~as~~ ^{most}
as the Brazilian would say. I will finish by referring to
the fruits in this section of the province, from what I see
& learn the peach will produce a good article of fruit if proper-
ly managed, though the most we find is not of the best qu-
ality, this morning we had a few that ate very well, at a no-
of places we have see grapes of good quality & the vines very
full, oranges in the greatest abundance though but few is
ripe at this season in two or three months they will be
here in the greatest abundance, the lemon is fine & now
ripe also the lime which makes finest jelly you

Can imagin, the banana is not found in the rich
lands growing wild as in the poorer lands near the sea
-board, but does well when planted. A great variety of
wild fruits is to be found some small & some large & many pleas-
-ant to the tast, out of this wild fruit is made a great va-
-riety of sweetsmeats many of which is delightful to the
-tast. The cattel & hogs of this country is of the finest qual-
-ity, I have seen from 80 to 100 milk cows in a lot, that would
average as large or larger than the white ox we broke soon
after our marriage with horns three times the size of
those usually found on our cattle. We have just mad
arrangement to travel south from this place ^{30 miles} to examine some
property lands & after which we will return to this place
three days hence, and then we will move to Araguara to
examine the lands above refered to. You cannot imagin
how anxious I am to hear from home, I have not yet got
a letter since leaving, but suppose your letters are in the
P.O. at Prio to which place I cannot arrive until about
the 15th of Feb. nor is there any possibl. chance that
I know of to send for them; I firmly trust in
providence for the protection of you & family for
which end I earnestly implore providence daily ever
since I left home. Since arriving in Brazil I have
much cause to be thankfull for the enjoyment of
good health, the Maj. also is as fat as usual & in
the finest health. Give my respects to all

Yours as ever

J. A. M.