My dear mother,

Sing Sing, Sept. 15th, 1837

I have often thought since I have been here that I might have left my home clandestinely and come to this place and I should never be discovered by any of my friends, for I truly believe I could not find a place so aside from the world yet so near the greatemporium of the United States. The I am within two hours side of the City of New York. I am in a country where there is deep communication by any thoroughfare and where there is deep intelligence and enterprise among the inhabitants than in the remotest corner of 'Blackfield'. Yet my sojourn among these people is not without some instruction to me. I learn to compare the different people. I am thrown among with each other, and to notice the causes which produce these differences. I believe that I could not pursue a course in life that would afford me a better opportunity to see people in each
a diversity of circumstances in life. It is a source of pleasure to me sometimes to trace the line of memory through the many different situations in which I have been placed since I commenced engineering. And after all, comparing my position with that of thousands I have seen, this companion makes me rather satisfied with myself. And among all the associations I am led to think of now that have been in my life—and more particularly how she pleased me in my situation when this book I am sure it could not have found a situation in any work that would have been equal to the one I now have. Every day leads me on with increased admiration of the work and here in this quiet country I will prepare myself for a more public situation, for when I have two or three I have nothing to attract me from the soberness of thought, and I am now commencing my arguments by the multitude of facts that continually develop themselves in my daily experience. You would be astonished to notice the difference between the inhabitants of this county and those of Britain. You have in these farmers around you an intelligent class of people. But what a difference there, what an ignoble—neglectful life they lead—they are nothing but making here if a youth is ambitious occasionally taking of the troubles of an Almanac, that of being a 60 year old man. I am now in the community as having a promising literary taste. I have an office in a part of this town of a house where I lived, and I find a companion to the same to be most equal to her, tell them she may live years yet in the same cottage for once. But in 15 years older than her and we are only about two miles, a new one now. In one corner of my office you may see my instruments for field operations in the corner a long table with huge drawers filled with paper and plans, the fire place is one shelf with five and then a monument among the books in front directly above is another shelf supporting a desk looking me as mathematical books what crown the whole is my new Picture Hanger. a wall above the whole. You recall my own dear heart you? You letter afforded me much pleasure as coming from home. But I was sorry, Charles, should be obliged to spend his vacation in sickness. I was glad too to get a few lines from him and I am conscious of the neglect I am daily showing him, is not writing to him, but I am very busy and determined he shall have my next letter. How does Matilda enjoy herself in these days and how is little niece there that never opened its eyes to look upon me? What has she done? I wish she might to send the Thoole in my room to me care of Mr. Tomlinson as N.Y. By the
first person coming to N.Y. from Waterville. I send you a design of the manner in which we built the Aqueduct for taking the water to the city. That dotted portion underneath is a concrete made of broken stone and mortar of hydraulic cement. The side walls are of stone and that part colored red is brick, and the line above—light shaded shows the quantity of Embankment of earth over the top. The whole work forty miles long is built in this form. You may not be much interested in this but

I presume Ch. and Alice will—the figures upon the plan denote feet and inches. My love to all around you and believe me your affectionate son.

Fayette

I hope you or someone at home will write to me soon.

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