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Dear Mother

I came to Richmond
hoping to see You and Frances - I
was glad to learn that she had
gone to Baltimore - I go home
Monday morning

I left all well, Edith has been in
bad health for nearly one year
but she is now quite well

We have our six children, Annie
is taller than her mother - Charlie
is a very bright handsome boy nearly
13 years old He is studying hard
and a fine scholar George is

My pet he is next to Charlie and
a dear good boy Lizzie and Fannie
are two of the prettiest and sweetest
little girls in Baltimore

John Lee is the Youngest He
is Martha's boy He Masters her
every way, and she has spoiled
him completely, she says Johnnie
is the prettiest

Martha is well and happy only
like Edith anxious about
You They send their love
to all Lucy - Jane, her mother
their brother and all

I send You twenty dollars for
Yourself and twenty dollars for
Jane as I fear she wants it - send
it to her

Mr Stark has kindly promised to
send this when I write again
I will direct to her care

Let me hear from You soon direct
to the enclosed direction - use

the envelope within this letter and
have it put in the Richmond Post Office
With the love of all, I am

Affectionately Yours

J. J. Ford

Richmond Va April 15th 1855

Saturday
Today is Annies birth day fifteen
Years old tomorrow I am 36