the injury he does himself now no longer able to be so active he would find that he gives himself a great deal of labour & anxiety which might be avoided – It is in the planning & arrangement of our work more than the driving & pushing, for only a certain degree of labour can be ~~[illegible]~~ performed by any individual & if the management be good less work & trouble produces more good effect. However I suppose he understands all this already – I send up some slate pens to the girls which may serve them for copying & letter writing. They are good now but require care. I do not think W is very strong he complains of a pain in both sides & occasionally soon looks jaded – he may outgrow it perhaps – I envy yr cool & airy country residence. Feathers wont float here sometimes – H. stands it well considering the trouble she has & the work she does, but quiet or unoccupied she wont be. I occasionally hear of certain seasonable works drawing to a conclusion & then she will rest – but I have never found her at the resting post yet. She gets on wonderfully however considering all things. Eddy is thin but he is always on the go – We expected Mrs W & Robt down last month but I believe the warm weather prevented her coming. On Thursday thermometer 90. Monday 95 & Tuesday 97 all in a fair situation. Another on Wednesday 94 but scarcely a good test – so you may judge how we are here. Every one who can get away is gone or is going out of town. I sent father a letter by mail from Dr McPherson but Grafton Dulaney informs me he thinks the claim was assigned by my uncle to Mrs Fitzhugh so that I fear it will be a blank as I presume all that Mather was investigating since Uncles death – I hoped to have heard from Mr Maynadier to day but did not – Mr & Mrs Randall will be here this evening & ~~to morrow~~ on saturday H & Eddy will go to Frederick – H. is very weak she has staid too long here & will go up with her sister. The thermometer still ranges very high. 96 this morning at 8 O'clock but I think now 12 O'clock it is a little cooler. I presume there is not a thermometer in town lower than 94. Please excuse the form of this letter I did not expect to have written so much when I began on a half a sheet –

Yr affectionate son
C Birnie Jr

12 July 1858

thirty or thirty one hundred eyes

Mrs Jefferson

For
Mr C Birnie
Randale

46 Dos
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David Harper

Mrs B Birnie