Davidson Co.,
August 9, '53

My Dear Billy:—You have had long enough to appreciate the fact that in this vale of tears, when one can't do as he will, he will have to settle with doing the best he can. If I did as I would I'd write you a long letter today, but I can't do it. You have no idea how much time and attention it takes to attend the business of a plantation. It takes twice as much of my time and thought as it would of my father who is familiar with all the details of the business. He is away, and probably will not return before September. Our is pretty well advanced.

I am busy all day and when night comes, it is just time out of the question for me to do...
any thing else than tumble into my bed and sleep. With the labor we have in this country, farming is one of the meanest pursuits in life. I can say with emotion that In all my wandering mind this motto In all my pride God has given my heart. I have never found any indulgence that can at all compare with that particular species to which the man is subjected who has to deal with these poor negroes that curse this part of the country. Nearly it is easier for two or three black men to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for a man to save his immortal soul and make any money with poor negro labor. They get no one every year, other north has got to be something in self-defence. What to do, is the question that all are asking nobody an—

But I did not start this.
lutter to write about myself or about free negroes. I wanted to enter my protest against the plans which you tell me you have about maturing for the next year. You ought not to think of staying in Deadwood. You have duties of filial affection—these duties nothing should be allowed to set aside. But does filial affection demand you to stay? I don't think so. You owe it to your father and mother (before almost any else) that you succeed in life—make a good, useful, and honored member of society. Not only that (for this you might easily do as a mining engineer) but you owe it to them to be just as useful and honored as possible. Now that is a higher duty than keeping your mother company.
for 18 months. I know she does not want to keep you from much selfish motion—it is more, very much more from motion of maternal love—that love which is a truth "passeth all understanding."

I am not time now to attempt to argue the question—nor if I had the time does there exist any necessity for argument. If you will just apply your abundant common sense to the case you will see that the idea of staying away in Deadwood one more year is, at best, quixotic.

With that I need to wish you more. But my soul is not my own these days—it is in the hands of the to suggest the Almighty. With me, Lord, I shall be anxious to hear from you

Now until I know your final decision—my position is as follows: You as A. D. Wright.
If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

April 4/83

Mr. W. L. M'Laugh
Georgetown Co

[Signature]

DANISBoro
AUG 18
CA

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