



Austin Families Association of America
Archive Document Series
The Dall-Tardy Letters
3 January 1866 – Balthazar Tardy to Henrietta Cecelia Tardy

Letter dated 1866 January 3 from Balthazar Tardy in Mobile to his daughter Henrietta Cecelia Tardy¹.

Mobile Jan 3, 1866

My Precious Daughter,

You are to leave the home of you[r] devoted father & mother to begin life with a husband of your own choice & love & in the selection made you had my approbation. I feel assured of my knowledge of the selection – that he will continue to be a devoted husband and a protection to the jewel he has in you. Although you will be absent from me in person, yet my dear child your loveliness, your affection & love for me will be lovely thoughts [this last phrase very difficult to read, and may be inaccurate].

It wrings my heart to think I am to miss each morning & evening your kiss – I know I am selfish in my nature this far at least, to wish you were never to be separated from me for I had hoped that circumstance could have been such that one household were to have been the home of my dear wife, son & yourself & our dau Carrie & Clarence – Yet let me hope & with prayers that ere long that advantages peculiarly may allow us – all to be again reunited – as one family under the same roof.

My heart is so full than this incoherent writing cannot express my thoughts, feelings and sorrows.

You are both to commence life, my precious children – and though I am pained to say & should be ashamed in its acknowledgement that I have too long neglected religion & given too many cares to business pursuits – when in doing so I should have found love – and remind myself – that this world is but a shadowy show & our aim should be for higher motives – to meet hereafter happiness in “Heaven” – therefore in all the dereliction of these paramount duties in the past of myself – don’t permit yourself to be deceived a day – but place your confidence in the “Almighty Ruler” & at the same time adopt as a rule thru life in observance & daily memorizing &/or reading of the Holy Testaments & prayers – Fail not both of you my children in assuming this duty & maintain & adhere to it – thru life –

God bless you & protect you –

Your devoted Father

B’r Tardy

My Child – I expect letters weekly from you – don’t fail to do so.

¹ Two weeks after she had married John Nathaniel Matthews.