

# Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.220

**Undated: Mary Hall [mother] to Thomas Hall**



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Probably 1755  
before birth of Sarah  
of your sister

You were but too sensible my Dear Cousin  
how much how long I lived in secret at a shock  
I met with which need not be repeated nor till  
since our being all in Patrick I thought I had lost yr  
Love & that you seem'd Incircled with that bond  
that you could not soon leave it, however all that  
clear'd up you convinc'd me I thought of yr Love  
& Behav'd in a most tender manner & I esteem'd  
myself one of the happiest women nor does  
one suspect you or would harbour any thought  
that could give me pain, on the assurances you  
had given me, I thought but of parting from  
our 2 mothers & the reflection on both their  
Behaviours often caus'd tears w<sup>ch</sup> you I may say  
kiss'd off, my happiness in you was so great  
I dreaded to lose it & often declar'd my self in a  
most positive manner against my stay  
least it should be attempted you know it was  
often the fear of my old Complaints increasing  
in the warm weather, the dread of parting  
from my 2 boys & unborn Infant, but above all  
all the fear of being parted from you gave  
me terrors more than I can express, you know  
my thoughts of the creatures & of yr going to  
them & then to me was what I could not bear  
& the declaration I made to you of my resolution  
on that head, & to part from my Dearest Tommy  
that I doated on even in the midst of yr <sup>presence</sup> in a  
& so great a degree after our Re-encounter &  
Enjoyment of us so comfortably was worse  
then death to me, I often joak'd with you to  
see if it was possible for you to live without  
renewing yr Commerce with them & I found by yr talk you  
could not & when I repeated my Resolution you one day  
ask'd me if I would not compleat the work I had began

I would have you for one transgression this was in a merry  
talk Entre nous & I often thought out seriously but such  
was my vow I could not break it & told you so & after my  
disappointment, that I grew so big I could not so requite heart  
to my child I then found how cruel my case was, the  
thoughts of parting from you was too great & yet every  
night or morning I was in pain & concern for you, you  
my Dr Cousin that have often bid me let reason conquer  
my passions, but I my Dr had Love to you & tenderness to  
my Dr babies & give me leave to say hatred to the crew  
about me to conquer w<sup>th</sup> after 10 years Love or disgust  
was too hard lines for me to follow when you could  
not conquer one passion that was indeed wrong, I saw  
it & pitied you & thought that I would make you the  
offer I did, ~~if~~ if it was possible I would complete  
my work for you often kindly said I made you ashamed  
& I thought that the only way to conquer & again I  
thought that if it would not do that way it would  
at least give you ease & satisfaction & I have often  
said my Cousin I could die for you, yes I again  
repeat it I would die 10000 deaths rather than  
give you pain, or to give any satisfaction you  
know the rest & may judge the pain I've gone  
through even to the other morning the assurances  
you have given me has only added to my concern  
to think you should bear the least ill consequence  
on my acct. when I wish to give you pleasure  
& let my sufferings have been what they would I could  
not do no one had seen them or you have been so very  
uneasy as you have been, now think my Cousin how  
hard my case has been & is to be compelled to stay on  
these terms, to love you to distraction to wish to give you  
happiness every way yet to suffer so much myself  
& by these sufferings to make you uneasy so as to hurt  
me & show me more of yr temper than any one ever

you thought you had yr self to be harraled so by all  
round me condemn'd & thought unkindly off  
oh how could I support or think of life in  
this distracted way about you with the causes  
of my woe ever before you uneasy to do it yet so  
kind to scruple it offering to promise what I know  
you could not perform without reason to yr aid  
& then you to be uneasy had I blam'd yr promise  
would you not have thought unkindly then or  
would it have shown my Love, but in this bitter  
struggle my heart terror approach'd to parting  
there I was lost in the parents struggle & the  
flurry of all round me & you made a hasty  
conclusion w<sup>th</sup> we may both be sorry for at least  
myself as I had rather suffer alone but as you  
seem impatient at my melancholy mood & I  
have not time to say the half of my thoughts  
let this suffice to let you into my griefs, that  
you may not condemn me but pity me,  
I love w<sup>th</sup> too great a nicety to wish for any kind  
of promise & am too unhappy to love you I love  
my Dr babies with a sincere Love & think too much  
for their sakes to be a judge for myself & this Dr  
little one I have felt for already & dread what I may  
yet feel & now my Dr reflect with yr self & as you  
know we all have different passions to contend  
with & I am so unhappy to be on the extreme, it  
is not in my power to conquer mine nor would  
I wish it for I can't survive the loss of yr Love or  
think of living in pain as I must do without  
yr tender endearments, therefore my Dearest Cousin  
live to enjoy yr self in what manner you like  
best suffer no pain on my acct. or think on me  
for I can die for you but not live without you  
believe & pity me forgive & if you can Love for I  
wish to deserve