Columbus Sept. 18, 1855

Dear Cousin Stanton,

Sir, I received a letter from you a few days since, which you write to me in July last, I think, it came safe to Columbus, but I had left Columbus and was living in Champaign Co. this state, and therefore did not read your letter until I returned home to my Fathers, her then gave it to me and you know now the reason why I did not answer your letter before. I must tell you that I have not been doing much business this summer, the reason is that where I have been located it has been very healthy. I was deceived in the place the most prominent citizens in the place advised me to come there and I did and stayed six months and did what little business there was to do and now I am at my Fathers contemplating what it is best for me to do. I do not know whether to pack up and come out to your town or to seek another location here in this country, you stated that your Doctor wanted me to come out and that soon but you see that I did not get your letter in time to come then and now I do not know what to do. I want you to see him and see what he says about me coming yet and see if he will take me in as a partner & in fact you may tell him if you please to write to me and tell me the prospects of my doing business in his town. I would rather go in with him as a partner for a while if it would suit him as well. Now Stanton if you and the rest, and the Doctor think I would do well to come out there I will come. I must tell you, as I do not know whether you have heard or not that I am married. I was married on the first day of May last to a Miss Hannah Patterson. She is like your wife, young and tender, but cous, they are the kind after all she is as quick as double geared lightening, round featured blue eyes auburn hair & we have been well this summer but her folks and my folks have some of them been sick but are all well now, it has been very sickly in this (Franklin) county. Generally, the remittent and intermittent fevers are the prevailing diseases I do not know that I have anything of peculiar interest further to write. Please give my love to your wife and all of the relatives that you see.

With great respect and tender love

I remain your humble cousin

E.S. Merriss M.D.

& wife

Stanton P Merriss & wife