

Wash<sup>n</sup> Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>

My dear Harriet,

We were delighted to hear of your safe arrival in Phil<sup>a</sup> & congratulate you most sincerely on escaping the perils of the deep & that equally dreadful Camden & Amboy Railroad. I need not say that our prayers were offered up for you from the day of your embarkation. I feel thankful that they have been answered so satisfactorily. What a charming séjour you must have had abroad. How much you will have to tell us when we meet which we hope will be in the course of the winter as we are both very anxious to see you & you know of old how much pleasure it always gives us to have you with us. You will find Washington exceedingly changed but those old friends who are left will give you a hearty welcome. There is a report very current here that poor little Louly [Louise] Corcoran has died very suddenly in Paris & in fact a gentleman told us two evenings since that a telegraph had reached here from Halifax to that effect. A letter reached M<sup>me</sup> Bodiseo[?] from Paris on Friday mentioning the fact that the Coolidges were at church on Sunday & did not seem to have heard the rumor. In fact I saw Mrs. C. on Thursday who told me that she expected Mr. Corcoran & his daughter in December & that Louly had written to her that the scandal in London was that you were engaged to some Duke or Earl at all events some very high character & asked me if it were so. I of course pleaded ignorance as you had not let me into the mysteries of the prison house. About a month ago we were in Lancaster & there some ladies told us that Mr. Tyson had just returned from Europe & had announced his engagement to you. So I beg of you tell us which it is – are we to have you here in the councils of your country or are we to transfer you to those of another. It is a most important enquiry I assure you & I hope will be answered with all due deliberation. Sister is very anxious to see you so go & see her with James Henry. She has moved into town & lives on Pine Street between 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> streets near Mrs. Henry Reed's. You must have been very much shocked to hear of poor Jessie's death & we regret extremely that we were absent at the time of her illness as we might have been of some assistance in helping to nurse her. At all events, it would have been a comfort to her to see us. Mr. W has sent for the little child which was at Gertrude's & I believe has them all with him. Lancaster we found vastly improved. Your brother spent an evening with us & Clemmie thought him looking remarkably well. We drove only to Wheatland & found Miss Hetty just recovering from an attack of Cholera [?] from eating oysters. The place itself looked smutty. I you know had never seen it before. Mrs. Boyer has returned to Georgetown but it is doubtful whether she will recover & never it is feared the use of her spine. The son is dying of consumption, indeed may be dead. Emily's was a most beautiful death. She said that she had no merits of her own but



depended on those of Christ-- that she was intended to die in His time & His way. Her sufferings could not have been great as she bled to death but she was perfectly composed, left a will & gave away everything even her harp. Her mother & herself had joined the church a short time previous to leaving. She had also been ill & the Doctors had pronounced her consumptive. The beginning of last December we were at a most beautiful party there & [?] Emily was superbly dressed in diamonds & expensive laces; and probably before the year will have passed away the whole family almost will have been swept away with it. How happy a future poor Emily seemed to have before her when you were here! Do write when you get rested \_ I had nearly forgotten to thank you for taking care of my autographs for me. As you may imagine, I am all impatient to handle them, therefore if you would send them by Adams's Express you would infinitely add to the obligation & I would prefer paying for them in that way to trusting them to a private opportunity & I know that you will be heartily obliged to me for relieving you of them. Tell James Henry how much disappointed we were in not seeing him this summer. Clemmie sends you oceans of love as do I & hoping to have the pleasure of seeing you before a very very long time; believe me as ever your true friend

Laura

We hope that you left your Uncle quite well. Does he expect to return in November?

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