

Soldiers Home
Wednesday. Aug 18. 1858.

My dear Lily.

Your good Father has doubtless given you most satisfactory accounts of Bedford – but inasmuch as you placed him especially under my charge I feel in duty bound to make some report of his proceedings there. As far as I could see, his conduct was unexceptional but there were times in each day when he would be missing, & in spite of all my watchfulness & care I could not find out what became of him & I am sorry to say that upon his return, there was not that confidence & trust reposed in me which I had hoped & looked for. There was one strange coincidence about these unexplained hours & that was, that at exactly the same hour, & for the same length of time, a stylish elegant lady was missing & the fair dame who had her in charge (a most responsible burden) was thrown into the same state of anxiety & uneasiness that I was enduring. It is also asserted by responsible witnesses that he (your Father) entered into a matrimonial engagement while sojourning among those mountains - & that the time of the marriage was fixed, - & upon the young lady failing to appear at the stated hour, (6 in the morning) he then & there indited various lines of poetry, which although they failed to bring out the bright lady – yet have established a reputation for my protégé, of which I am justly proud - & which will send his name to posterity as one of the few distinguished poets of our glorious old state. These may be trivial things, which probably you do not care to hear, but in these days of [clenaragua's], C's, etc, - guardians & parents cannot be too careful - & I deemed it my duty to report so that if these strange mysteries were followed up by anything alarming, you might be on the alert, & by gentleness & persuasion, endeavour [sic] to win the confidence of the young man, & by good advice, avert anything you deem calamitous; - at least, until he shall have arrived at such years as you may consider him capable of taking charge of himself - & acting for himself when necessity obliges you to the summer, to send him along into the world, without your fostering care.

We were all sorry you could not join us at Bedford for we had a “very good time” – but I know your fancy for “the buttons” & when I heard West Point suggested I knew our attractions, were as nothing [with] that comparison. Kory would not go, & will not do anything this summer. __ What on earth is the matter with him? I thought he would, at least, have curiosity to hear from you [on] our trip. I hope your Father told you how glad I should have been to have returned with him to Torisdale, but could not. Do not take too long a stay at West Point – for we must have your promised visit here. The President & Gov. Floyd will never forgive you if you disappoint us – to say nothing of the revenge. I will take for such an injury. Write me as soon as you return from West Point of the day you will be here anytime will suit us, but I do not want you to leave it too late, - Mr. Henry talks of a visit to Lake George about the 1st Sept. I am happy to inform you that the

Major has returned – well & hearty -- & we are to have a ride this evening – he & Gov Powell & Gov Floyd dined with us yesterday & the two former gents remained over night - & the gallant Major rode off on Bob this morning, amid the admiring gaze of all around. Gov Floyd often asks about Strong; but as you were very silent when questioned, I thought the least said, on that subject, the better.



Mr. Schell has been guilty of the most exquisite piece of sentiment I have yet hear of. The day we had our Picnic at Mt Vernon the said Schell gathered various pebbles from the shores of the broad Potomac & took them to New York had them set in the most beautiful bracelet; & sent it to your humble servant – as a souvenir of our charming trip. I have rarely seen anything more elegant, unique or chaste - & it was done in such a gentlemanly delicate style, that I am quite delighted. I return the packet marked “money for papers” not having been called upon to discharge any debt for said article, to the gross amount of 13 cents. I hope you will enjoy your visit very much, & still remember that you have friends waiting here for the execution of the solemn promise. Pray thank your brother for his kind thought of me in sending the book - & with love to your Father, & Julia - & with the hope that you will write soon, & come soon after – believe me,

Yours very affectionately
H. Lane.

Uncle is very much improved by his trip.- Write me about Korty. I hear he sincerely regrets not having joined our excursion. I sincerely regret to announce to you the death of Nettle who expired whilst I was at Bedford, in what is vulgarly called “fits” but in his case must have been physical aberration. I miss him greatly & am really grieved at his loss – though I regret to say, the President does not properly sympathize with me, - but Mr. Henry does.

