

Executive Mansion
Tuesday. Nov 29. 1859.

My dear Lily,

Thanks for your kind letters & for attending to my wishes about the likeness. I was much amused at your conversation with Banks – whose imagination far o'er leaps his truth methinks; at times. I have too good an opinion of Miles to suppose for an instant that Banks was authorized to speak for him. You were quite right in what you said – for I never thought of Miles as anything but “an agreeable acquaintance” nothing more. I have heard various reasons which he has been said to assign for not “prosecuting this suit” – among them the agreeable little remark that he “admired me very much, but I had not money enough for him to marry me.” Such little things are pleasant!! to hear – though really cannot say that I believe them. At all events Miles & I are very good friends – good enough to satisfy us both - & your little friend “the chestnut worm” need not feel himself called upon to interfere in the matter. I do not think M has socially lived up to the brilliant career his fond S Carolina friends had marked out for him. “A fellow feeling makes us wondrous wise” – misery loves sympathy” (& a thousand other sage quotations might be added to the same effect) so I suppose I am indebted to the subduing influences of the Lieut, for the interest you take in my hearts welfare! _____
Mowry has been in Washington but is now, I believe, at the north, - “We met, it was not a crowd, & he did not pass me coldly by.” I saw him twice, & we are (or were) excellent friends – though I fear I did something just before he left that rather raised the ire & dignity of the youth. He is a nice gentlemanly little fellow, & I shall try to make it all straight when he returns.

I fear dear Mrs. Plitt is very ill – this last attack was unusually long & severe. I want to see her. Mrs. Craig has given up the idea of going to N Y - & Mrs. Cobb has invited her here. I think she will come, though she never writes me nowadays, & I know nothing from herself. I hear Mr. Robb has been in Philia. I fear you have done some negligent thing towards Kerty – you are too great a favorite of his, for him to neglect to go to see you if he thought himself quite [portion missing from photocopy]

What a charming time you must have had with Will Blanchard!!! I should like to have seen it. – I must tell that I did undergo the feeling you described (“crinky”) when first I saw Mowry – it was unexpected but fortunately I was in the carriage & he was on the side walk – so I had recovered before we met face to face. He has sent me another book. You ask who I have on hand now! – no one. I never was freer, or more ready to dispense my smiles generally.

I hope you are coming to Washington this winter. After the Lieut leaves Philia will be insupportable for I hope the Dr will have too much dignity to take the slightest notice of you after the shameful way in which you have treated him. Later in the season I hope you will come & stay with us awhile – I think we might make it pleasant for you – though Mr. Floyd is in the country, & Mrs. Floyd is at home. Write me dear Lily. I have a right now to know how the Porter affair progresses_ so make a full confession of all crimes & let



your conscience for once feel free. Give my love to your father & Mrs. Lathrop Where
are Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jr now? Ever believe me

Yours affectionately
H Lane

Envelope:

Miss Macalester.
Charles Macalester. Esq.
Philadelphia.

mss1995_402_07_1859_HL_to_Lily_Macalester
Provided by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union Library, 1981



Lancaster**History**