

Washington Friday  
21 / Jan 59

My dearest Mary,

I did not receive your letter of Wednesday until Thursday night & its absence worried me not a little I assure you – as I could not assign a satisfactory cause – unless that you were sick again – which would not have been a “satisfactory “cause” tho’ it would have accounted for no letter coming – So you have not liked my letters lately? neither have I, but my letters are to a certain extent a reflex of my feelings or spirits at the time & I confess I was so worried at the appearance of things, that I was completely “bouleverse!” & must have written almost mechanically rather than disappoint you by not writing at all. I am too much provoked that I will not be able to go to see you on Saturday & I will tell you the cause – Count Sartiges has gotten up a dinner which he says was for Miss Lane & Mrs. Craig on Saturday next – Miss Lane cannot go, so Mrs. Craig of course has to go & I have to go as her escort as she is a guest of this house -- I saw at once that there was no escape for me & that I had better yield with as good a grace as possible at once – this is a specimen of the sort of life I have here -- I am never my own master. I will either have to wait until to-morrow a week or else is you suffer it Darling I can run over some evening & stay ‘till next morning to which would be provokingly short. I suppose you have heard of all the news of Miss Nina [Nord’s or Woods] marriage to Mr. Boyce yesterday morning at 7 oclock!! They go at once to the Havanna [sic] for his health. I have another piece of news to tell & that is that my jolly friend Miss Mary Bright is engaged to Mr. Lawrenceon Riggs, a widower & brother of George Riggs of Riggs & Co. He will get a very fine wife as she is a good amiable girl with enough character to make fine woman. I was at the Piccolomini Concert last night & enjoyed it greatly she is certainly charming as a woman if but as great cantatrice – her voice is not extraordinary. She is coming to see the President on Monday.

You must not forget to tell me if you are going with your friends to the next Balto Assembly.

I have just reread your letter & I feel like giving you a right good scolding for the first part of your letter – could you not have imagined that the hard facts & conclusions in that “last long letter” would have had some effect upon me?

That newspaper extract is certainly very funny.

I hope soon to have the pleasure of being presented to your friends the young ladies – they certainly do not seem to me as strangers & I trust that they will not look upon me as such. Present my respectful compliments to them – if I may take the liberty on so infinitesimal an acquaintance(?)

But I must close dearest.

Your affectionate  
JBH

