

Washington
January 11 1859

My own darling Mary.

How grieved I was my sweet one to hear from your dear mother yesterday evening that you were still unwell but I trust that her expectations of your being much better to day will be entirely & emphatically realized & that my poor Marmie may be herself again -- I shall look with anxiety for some [?] to night to that effect to relieve my mind. You must thank your dear mother for her kindness in writing me such a sweet little note to inform me how you were.

I saw your father yesterday to the Senate & he is very well- we had a tolerably pleasant ride up from Annapolis but a very cold one & when I arrived at the Junction I quietly kept my seat in the warm & comfortable car until the Washington train came along -you know that old station building is very old & leaky to the wind- which was cold & piercing. I went out this morning early to take a little skating exercise of which I took a mile or two & returned by 9 oclock – the river is quite frozen over tho' not strong enough to bear a mans weight- but on the canal it is very strong & good -- did you ever try to learn the accomplishment of skating? It is most excellent exercise but I suppose you have so little ice about your famous city. We have our first evening reception tonight – I shall be glad when it is over for my heart is not in it.

I hope dearest Mary that by tomorrow you will be able to write me a nice good long letter again & that you will be ever so well & then I shall feel very happy again – I have not seen Dr. Dan yet nor any of Mr. Ingrahams & so have no need at all to tell.

I have not replied to friend Scharff's last letter yet & of course have not heard anything from him. I am looking forward to so much pleasure in hearing & seeing him once more & under such happy auspices.

Goodbye darling take the best care of your dear self give my love to your mother & Miss Em believe me ever

Your loving & affectionate

J.B.H.

