

Washington City
17th (Monday)

My dearest Mary,

Were you not very much amused at the provoking mishap by which I was prevented from sending you a lovely bouquet on Saturday as I promised – For fear your father did not think to tell you I will repeat I ordered a beautiful one & saw myself that the order was executed to my entire satisfaction. After our own Saturday reception I went over to Mrs. Slidells & Mrs. Givins & so told the Steward to order the carriage to meet me there at 4 o'clock [sic], as I intended to meet your father at the cars, & to bring the bouquet, meaning to leave it in the carriage. To my horror as you can picture to yourself whilst I was in pleasant conversation with Lucy Givins in walks their stately groom & marches up to me with – would you believe it my beautiful flowers & with a flourishing bow handed it to me – Miss G - thinking they for her from some absent devotee extended her hand to take them before she saw they were intended for me – so I saw at once my dilemma & mustering all my *sang froid* – (for I was enraged as the french [sic] say) I made a “*galliant*” speech & presented them to her which she smilingly received. She did not suspect it, for I was told by a bystander that I did it so well & I now doubtless stand better in her estimation. The stupidity of the coachman was the cause of it all. We go to a small party to night at the Wilkes. Dr [Duc?] takes Miss Grace of Balt & I suppose Miss Scott then.

I am delighted to hear from the Ingrahams that they expect Miss Emily this week as it proves to me how much better you must be then I had supposed. I may go to Phila & New York in a week or two to be admitted to the Bar previous to my final departure.

Please tell your Uncle Alex how much gratified I was at his kind treatment of Mr. McSill.

With love to all
I remain
Ever yours affectionately
JBH

