

Oxford [Pa.] Sunday night [15 Jun 1861]

My dear wife,

I arrived here all right on Friday evening tho' I did not get off from Jersey City by the 8 train as I intended because a smash up had taken place in the night in Bergen Cut which obstructed the road & delayed all the trains – however at 9 we got off & had no further trouble or delay. Yesterday I spent in Phila making some visits, getting Dody shoes, etc. I saw Miss Carver, one of my [Nile] acquaintances, & had a look at her portrait which was painted by Indigiani, the same artist in Florence who painted mine – it was lovely -- I hope some day I may be able to have him paint yours also. I saw Mr. Chester [?]. Ellen [?] and called at [Cousin ?] Lodie's but she was out. Mrs. C. told me that Fanny Smith was in town and was to sail for Europe next week. Fanny Randale I intended to see, but found out she was in Annapolis.

I found dear Dody all well and pleased with country life – Anne & Alice send their love to you as does [?] Dody – Cousin Alice is about the same but is getting better slowly – I hope surely. They seem to have enjoyed their visit to us a great deal & will be glad I think to repeat it. Mrs. Robinette & niece are staying here with the girls and I find them very pleasant. I went today with Dody to see Mr. Crawfords [sic] [school?] & was pleased with it and have no doubt he could be [several words illegible] but I think he inclines [? ?] to give the governess three months trial at any rate & Alice agrees with me. I will hence wait until I get to Annapolis before making a final decision on the subject. Dody has had one letter from his aunt since he came here. I think he would be very well pleased to go back, now that the novelty has worn off.

I will start tomorrow for Lancaster & on Tuesday will leave Lancaster for Greensburgh where I shall hope to get your letter & shall start back for Annapolis on Thursday & hope to arrive there Friday night at the latest. I will write you as soon as I get there if not before. I hope my dear wife that you [?] well & are enjoying your visit fully so that the time will come when you will [? ?] where will [?] to return home & to your “old [self] again.”

I suppose [?] is anxiously looking for [?] back & share his [?...] the “pen greater” so I am [?...] stay any longer on my train than I can help.

Give my best [?] to your mother & tell her I enjoyed my visit very much & thank her for her [?] attentions. I hope your father may be able to bring her and you with him to Annapolis when you are ready to come & that she will make us a good long visit. Please send me a copy of the Gazette with that ships article as I gave mine away. You [??] are to me next at Annapolis. Alas now my dear wife I must say [?] & with a great deal of love [?...]

JBH

[Letter & envelope badly water damaged with bits missing]

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