

Washington July 22/58

My sweet Mary,

I rode into town last night on one of the most villainous of brutes last night in hopes of getting your letter but by some ill luck it did not arrive tho' I see by its date it must have been regularly posted at Annapolis – however I received it safely this morning & thank you my dear pet for its contents -- It is perfectly satisfactory – as to time it seems a long long time till next September a year – 1859 & I am going to try to make my darling think so – but gradually – I feel so glad & much more happy that you now know all I have to say about those matters & now you can join me in a hearty laugh at poor Mr. Scharff's discomfiture the other day – I have had more fun teasing him about, what he called his “gaucherie” then you can imagine – I told him afterwards that we had never talked these matters over & that it would account for your rapid exit – he told me that he felt awfully blank tho' he kept a stiff upper lip – you cannot conceive how much fun I have had with him about it – he told me to make all kinds of apologies - & I told him to be perfectly easy about it as you would understand it. I will Deo voleute– be down to see you to-morrow a week & stay till Monday - & during the President absence at Bedford, every week on the same day –

your affectionate

JBH

Goodbye – receive a thousand kisses from

PS Don't let that letter worry you- all things will come quietly & naturally in their right times.

