

Bolton 12 Sep 1858

My own sweet Lily!

I hope you have duly received all my letters – I fear from your last kind but rather – what shall I say – sad? – letter that you did not feel happy when you wrote it – it was not so gay & bright as the one before it – I trust my sweetest one that I am entirely mistaken in interpreting its tone – still the reflex from it makes me feel how? – sorry or sad – about what or for what I do not know. But I will discuss this strain & have a little last chat with you before I leave these beautiful scenes – I leave day after tomorrow & will drop you a line before then. I am well dearest & happy as I can be without you & for the first time in my life I shall leave Lake George with pleasure notwithstanding that it is to return to that hateful climate of Washington, because I shall so soon see my loved Marmie again – there now pet never ask me such a bad question again at that in the last part of your letter – it was quite malicious in you – I shall condemn you to a hundred – kisses! for that crime when we meet – so prenez garde [be on guard].

So your dear sister is off on such a charming tour – it is exactly the same that Mr. Scharff & I took from years ago – it was there that I first discovered Lake George. Do you know that this is called the “Great Northern Wedding Tour” for the fact that the majority who travel it, are of that kind – if the Merrimac had returned I might have been led to draw wrong conclusions! I am so sorry that they did not start sooner so that I could have been here when they pass [sic] through – I hope dear Miss Emily will think of me when she does come here. I could have pointed out so many beauties if I were along – but they will speak for themselves. If they do not arrive here by the 24 of Sep they will not be able to visit the lake via Champlain for the steamboat through L. George stops running for the season on that day – I would be so disappointed if they fail to see it – for Miss Emily could then describe to you the place I rave so much about – perhaps then you would not laugh so much at me about it. So you did worry about that foolish little cold I took – I shall never tell you of such a thing – so trivial – again. I am going to scold you well, sweet one, when we meet for that – prepare for another hundred kisses as a penalty for that. I am as strong & well as you could wish me. You must not write to me darling this week for as I leave on Tuesday it would not reach me –

I have told several of my good friends here of the cause of my new happiness & the great blessing my good Father has given me & they are ready I assure you to give her a warm & friendly welcome – some day – among these friends is a very charming family from Jersey City by the name of Thieriot who [sic] I have known for four years – they have a nice little cottage & spend the summers here They are prepared to love you very much my own Maimie dear!

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LancasterHistory

I shall leave here on Tuesday at 10 – via Caldwell where I dine – take the Hudson river boat at 5 p.m. from Troy, will spend Wednesday in New York with Scharff & attend to some business – Thursday at my uncles in Phila who [sic] I have not seen for a year a dear good Uncle – where whose [sic] family nursed me as if I were a son, through a dangerous illness three or four years ago – what little there is of me you & I owe to them as the instrument of God in saving my life perhaps. I will arrive at Annapolis I hope & believe on Friday night & will remain till Monday – need I tell you how happy I am at the prospect dearest!

I tried to paint you a little picture of this place & after fretting & fuming over it for four or five hours I was ultimately obliged to admit that after two years of absence from my pallet I was unable to do anything to my satisfaction – so much are we the creatures of practice – so necessary is this to develop or keep developed any talent we may possess – I was so dissatisfied that I gave it up – as I would not let you dearest have what I was not contented with.

Goodbye – my own sweet Mary –
Your affectionate & loving
JBH

