

Washington 15 Nov 1858

Dearest Mary/

You must pardon me if I do not write you a letter in my good spirits to day & the reason is that I am a good deal distressed at not having heard a word from my boat or her crew since she left from harbor on Thursday last (for I suppose she left then tho Ben has never written a word to let me know if she got off) I do not fear or rather care for the loss of my boat – that is a small consideration, but it would be fearful if those three poor fellows have lost their lives through accident or carelessness it makes me shudder to think that I might be the innocent cause of such a misfortune. I have no reason to fear danger except that they have been out so long without arriving or being heard from at all – they have had beautiful calm weather & the boiler could not be exploded by anything under the enormous pressure of 300 pounds per sq inch– unless they were intoxicated it could never run up to one third this pressure. I hope & think some unimportant part of the machinery has given way & that they are slowly making their way up – perhaps by land after leaving the boat in some snug little cove. But I trust it to the hands of God & try to make my mind easy tho' I do not quite succeed.

I hope darling mine that you are very well & very happy tho' it is a gloomy wintry day with the snow slowly falling – the first messenger from the far distant frozen north – these flakes are the first grey hair of the Old Year.

I went to Dr. Ryners church yesterday & walked home with the Miss Ingraham – Ellen says she misses you dreadfully – the Captain has returned home sick from his Northern tour – Thank you my sweet one for your kind little note of Saturday announcing your safe arrival at home. Mr Ingraham is here & more in love than ever with the “vidder” which I am truly sorry for as I know he cannot succeed.

We have nothing new – I have scarcely seen any one since you left & do not feel now in my present anxious, uncertainty like being very cheerful. I look forward with so much pleasure to soon seeing you my own dear girl – write me as long a letter as you can dearest –

from your ever affectionate & devoted

JBHenry

