

Lancaster Penna  
31 March 1859

My darling Mary/

I left Philada yesterday morning at seven & went to Harrisburg which is 100 miles in the interior of the State & after attending to my business I went to or rather came to Lancaster where I now am. I shall leave here to night or tomorrow morning unless I receive a letter from the President requesting me to attend to some business for him in which case I may not get off before Saturday night. You are constantly in my thoughts my Darling – yesterday as I rode for 30 miles along the muddy waters of the Susquehannah [sic] I could not help following them in my minds eye in their onward course until after a brief period they mingle with the pure liquid of the Chesapeake & thus purified are fit to ripple within sight of Annapolis & the dear one who might be gazing out upon them I looked upon the turbid stream with a kindlier eye when I thought that it would so soon be near you dearest.

So my young lady you let my letter ‘lay unopened’ on the table do you – very well! I shall have to be careful not to write such long ones another time – Are you not glad now that your dear mother took the ether – I saw her day before yesterday evening & she was doing charmingly & her strength was fast returning & she could do a little eating. So you can look forward I think now to her speedy recovery. She was quite gay & we had a good talk the evening I left. This is the first time I have been here for two years & I am now writing in the house of Mr. James B Lane a brother of Miss Lanes – They are all very kind to me but I don’t like Lancaster much. I ought to be at New York on Saturday, if possible but I cannot tell yet till I receive a telegram from Washington which I am expecting every minute. I am to be admitted on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> I hope dearest that we will soon see each other & your dear Mother at the Arsenal, it seems to be such a wise plan.

But I must say goodbye darling as a lot of my little second cousins are surrounding me & you know that celà ebunt I cannot make any further headway.

God bless you darling  
Yours devotedly  
JBH.

