

Washington Thursday
4th Feb. 1859

My own darling Maimie/

I have been looking long & patiently for your letter – your weekly letter -- I hardly expected it last night tho' when you were at Annapolis it always arrived the same evening, but I had strong hopes of seeing it this morning & I therefore looked anxiously over the letters to see if your dear familiar hand was there but alas no – so I have to try to wait patiently until this evening when it will doubtless be here. What, I wonder, have you been doing with yourself since I left – did you enjoy the party and concert very much. Piccolomini sings here in opera next week- I am sorry it is not in concert for you know I do not go to the theater or opera. I called to see your sister Emily but she was out – I left your messages for her however!

They told me at Ingrahams that you had some idea of coming down next week for a few days & bringing Miss Margie with you – I hope the few days part is not true.

We have had a great deal of excitement this week in the gay world as you will see by my list of invitations.

Monday – Miss Saunder[']s Ball

Tuesday – Dinner invitation & Gen^l Cass recep

Wednesday – Dinner at Seward[']s, & Floyd[']s, & party at Clem Hill[']s

Thursday – Ball at Douglas' (not escorted of course)

Friday – Pres^{ds} State dinner – dinner at Gen^l Lawson – Ball at Mrs. Riggs & Mrs. Merricks

Saturday – morning reception at Presidts

from this you will see what a gay week it has been – but I have not stirred out of the house & have not gone & will not go to any of them this week as I want to try and nurse myself out of this cough if I can – so you see what a prudent young man I have lately become -- I think I appreciate the value of my life much more than I used to & I “guess” you know the cause better than anyone else.

I have not seen Dr. Dan since Monday evening when I called to get him to prescribe for me – but I hear that he is flying about at all of the balls & parties & is having a gay time – poor fellow you must try & do all you can for him while you are at Belvidere for I would like very much to have such a sweet little aunt, so be very industrious & see what can be done – she might then find out what we talk about & what it takes us so long to tell each other!

The Scharffs are getting on very well & are as happy as two birds – Scharff pities all bachelors! he does & thinks them poor forlorn Creatures! perhaps he is right who knows?

Bob Magraw returned to Baltimore yesterday & before going told me he was going to come up with his delightful ponies & ask you to take a ride – I hope you will go if you feel like it.

The Cobbs & most of the people who were on the Rev Cutter expedition have called on the Scharffs & to day I will take him around to the reception & on Friday they dine here at our large state dinner – it will be an interesting sight for them –

But I must close this lengthy epistle – remember me most kindly to my Belvidere friends –

Your affectionate & devoted
J Buch Henry

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