

My darling Husband,

Your dear letter came on Saturday evening. It was so distressed to hear of your sickness & being obliged to stay at home. On account of it. I have felt most anxious ever since & cannot contain myself. When this mornings [sic] mail brings me no [postings?] from you. I determined if I did not hear you were better to pack up what I could not take nurse & baby & go on to New York at once, but it seems foolish to pursue this plan when it maybe & I trust it is only a failure of the mail. Write to me at once I beseech you if you don't feel well & I can come as easily as possible & have not the smallest fear in being alone. I could start directly if you are not well enough to come as you had determined if you feel tolerably. Come at once for it may do you good. I have been blaming myself for letting any inconvenience prevent my starting to day [sic] & then you would have been with me when you were sick.

About the Christening darling I should be most decidedly wish that your Uncle should not on any account be invited. Mama says everyone knows it now & she does not see why our arrangements should be altered because he chooses to come to see the (?) Eastern. We will ignore his being here as completely as he has done my existence in the world & let it make no difference in any way. If it is more convenient baptize the baby on that day & if not on Thursday evening. You can decide which when you come. In your house I should be obliged to be polite to him if ever circumstance made it necessary I should see him, but here in my fathers house we are totally independent of him in any way, if I had been some person of bad character & never married to you the whole contention could not more completely have been slighted by him than it has & the very circumstance of his position has made it apparent for the whole world at least our little world so don't think we are bound to demean ourselves so far as to see our baby baptized. The McKims wanted so very much to stop here for a day, if you choose we might start, Friday morning & omit the whole thing. Though Mama says she don't think it would look well to run away – & does not wish us to do it.

I am afraid I feel too brutally about this thing. I used to think I didn't care but now when I see how really mortified they all have been in Washington for instance by the ill (?) things which have been said, Aunt Frances has talked a great deal to me about it & seems to feel it very much, that it has been an unheard of [time?] & I can't help feeling it. God bless you darling everything else has been so bright that we ought not to care for this, but

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I thought his letter to you so hard, & you see it is not on you he entirely visits this thing. I leave it entirely my darling in your hands you understand it all much better than I do & you must do just what you think right but if you should invite him don't mention one soul of all of us any more than if you had no wife & do it on your own responsibility Good bye darling, I will never leave you again I believe certainly if I only get you safe this time
your own dear
Mary –

Mama says let circumstances determine you to whether to invite him make our plans so choose & if he thinks proper to take any notice of you then do as you think best. I say do exactly as you think best too.

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