

142 Broadway NY
June 10th 1859

My dearest Mary

I scarcely know what to make up my mind about after reading your last letter now before me – I think the proximity of Miss Margies writing desk must have had some strange influence over you for in the first place you make me feel quite jealous of our friend Mr Taylor who it so strangely seems you “never liked half so well ‘till after you were engaged, though he was always a favorite” to I think I shall have to begin & keep up my pistol & rifle practice? What say you?

And then not satisfied by making me miserable & unhappy about Mr Taylor you add to my sore grief & jealous pangs, by giving me a good scolding on account of those abominable Washington gossips -I hope it does not come from the same erroneous source as the last batch – I was sincerely in hope that the Washington people had dropped me & my affairs since my illustrious departure & consented to let me in the quiet oblivion that I have sought & I shall be much inclined to look in them as busy bodies, if they will not do so -- Besides, the whole thing is so absurd they had me engaged three or four times before I really was, then they have fixed the time half a dozen times since we have been engaged & naturally enough as we have hitherto disappointed them they have arranged it for the 1st of August & if it were not to come off then why they would try to let be in Sep or Oct or Nov – so you must not mind these silly rumors Who originates these stories I don’t know or care much, but Miss Lane has only known of our probable time about the 1st or 2nd week of August since she has been here & I know that she did not tell Mrs Bright by letter & as she has not seen her since knowing it, we must be convinced that Mrs B either told a deliberate story or else somebody else has done so. I regret, my dear, that you should allow these foolish reports, which you know by experience must [arise?] & be circulated – for people will guess if they don’t know – to annoy you. I at least cannot help these things & it is only my misfortune if people, who have nothing better to do, will continue to dispose of me without leave or license. But to turn to a more agreeable subject. I am very happy to hear that you are so well & happy in the midst of your dear friends. Miss Margie must have been very much surprised & amused at your cool way of disposing of matters in that letter; should like to have seen her blush for she does it so sweetly.

I am very glad indeed that you were pleased with the little locket I thought you would be.

How long do you expect the young ladies to stay with you? Mr Taylor I did not see – he may however have called without leaving any card – I should have been very glad to see him.

You do not say anything about your mothers health in your letters – I suppose therefore that she is still doing well.

But I must close & subscribe myself

Yours affectionately
JBH.

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