

[Annapolis , Aug 18, 1859]

My dearest Mr. Henry

Your most sweet and affectionate note deserves a separate & far better answer than I can give you now with so full a heart so trembling hand. But I must thank for that & tell you how truly I love & admire you, for all your tender kindness to my darling and consideration for us all – Besides, I want you to understand our wishes with regard to your visit so as after your pleasure trip to the North. Mr. N & I have talked it over in solemn conclave, and think that it will not be prudent for Mary to commence her residence in New York before the first of Oct. We think that the fatigue of shopping, and moving about there will not be good for her, knowing as we do of several instances of *les nouvelle manié* [the new sickness] who have been made ill by it. Mary will remember Mrs. Barnwells [sic] [Miss Singleton[‘s] illness and what a narrow escape she had after an attack of typhoid fever contracted in New York in September last. Nothing can be easier than for you if you are obliged to be there, so make such necessary purchases as may render your house habitable. & any little graceful after thoughts Mary can carry out on her arrival after the first of Oct. I trust by that time she will be willing to spare a few weeks to her old home, even if you cannot be all the time with her. At any rate we wish it distinctly understood that such as our wishes & plans, if they suit your pleasure & conveniences, & I believe the hope & prospect of this reunion may enable me to bear better the long separation which will then occur necessarily. Try my dear son to gratify us in this, as you have done in all other things.

I enclose you a notice from the Clipper which filled me with wonder. How can people get at others’ private matters in this style -- It would not compliment your Uncle if he could see it. I wish he could, for it would show him the want of policy as well as kindness he has shown in this business --Setting folks to speculating and making matters far worse than they really are. I must not tell you to take care of your precious charge for that you will do of your own tender wish but do not let her take fatiguing walks or be over exerted & I know she will soon strengthen & fatten up. Load love & kisses most tender & motherly for you both. Mr. Nicholson & Emily join in all good wishes & love & Eliza Voorhees who is talking to Emily in the room --your room when I am writing desirous to be included. May God bless & preserve you both in health & happiness prays ever -- Your devoted Mother.

Edith --

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