

142 Broadway NY  
13<sup>th</sup> June 1859

My own Dearest Maimie/

Your letter of Saturday was most heartily welcome this morning tho it did cut like a two edged sword. Poor dear Maimie! I should have never have written that last letter to you & my conscience smote me after it was gone, so the best I can now do is to throw myself at you feet & beg for mercy & your immediate oblivion of all that might not to have been written - I confess the reason partly was that I had not heard from you for nearly a week & I was looking so fondly for your dear letter & when it came it did seem so cold so little affectionate & then wound up with that indirect scolding for a thing which I really could not help, that I thoughtlessly sat down & wrote to you not feeling at all myself. I am really too sorry my own darling that Miss Lane should so thoughtlessly told Mrs. Bright (for I fear it is too true that she did from the circumstantial evidence you address.) & I shall at once write to her about it & express my regret that she has done so I ask more care for the future. Mrs. Bright I like very much but she is one of those terrible Washington gossips of the worst sorts. As you say my darling you have been “so reasonable” in your wishes & fancies in the matter that this desire might to have been gratified & I need not assure my very sweetest child that I really feel pained & mystified that it should have otherwise – I am very very sorry for you have been so kind & good to me in all these matters – but you see what a good for nothing fellow I am! So you think Margie would have formed a low estimate of my affection for you had she seen that last letter – well well if she could see in my heart now whilst I am writing she would see how dearly & fondly I am attached to you – tho I am sometimes bad tho I will tell you one thing that you will find me much more seldom cross. When you know me better – at least this is the experience of those who are most with me- So you have really seen the worst of me during this long engagement.

As to what I said my dearest child ~~it is~~ about Mr. Taylor it was in the purest fun, so as not to give my letter too serious an air – I am not in the least speck in the world jealous – I would be a silly fool were it otherwise – no darling Maimie I did not think you would take it for earnest even the last little bit of it.

I am very happy that you were not in any danger in the Rainbow & I know you could behave well by the way you acted in my little steamer when your father fell in. I hope your cold is trifling. I am not well today & have not been since Saturday & I am better today tho feeling just a little weak.

You don't know what a longing I have to see you my own sweetest Pet – God bless you with love to all. I subscribe myself your affectionate & loving

JBH

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