

142 Broadway NY
17th June 1859.

My own darling girl,

Your dear letter of Wednesday has just reached me & I hasten to answer. I am entirely well now & was only a little indisposed for some imprudence or other I don't know what & as usual it passed away in a day or so – I am so truly delighted & thankful for what you tell me of your own sweet self & precious health – it is indeed good news & I trust you may long be able to give me such very pleasant reports, on that score. God bless you! And now as to that matter of Uncle Edward – when I saw him a month or two ago I told him that I hoped we married about the beginning of August & said that you had joined with me in expressing as I then did, a desire that he should be present in that most happy occasion & perform the ceremony for me - I then proceeded to explain to him how matters stood & stated that your first reaction was to have had your Uncle Mr. Nelson to perform it, but that a difficulty had arisen from the fact that whilst Mr. Nelson was your Uncle & your original choice, your regular Pastor was Mr. Davenport [sic] who might feel hurt should you give the preference under the circumstances to Mr. Nelson. I then stated to Mr. Buchanan that under these circumstances you had as a compromise permitted me to have my choice & had joined me in selecting him & thus obviate any difficulty, If thus my good Uncle replied, that he would be most happy to be present & accede to our wishes, provided I were certain that it would not undo the approval of all the parties otherwise a sense of delicacy would of course prevent him however agreeable the duty might be. As I supposed that you had ascertained this, my darling, I assured him that I felt certain that it was the best & would be acceptable to all parties. He therefore will certainly come unless prevented by sickness or some unforeseen cause. This need not however trouble you my darling & should you desire to return to the first arrangement I know my good Uncle too well to think that he would have any feeling about it. Still my dearest, it could be well to let it stand as it is if possible, for in case I should get an unfavorable answer from the Pres to when I will write that letter about the 1st July. I should feel much more comfortable & have some of my relatives about me & besides being a brother of the Pres it would look much better to this world, under all circumstances, for Miss Lane & him, things would have a much better aspect. However dearest rather that you should get in trouble I know I can arrange it. My good Uncle passed through here day before yesterday to take his son to West Point (as a cadet) & will return on Monday when I shall see him & I will then ask him if he can be with us certainly either in the first or second week of Aug & will tell you what he says- this I know from what he has already said that he will certainly come if it be agreeable to all. Miss Lane in reply to my letter says "I am very very sorry that any report disagreeable to Mary should be circulated under my name. I have no recollection of having told Mrs. Bright for the simple reason that I do not think such things in every one['s] business & so when asked I have generally said "in the Autumn" there is no time fixed." "However, I shall take good care to keep quiet in future." I have asked her dearest to contradict all reports in Washington because neither she nor I really know the exact time.

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I hope your dear Mother is quite well again. It is raining "pitch forks" here today & of course disagreeable.

I am glad you are having such a nice time ~~at~~ with your good friends –
Write very soon again & tell me anything further you know about this matter & what I shall do –

Give my love to your parents Miss Emily & Miss Mary & Margie

Your loving
JBH

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