My own sweetest darling!

I greet you most affectionately and tenderly today and hope you are well bright and happy notwithstanding the hot weather which is quite shocking here today. It is so pleasant to think that you are writing to me today tho I shall not receive it I fear before Friday – I wrote to Miss Lane yesterday and expressed my sincere regrets that she should have told Mrs. Bright who is a great gossip and particularly requested her in future to discourage any rumors as to time and so for to tell no one and I have no doubt she will be very careful in the future. So my dearest Maimie I have done and will try to do all I can to amend this matter, for you my dearest child deserve more than I own. I fear do to repair the damage by your goodness to me in the matter. I hope darling that as time elapses you do not find yourself caring less for me because you do not see me for you seem at the sweeter & dearer to me by the long separations – just think on Saturday it will be four weeks since we have seen each other it almost seems to me like a bright dream and that I know I have awakened up and found it all a dream! but thank God it is not so and my own darling is a real true substantiated and loving fact! How do you feel about it dearest.[sic] How long will the McKims be with you yet? What do you say to my asking Lieut. Saxton to be one of my groomsmen he is a nice fellow and great admirer of yours – let me know what you think it will be necessary to say anything more to Genl [sic] Ward about it for I sincerely think he expects to come and I shall say no more about it. I must have Bob Magraw because he has been such a true friend of mine tho he is a widower and thinks me right to have his best friends around him on such a occasion don't you, respective of mere looks of things? Have you entirely recovered from your cold [sic] I trust so darling, tho' they usually treat you so badly that I am a little anxious. My friend Mr. Scharff is getting in very quietly & happily & says he is more in love now than he ever was before he was married – We often speak of you tho' he has no idea when I am to be made happy. I am so happy we think that it will not be so very long now that nearly a month has passed before I can clasp you to my arms as my own dear sweet wife – God bless you!

I hope all the family are well give my love to them & the Misses McKims & tell Miss Emily that Dr. Raines was in my office this morning – He has obtained an exclusive grant from the Emperor to establish all the ferry lines (steam) in the harbor of Rio & will probably make a handsome fortune out of it – He goes to Rio in two weeks – is "Barker willin" still?

