

142 Broadway N.Y.
1st June 1859.

My own Darling.

I have just received your cherished letter of Monday and have seated myself to thank you for it. I wrote you a long letter yesterday which you have doubtless received. Your dear letter made me feel sad, as tho I did not know Mrs. Murray still having heard so often of her from you, I feel an interest in her & besides one always feels melancholy on hearing of the death of a young and lovely person around whose future so many interests clustered. Still how difficult is the death of such a sweet pure young person from that of an old hardened sinner who stained and polluted is ushered into the unknown world – the flight of the former we can almost trace in its shining path unto peaceful resignation whilst view the case of the latter, we shudder and turn away from the contemplation of the new scenes breaking with terrible rapidity in his bewildered gaze. I have often thought that I would like to be present at the death bed of one of Gods holy ones and good I think it must be one of the most beautiful and touching spectacles in the world and so purifying and elevating.

I am so happy to hear that you and your dear Mother arrived safely after such a pleasant journey and that you had such a nice time in Baltimore tho I think I shall have to be a little bit jealous of your friend Mr. Taylor tho I will try and not show it but shall give him a hearty welcome to N.Y. when he comes – Indeed I like him because you like him, that is reason enough for me. I was also very glad to hear that you have such a substantial weight & do not at all regret that I have “Such a heavy sweetheart” for weighty reasons too numerous to specify. I had to laugh however when you ascribe it to so adversely to that wonderful “tonic” instead of _____ well I won’t say what!

I was much amused at what you say dearest about your Aunt Louisa’s proposition to accompany us and I agree with you that we might to be as much alone ~~as possible~~ during the few first weeks as possible – were it not for these two persons could be more agreeable acceptable to both of us than your Aunt Louisa & Uncle Alex.

To day is the 1st of June hurrah! only one “whole” month yet thank God!

Things are going on here quietly as usual. On Sunday next is the Anniversary of our engagement, an event for which I have so much reason to be grateful to Our Father – I shall write you a long letter on that day on the subject & I want you to do the same dearest, for it cannot be wrong on so sacred an occasion for us both. I will send you my promised likeness so that you will get it by Saturday nights mail. Don’t let this prevent you from writing your usual letter before the 5th

Your loving & devoted
JBH

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