

June 22nd 1863.

My darling Mary,

I have just read your sweet letter to Margie & my heart is full at the selections of your sufferings. May God, in mercy palliate your grievances, may he make all your bed in your sickness may he sanctify to you this affliction, & speedily restore you to health & to your devoted friends!

As I picture your sweet face dear Mary reminiscences of the past come rapidly before me – so many sweet recollections fraught with memories of yours & of other sweet faces of dear ones some happy days were thus sped; time walks on, & another & another is borne from our sight, & still we are left to [belief]of the goodness of God. The great work of us all now seems to be to prepare for eternity very little of what the world calls pleasure is now allotted to any of us – but we must only thank God for what he vouchsafes us of his goodness.

Dear Margie is driving to the Country this afternoon with her uncle & his wife. & Mary is expecting to take a drive too with whom, would you guess! Oh! You would be amused, with old Mr. David Wilson – do you not remember him? Beaux are scarce now you perceive.

24th A change has come over us since writing about my dear Mary! Pity us, oh! How shall I brook it? I never thought it would come to this; ~~image~~ it is not at all to my taske [sic] to have the grounds of my beautiful Bal^e occupied by 600 New Yorkers! Last evening all of a sudden ~~ther~~ this entrance was much – imagine me looking out of the front door to see, a fire on the grounds, a carriage, women & these aforesaid 600 -- Oh! Mary my proud heart will not be subdued, may God as by a miracle of grace subdue this passion even as I with the hated drum sounds in my ear.

Margie sends fond love & thanks for your dear letter, you don't know the pleasure it gave us to see your own hand writing once more—Mary too sends it with much love. Give our love [affelty?] to your dear Mother, & kind regards to Mr. Henry. I hope your dear little Boy will continue well—

Let us hear from you when it is possible. God bless you darling Mary

Always remember our unchanged & devoted love.

Your friend C. Jo. McKe--

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