

4 O'clock Saturday evening

My dearest husband,

I was so glad to get your dear letter, I feel a little better today. I think but not very comfortable yet. I was taken sick today so I have to keep very quiet. You will be [?] at a step that has been taken & I hope you won't mind it. I did not feel any or [?] enough interest any way to care much, but now I will tell you what I haven't [sic] done before, that each day since last Sunday I have felt myself so [weak?] until yesterday I couldn't walk from the bed to the chair without the shortness breath being so extreme that I suffered very much even in that walk. Dr. Perry would come & stay three minutes & say I was better & clear out, & I knew I wasn't so well. So each night Mrs. Van Buren who is kindness itself to me, they went out to the Lake & brought me Saratoga potatoes & searched the country over for fresh butter without salt & not an hour passes scarcely without some evidence of interest cause in her & she & Mama began to talk of my not feeling so well & how [anxious ?] she felt that I should have a first rate physician etc., etc., till at last I got to Dr. Van Buren & before she left the room Mama had made up her mind whether or no to have him. She said you & she would never forgive yourselves if you left anything untried to make me strong again & that my life was more important running the risk of offending Dr. Perry. So Mr. Rowland was here & Mama asked him & he said he would not stand on ceremony a moment, so she sat down & wrote Dr. Perry a note, I will enclose you a copy & sent to him & this morning called in Dr. Van Buren. I f he don't [sic] know more that Dr., Perry he makes out so. He was over me two hours. He commenced at my feet & worked upwards, examining my lungs, even more particularly than Dr. Clarke. Then for 24 hours he told me to leave ff any iron &,c. as he wished to see my system in a natural condition, & left me orders to take a pint of cream with a little Brandy in the 24 hours & as much beef juice as I could consume. Some how I feel better since my lungs have been examined again. I would much rather know the truth, because even it they are deceased. Ive [sic] known failing people often live to be a comfort to their friends for years, & I believe I can better make up my mind to the suffering & thank God for so much that he has left me when I am not expecting to get better so fast. Life is so precious to me I am so happy with you darling, that I am willing to take it as God sends it to me. The box containing 4 bottles ~~of wine~~ arrived this morning 2 of sherry & 2 of Brandy – I hope under my [?] treatment to be much better when you come. Mama has just gotten Dr. Van Buren's opinion. My left lung is somewhat affected but no tubercular deposit now, but he says it is no more than is cured every day, but the way to do it is to take what he calls fatty food, Mama will tell you more fully I am [?]

Tenderest love for you my darling

Your own
Mary

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