

Washington, 20 Jan 1859

My dearest

I looked anxiously for your usual letter last night. I hurried home to meet the mail but alas no letter came – was the mail to blame? I trust it was, so I shall go up to the Post Office when the 11 o'clock mail arrives & hope there & then to find the missing missive.

I was unable to write my usual letter on Tuesday & therefore wrote yesterday instead which is the day you know on which I do not write.

I have dismissed the painful subject of your last letter from my mind, for swelling upon it would soon unfit me for anything – nor shall I touch upon it at least for the present in my letters – When next I see you I shall try to show that my refraining to communicate the disagreeable fact to you was my intense aversion of the subject which had worried me so much & the still stronger aversion to giving you pain – you whose only fault was that you bestowed upon me the priceless boon of your dear honest loving heart – tho' I sometimes feel as if I ought to tell you I refrained. I was unwilling myself to throw the poison in our own cup of happiness & speak of a subject the knowledge of which would do no earthly good – but only give pain to both. I may have been very wrong in all this but I did as my heart dictated as well as my judgment. If I did wrong forgive me for the motive. I can only say now in reply to your letter that it is too late for me to change my plan of leaving here on the 7<sup>th</sup> March & it is better that it should be so – in this you would agree with me if you knew all the reasons. I know you will have sufficient faith in me to believe me when I say so without going into minute details.

I will not for the present try to prove to you that your conclusion as to when my hope are to be realized, is wrong – I will leave that to time. God will accomplish this will in due season in this as in all other things. Let it suffice to say that in my private & personal affairs my Uncle has no more to do with me than the man in the moon & cannot be looked upon in the light of a parent – he was once my guardian but that pupilage ceased years ago & my manhood revolts at the idea that such sacred relations should be invaded when no one as the semblance of a right – nor should others attribute the right to him.

But I think this is enough of this disagreeable subject.

I do not know whether I ought to direct this letter to Baltimore or Annapolis – but I trust it will reach you sooner or later.

Mrs. Judge Roosevelt of NY arrived last night to make a visit at the White House so we are quite full. Mrs. Craig, who is charming & adds so much to the life & cheerfulness of all, is still here with us.

What enchanting weather we are having.

Love to all, Goodbye. Yours as a devotedly & affectionately

JBH

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