

Washington Thursday 2 1/2 P.M.

[27 January 1859]

My own dearest Mary.

Many thanks my Darling for your dear good letter of yesterday – I was invited around to spend the evening socially at Cap Ingraham last night but as I expected your dear letter I did not go until after the mail came in which was half past eight but I was sadly disappointed for it did not come.

Still it made me feel all the more joyful on awaking this morning for I felt sure that it would be here at an early hour. It seems strange that the mails should be more irregular between Baltimore than Annapolis & Washington – nonetheless it is so, for I did not receive Miss McKim's kind invitation which was dated Jan. 24 until this morning, the 27th – I was very much provoked for I should have liked to have run over & see you all especially as I was free having no engagement here last night – a think that you know does not often happen at this Season in Washington.

Please present my kindest compliments to Miss McKim & express my extreme regrets at being unable to “wait upon” her, owing to the cause as above stated. I am so pleased to think that you are gay & happy with your dear friends for I know what a luxury it is –

Now, dearest I want you to promise me not to trouble yourself any more about that little affair – I say little because if we truly love each other we must be willing to make little sacrifices for each other -- & the pleasure I would derive from making any on my part would more than counterbalance the pain for I feel that you would love me all the more – To that we must be happy & cheerful trusting that all will in due time be right. Poor child! This your first trouble came when you were least able to bear it, when suffering in body – I assure you my heart bled for you, tho' I felt myself helpless to comfort you -- I have long learned to rely too much upon myself, to allow it to trouble me except on your account, so if you are again well & happy let us banish all further thought of this bugbear for like any common ghost it is easily dissipated with a two-penny candle & where we look into it need give us no further real trouble.

Well our friend Scharff was I have no doubt married today at 12 & I am a very happy man, I drank his health & that of his bride at 12 o'clock. I enclose you a letter from him by which you will see that he has kindly adopted my proposition & will remain at Barnums in Balto from Saturday until Monday morning. You will see by it what a kind good friend he is of mine.

I wrote to you day before yesterday – did you not receive it. I want you to drop me a little note on receipt of this to tell me something about how we are going to in Balto -- & when I can see you etc also when we can go down & see Mr. & Mrs. Scharff etc. I love your counsel.



I had a nice chat with Miss Emile last night at Cap Ingrahams.

I go to Lord Napiers farewell party tonight. I suppose it will be an immense crowd. The last reception was a very brilliant one. The Browns give a ball on Monday night & I have sent for invitations for the Scharffs.

Please return my love to Miss Margie & tell her how sorry I was at not receiving her invitation in time – it will give me so much pleasure to meet such a good friend of my darling Mary's so she must not look upon me as a stranger.

Dr. Dau brought Miss Grace of Baltimore to see the conservatory yesterday.

Goodbye – God bless you dearest

Yours affectionately

JBuch Henry

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