

(Washington March 14

My good dear wife:

What is the reason I don't hear from you oftener? The last letter I received was dated the 7th - just one week ago. I have got a letter from John Howard dated the 10th & Jerry Miller got here last night having left Dayton on the 12th - You make no allusion to the astounding intelligence contained in some of them - can it be possible that any ~~thing~~ ^{of them} has miscarried? I hope not.

Things move very slowly here, and I grow more and more tired and disgusted with life in Washington. I don't think I will want to return here again soon, and I don't think I shall.

I have been trying to keep my hand on the ~~for~~ wires, but it is not very easy to accomplish anything. There is such an incessant and universal pulling and hauling at the President and the Cabinet that Senators & Congressmen get the advantage of us who are merely using private and unofficial influences. Still I am trying to do something whenever an opportunity offers, but hitherto with less success than would be agreeable.

I must come home some time next week and I would like to leave as soon as possible. But whether the P.O. is filled or not, I must be home on the 23^d unless John Howard will countermand the sale appointed for that day. I trust, however, there will be no occasion for that, but that the appointment may be made to our satisfaction and we may all

be together again before that time.

David Harris, who came on with me, arrived here ~~the morning~~ ^{yesterday evening} & will go home to-morrow.

Major Milliken is here and is disposed to help me as much as he can. I think he will be of service. I shall close this letter soon as I wish to see him this evening and it is a long walk from my room to Willard's where he is stopping.

Kiss all the little ones for me & tell them I wish very much to see them and their dear mother. Mine, truly & lovingly,
Father.