

an opportunity
it would be so
well for you to
send to Mr. Indian
Office, I can do
no harm even if
it is withheld.
I send the box
to you before
this.
Love and kind
to me dear
Belth and
tho band,
Yours
August 18

Dayton O. April 3rd.
 My Dear - Father is 1864
 going to put her letter in the office.
 I'll let this go and write
 soon again.

I have letters of March 27th and 29th to answer. - Not much to complain of truly this time; but there is the dinner bell to prevent my proceeding any farther!

Since dinner Mary is doing her best to keep me from writing.

Robert called yesterday, or rather Friday, to tell me that he and David would start to Washington within Tuesday or Wednesday, and would carry something for you. He thinks he will be able to get a 'pass', but says he wouldn't avail himself of it if he thought it would be dangerous in your vicinity. He would however send anything to you, or you might send to George Mattson at the Indian Office, just as was most convenient.

I have procured a small box and am going to try to fill it tomorrow. No doubt you get good things, but perhaps the thought that they are from home may make them a little better. I hope for your sake my hand has not lost its cunning after its long rest. — Mother proposes that I drop my letter for the present, and all go out to the lot. The cellar is begun. So goodbye dearest till evening.

Mary is rolling over the floor while I write. — We have been out to the lot and Mother and I sent a few minutes to Liza's. — I am more pleased than ever with Mother's place. Only two days' digging have been done on the cellar.

My walk has fatigued me exceedingly and I fear a head ache will be the result; consequently all that I had thought to say to you will, it is likely, be forgotten. — Your lecture on sociability I am not cheerheaded enough to answer today.

I only know that I have great doubts of the propriety of leaving the children to hirelings and that would have to be done if I left Mother. — Although Emma seemed fond of our children, I yet could see a great deal that made my days in the city very anxious ones, and you remember the night we went to the concert and found Willy alone on our return! He was taught to decide in many ways too. I cannot bear the idea of leaving little Mary exposed to such influence; neither are any of the children yet old enough to stand against lessons in deceit or being rendered timid by being frightened. The only way that I can see is that of a conscientious governess, which I fear would be beyond our means.

At present I go out as much as I can, my only fear being that of imposing on Mother. The future seems too full of doubts and darkness for me to look at, so I am trying to take care of the present and hope

that the trials I dread may not come.

Robert seemed to think it doubtful whether we could all be supported in Washington, but said it would be better to have you there than in the field even if we could not be with you, which is certainly true. — You may not be called upon to decide this matter at all, but if it is necessary, do ponder it well and be very sure before you act. 'Tis all a muddle' to me. — Tomorrow is election day, and we are exceedingly anxious to see whether Dayton is to be a victorious town for the next two years or not. — We received a letter from Howard this morning, dated as was your last the 29th. Nothing new from him. — I am sorry to hear of Charlotte. Miss Harrison said she appeared successfully in New York. The gentleman who puffed her was however a personal friend.

Poor Captain Putnam will suffer deeply, particularly if it was the oldest boy. Do you know which it was? I mean to stop writing now and will not resume unless a cup of tea