

East Hampton. July 2 -48.

Very dear Mary.

I take my pen to write somewhat in doubt as to what I ought to do: ie. whether I ought to write now, or delay writing awhile. I wrote you a fortnight ago to day, and I have been looking for a reply several days, but as yet have rec'd none. Perhaps I ought not to have expected one thus early; yet I could not but do so, and not having rec'd it, I begin to fear that it has miscarried, or at least that you did not receive it as early as I intended you should. I forwarded it four days previous to the Tuesday on which I agreed, Providence favoring, you ^{should} have a letter: ample time I supposed for its journey, and seasonable arrival at its place of destination. If it was not I erred in judgment. I would delay two or three days longer before writing, were it not for the fact, that if you are still at Union-Falls, a day's delay on my part,

will cause a week's delay in its reception.

I have but a short time to write before the mail goes out, and in this time I scarcely know what to write. Were I sure you had not rec'd my other letter I ^{would} repeat its most important parts. As it is I will repeat but little. I must repeat some.

In regard to my journey home I will simply say, that I left Castleton the Thursday night next after we parted, and arrived at home on the subsequent Tuesday, in good health and spirits. My journey was pleasant and prosperous. At New York I saw the Secretaries of the A. M. Soc. They thought it would be wise for us, ^{if} it were possible, to make our arrangements to embark in Oct; so that if it should be deemed best for us to go by sailing vessel, we might be in readiness to embark in the right season, which is during that month. If we go by steamers I suppose we shall not embark before Dec. or Jan. This would give us ample time for preparation. But while there is any probability of our sailing in Oct, our efforts at prep-

eration should be made in reference to the most necessary and important particulars. I told the secretaries that it was our decided choice, to go by the steamers if they should deem it practicable and best; but intimated our willingness to be governed by their wisdom and judgment in this matter.

And now as I have little more time to write this morning, permit me to say, that thoughts of you, and of our proposed ^{continued} and more intimate intercourse have very much occupied my mind ever since we gave each other the parting hand, and the parting kiss. I rejoice that Mr Duncan did not meet you at Park-Helm; for in those few hours of acquaintance which we subsequently enjoyed, I became more fully aware than before, that your break was filled with kindly and affectionate feeling; that you had a heart to sympathize and to love. The expression on your part of such sympathy and affection, kindled up corresponding feelings in my own bosom, which I assure you is not

incapable of such emotions. And here as in
my last letter I pledge myself, that if Provi-
dence permit us to accomplish our inten-
tions, by His assistance, while my right
arm retains its strength, and my mind
its intelligence, you shall possess one
friend at least to sympathize with, and care
for you. If you have rec'd my first
letter, I trust you will excuse whatever of
repetition you find in this, as it seemed
necessary to me, from my uncertainty
about them, to give some of its facts and
thoughts in this.

If you have not written, please
write immediately on the reception of
this letter, and state to me also where
I shall direct my next. I shall direct this
to the care of your nephew, Robert Luman
at Keesville, as I may have directed my
former one wrongly: requesting him
to forward it to you.

I expect now to be in Castleton some-
time in the month of August.

Your real friend and true lover.

Horace Lyman