

The Castle

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1859.

My darling daughter,

Yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> reached me last night; & if I did not wish this to be mailed to-day, would write you a long letter - one that would be as if Mother was talking with daughter.

So soon as an opportunity offers, money will be sent you for the paying off all bills. Drafts or cheques on N York are scarce just now. The Merchants have bought all up for their own immediate use. I could send you Virginia money - gold I have, but cannot mail it. Any way all will be arranged soon.

I may send you a gingham dress - get what is necessary. Am looking out for the box. Lucy has gone to her Mother - she seemed very happy & contented here. I am glad your "friends" have left. My daughter, used to be self-reliant & independent, & was possessed of



moral courage, & withal was believed  
to have a mathematical genius. But now  
all has forsaken her, "she is like her brother  
Jim, very slow". Dear daughter, poise yourself,  
do not hang on that - or the other one, be  
energetic, be again yourself. You do not know  
the world as I do - your friends are selfish -  
you may sink, provided they gain applause.  
I know the character of the older members of  
the family - you let others know too much  
of your affairs - this I have feared, & now  
learn from Lucy's conversation. Things  
that I would write to you & would have no  
idea you would tell, I find Lucy & Lou  
know, & now with their friends are sym-  
pathising with poor Capt. Be courageous  
my dear child, bear your own troubles  
& never let the girls know that I find fault  
of you. Lucy is filled with dear Hensie &  
sweet Lou. I almost wish she had not  
come. Enough of this - Be lively, be  
happy.



Your letter was so well written that I showed  
the ~~beginning~~ <sup>commencement</sup> of it to Miss Houlton & the girls.  
Miss H said you wrote beautifully. Last  
winter in Raleigh a gentleman who had  
sons at school & bragged on them much  
saw a letter of yours to your uncle - he  
said one might be pleased with the  
rearing of such children.

We have had some cold days - one frost. The  
vines are full of young pears - Cabbage plants  
large enough to transplant - piece Asparagus.  
Yearful fruit will not be plentiful.

Sallie had a letter from Fannie yesterday -  
she is getting on finely with her beast - sends  
love to you & says tell you to write to her.

Sallie sends much love & says she will write  
to you soon. Mattie is in the school room,  
she talks about Mamma Caff, - when she  
was wanting the slippers like yours & going to  
write for you to send her a pair. Lucy very  
meaningly said, "you had better send her  
money."



forget this little one one of the Philadelphia banks  
your note first of enclosed.

Yes the madam is going to make Savenport  
her home again - she was at her flight.

I think she will neither pay Eliza or I a  
visit. Had a letter from uncle Spier, he is  
so low spirited. Am very glad you  
sent Pattie, an address of the Bishops -  
she will praise it. Your father & mother  
not yet returned. Louisa is wanting  
to see them. She is very happy with  
Mattie. Ruth writes in love to you  
is busy making your pink Brilliant.  
I tried to find out from Lucy what Lou  
bought in Petersburg, but she was mum.

Adieu, my daughter. Be yourself -  
Be happy. Very affectionately,

Your mother  
W. D. W.