

Washington City -
Feb. 11. 1844

Mary, I was gratified with receiving, last evening, yours of Monday last. I had entertained some anxiety in relation to the epidemic & was gratified to hear it was not, apparently, making much progress. It seems grant it may be stayed & subdued. You say Mrs. Hutchinson's was a case of relapse to now most of the fatal cases in Norwich last winter were done I cannot but feel for the Howe family; express my sympathy to Mr. How, in his trouble.

Last Wednesday noon Edwin Wright arrived here & called on us at the Capitol. I there introduced him to the gentlemen for whom I sent for him. The usual way of going to his place of destination from here is down the Potomac River in a steam boat, but the river is now frozen so hard that the boat cannot go. This is unusual & it was hoped would continue but two or three days & Edwin was advised to stay. That evening he called at my room & we went to our parlor & he spent the evening with the mess. Next morning I went with him to the Patent Office & showed him the curiosities there & showed him the various rooms, pictures, & library in the Capitol, until I had to go into the House at 12 o'clock. He spent the evening at my room. It continuing extremely cold & an opportunity offering to take passage by land Edwin left there at two o'clock Friday morning in the afternoon & felt well. He had brought on a box for Helen Anderson but going on unexpectedly he left it with me. Yesterday I took it to her at Georgetown. Helen was some unwell with a sore throat but was