

Washington City
Feb. 17, 1844

Mary, I went last week to the party of Mr. Wickliff, the Post Master General and staid about one hour. It is impossible for me to give you any description of the party but to say it was a great crowd of people of all ages & both sexes, but very well dressed, fashionable & well behaved. These parties of heads of the departments are composed only of those who have rec^d. invitations, but, at the Presidents all go who choose & of course it is a motley company.

At Mr. Wickliff's there were four parlors of ordinary size, that is two on each side of the entry or hall & each of these were thrown open as into two long parlors & all was crowded so as to move with difficulty. A small space was cleared for cotillion dancing in one end of our room. A large part of the company was members of congress but many citizens of the city & a great display of ladies in I never saw any such display of female dress, ornaments, & jewelry as I saw there Mr. W. & lady, but they were occupying but small space or attention & I there also saw Mr. Geo. Marsh & lady. At these parties persons are constantly coming and going when they please & without taking leave. I left in about an hour.