

Washington City  
Feb. 14. 1849

Mary,

I this morning rec. yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst. and read it with much pleasure. It was a genuine, pleasant family letter and of the true epistolary style; telling me in a familiar and colloquial way all about home and the neighborhood. I cannot but think of the quiet stillness of the house when for hours, no one there but yourself. May <sup>God</sup> <sup>be</sup> able soon to join you and enjoy or relieve your loneliness. No any rate it will be a relief for a time from the bustle, care & confusion of the House of Representatives.

I rec. a letter from William a few days since and will write Mary again soon as you say you think she regards her present residence rather dull.

You suggest that perhaps the discourse at the funeral of Mr. Marsh might not have been entirely satisfactory to the near relatives. It is very possible they may have expected an unqualified eulogy instead of a funeral sermon. It may be true that the near friends of Mr. Marsh may not know the actual