

Washington City  
May, 9<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Mary,

Your post marked May 7<sup>th</sup> (Friday) I rec. & saw this morning (Sunday) You say the girls went with Dr. Cleaveland & Mr. Johnson & families, to Meriden at the graduation of Charlie & Willie, & had returned. Tell the girls that one of them must write me all the particulars of the excursion & the occasion.

You say the garden must not be expected to look as well as when present myself. Perhaps not, but I hope that James will see that all the necessary garden vegetables are fully attended to.

Mrs. Billings' dear friend, Mrs. Douglass, or her husband, had a large party of