

Washington City
Dec 12. 1858.

Mary,

I rec^d. your note of the 8th inst^s
last evening, & was pleased to hear you
were all well. I desire to hear from home
at least once each week, even if you
have no news to write me. I however do
not insist you shall perform this every
time yourself. Mary & William can
write. Tell Lizzie to try her hand in a
letter to me.

My pen is probably little better than
yours & I wish Mary to take from a box
of bright pens, on my table, in my room,
three or four pens & enclose them in next
letter to me, that I may see whether I
can procure any such here.

I have had little to do but it has