

Newport R.I., N.H.

Jan'y. 7th 1864

My dear Maria

I wrote you a letter yesterday but to day I rec^d three from you all written previous to my last Dec 21st 22^d & 24th and I assure you they were welcome, and I passed one of my pleasantest hours perusing them. I am glad you dont wait for set days to write but do so when you feel like it. I cant write regularly, as you desire, that is: I will not bind my self to any set rules with regard to it but write when the notion takes hold of me - And I hope you will not compel me to feel that I must ^{write} under all circumstances if I would escape reproach - And though many days should pass between my letters I hope you have Confidence enough in me to believe that nothing of real importance will be left untold which will promote our mutual welfare
My dear you know me better than any