



St Andrews.

January 7<sup>th</sup> / 71.

My dear Berrie,

If you have not yet received a piece of wedding cake and a letter with it which Mr. Shelton was to deliver to you, you must think me very slow in answering your last welcome note and in sending my best wishes to you for the happiest of New Years - May your future be as bright and unclouded as was the first of January here -

I am comfortably established at home once more, well settled into the old groove of home duties & pleasure, very glad to get here & away from the bustle & confusion. I have been in the midst



of for so long - Ned came home  
with me & remained till yes-  
terday - & on Thursday after  
Christmas Lillie, Mel & Fincelon  
arrived, they remained a week  
and seemed to enjoy themselves  
thoroughly, I never saw Lillie in  
such good spirits and so satis-  
fied with everything & everybody.  
The weather was stormy, but  
the boys used to go over and  
play whist with Uncle John  
& one night we had a little  
company, another evening the  
right was opened and so the  
time passed pleasantly -  
Christmas night we went to  
Chatham, every one of the family  
were at home except Maria -  
& night before last Sarah Ann  
Jones had a party - I saw first  
to be sick in bed all day  
but the girls went and



seem to have enjoyed themselves  
very much -

You must have spent a  
pleasant week in New York  
among so many kind friends  
it was a nice change after  
your study & would do you  
good - I wish Mary could  
visit Mrs Ward - perhaps we  
will make it out yet - You did  
not speak in your letter, about  
that Mr Stone's death, the gentleman  
at whose house you visited  
when in Hartford, of course you  
knew that he was killed, when  
trying to drive across the rail road  
tracks -

Yesterday Gramma was very much  
grieved by an attempt of a  
letter that she received from  
poor Aunt Charlotte, it was  
without sense and Jennie  
wrote enclosing it, saying that



Auntie was utterly incapable  
of writing - Mamma is trying  
to think of some arrangement  
by which she could be benefitted  
for Jennie cannot lose the  
best part of her life by living  
there -

Bad news to come from Annapolis  
on Saturday - a consultation of  
physicians has been called &  
they say that Uncle McLachline  
is hopelessly insane - I do  
not know whether they think  
of sending him to Van Asylum  
A man takes care of him &  
the Dr thinks he will grow more  
quiet as nature gets exhausted.  
Tis terrible to think that he  
has brought all this upon him  
self - to see so genial & pleasant  
a man - so kind a father & husband  
utterly ruined! - Poor Auntie is  
very much broken down and well  
she may be in a living trouble  
is the hardest to bear -

I forget whether I told you  
that I had had a letter  
from Louisa date at Ant -



overp - They were on their way to  
Italy wishing to spend Christmas  
in Rome - Speaking of Miss F. makes  
me think of a nice little book she  
had - that if you ever came across  
one, I would like you to get for me  
it was a pocket lexicon, small  
about 2 1/2 inches square - and contained  
not merely the meaning of words  
but of familiar Latin & French  
phrases, and many other scraps  
of information. Convenient to have  
it was an American publication  
& here came from Boston - I forget  
unfortunately the name of the  
compiler -

Auntie was much pleased to  
receive your photo and wishes  
me to thank you for it - Uncle  
says to tell the artist to make  
a white man of you next time  
referring to the dark shade on  
one side - It is very good



with that exception —

I am, as usual, scribbling  
fearfully, but if you can  
read it, that will answer all  
purposes — It is getting late  
so I must close — Wishing  
you a good night and pleas-  
ant dreams

from your affectionate  
sister

Charlotte.

'Tis an eager & a snapping air  
The frost bites shrudly —

Ther — 28 below zero! —