

But as I said before, I want you to do what you think right, and I think there is no objection on account of the expense, but I want to get the worth of our money. Children are kept learning and unlearning under different teachers until they become disgusted and make no real progress. I would avoid this if possible with Lella & would like to have her begin on correct principles with a good teacher and continue him until she knows something. Perhaps however the movements of piano playing are to such a degree mechanical than any one who can play is competent to teach. If such be the case Miss G. will probably answer as well as another. — I suppose Mary V. has written you before this and given you whatever news is afloat. I have none to give besides what I have written, except that Mr Erath's father has bought the house Mr Ransom lived in & expects to move there before long. Mrs M. is not very well & is going into the country soon. He will move while she is away & they will be the little ones & they dear self. Thine. L.P.B.

No. 9.

Fort Hamilton

June 11. 1843

My dear wife:

You can't tell how much I enjoyed your last letter, I hope you will always write in the same vein, as it would make separation more endurable for both. That is, of course when you feel so, for I should derive no comfort from such letters, if I thought they did not truly represent your feelings. The time will come before long I hope when we can be together again with our dear little ones and enjoy each other's company as we have done these ten years past. I think we will always look back with pleasure to the time we have spent together here, and particularly to period since you returned from your visit to D. during which nothing occurred that I know of to excite the least unpleasant feeling.

I hope you will be able to maintain your cheerfulness to the end of your present 'trouble', as it will be a great benefit to you, if not to the dear little respected-ones, too.

Now Mrs. Sears is about at her end, if indeed she has not already reached it, for I have not heard from her this morning. I believe I have told you that Charly was going to give me some Galvia slips. He has not done it yet. Under present circumstances I shall not broach the subject again for sometime. I was in the city last week, but could not find any Galvia seeds. I shall try again the next time I am up; whether I shall blunder on the right one I can't say. By the way what was the color of the one you want? Was it pink? — The weather is growing warm, but as yet we have not had more than one

right warm day at a time, since you left. — Emma lives at Mr. Carney's, same place. She does my washing, except P's. I. Stacey's and a part of Mr. Brink's. She must make at least \$16 per month. I shall pay her \$4. — Mr. Crocker has sold the refrigerator for me for \$8 to Mrs. John Kelly. Do you see she has something to remember you by. — As to Sella's music lessons I want you to do as you choose, tho' I think the price is quite high for an inexperienced teacher. I should rather employ some one who knows how to teach at the same or a higher price. Miss Gregg if she is worth anything at all will probably learn much more while teaching Sella, and be more benefited than herself. I don't much fancy putting her into any body's hands to expense meat or at our expense & her hair.