I am quite uneasy, as I have had no letter since last Thursday. I fear one has miscarried and as I think it quite time my question about the Christmas presents should be answered, that very letter may contain the answer and accompanying money. I do hope tomorrow morning will set all right.

The children are doing pretty well; Nelly has had something like dysentery with her measles, but I think her decidedly better tonight. A slight cough remains. Frank, but a little care will probably take it away.

I believe I forgot to tell you that Robert had gone to Washington; he went last Thursday quite suddenly and Mr. Brady went on Monday. Eliza said she tried to get him to write to you before he left, but he told her you would much prefer a letter from him. She talked and asked questions about you for some time and said she would write to you and before I went back she meant to. I know, and I hope will.

Are the MacCallum saxes jubilant over Burrows's return? That Potomac army seems solid! For two or three days past I have been allowing myself to dream of having you back, the war being over, but this dispels the pleasant delusion, for the time at least. Let me tell you in
what say this dream came, you will laugh and doubt, but will again be as if then it is. Neither said me a little picture of Frank taken when he was a mere baby, and immediately the thought came, 
"He is our son, and I don't see if I do have another." I said to Mary, "Neither has been exactly what he used to be in a happier frame of mind," she said. "All of that's all I can show you now, and neither get down at all the rest of the little picture, Nellie's was last, but the all continued to make me a happy woman, and I think that the coming little one will cause me no more trouble, and that the little one will give me a happy woman, and I think that I cannot be dreaming, and thoughts of neither would make me feel well. Still I will try not to think of you often, then you might join our family circle and the little house be more cheerful than ever. I trust it may yet be so, but it does not look so promising now.

But then husband, I want you that you will have the army as soon as you can possibly do so; F'ranks cannot be dragged out of the country and dis- well, I shall have to have you take the de, and if you do remain in the public service, and that you know full well will not come in the unhappy.

With a political life for a character, it will make an honorable man descend to mean tricks. My boys must learn trades (with your permission, sir) and I mean to teach them to be the work be well paid, mind, why should they not? I believe they will be worse and better men if they are thus brought up, and of one to go "slumming" the county on state, there will
yet tried? It will not do to wait till our children are grown before we plan for them, we must square our lives to suit them long before they are old enough to go from the nest, and if in the mean time we have not secured them a pleasant home, nor chances to use, they will leave their space for a home, and seek unhallowed pleasures. They can be many, and love home too, and will be if we are true to ourselves and them. Our parent care hardly less all, both are need. May we be spared to each other. To do that work.

I had no thought of delivering such a discourse when I began, but if you will be kind enough to read and think earnestly, I shall not be sorry. We are both too impatient to talk quietly on such matters; I can write them better, and perhaps you will read them better than listen.

Life seems difficult to me lately, so much more serious and yet so much more richly freighted with happiness than we often divine. There is often a yearning for a brighter life, but I want you to feel with and end me: you know more, and can keep me from bigotry; yet I am afraid to ask you lest you be driven from me. I wish we could throw off all restraints of prejudice against old or new dogmas, and earnestly seek to learn how to live as Our Father would wish to have us. We love each other most, but proximity of feeling here would ensure a deeper and better love, and not only ourselves but children and friends be aided and helped on by our example. I cannot say more but my heart is full. Good night, dear one.

Thursday — Father has brought one more written letter dated the 4th in August. But first marked 15th. Hope she will not again interfere with my pleasure or get.