

Philadelphia Sept 7th 1860

My dear Edward.

I know you will be a little surprised, and I hope a trifle disappointed to see by the heading of this, that I am in this grand City: just as you have left it, but as my absence previously was forced by circumstances, not of my volition I must be content, although it would have afforded me much pleasure to have seen you before you got off: however I shall remain probably a fortnight & perhaps something may turn up which will enable us to meet yet. I cannot express my great obligations for Alberto's likeness, it is very much better than the original & coming at this time will always be held sacred as a double souvenir, although the satisfaction would have been greater, if I could have received it from your hands. I came home

with Edward, Selina & Mary on Sunday night
& shall remain with them for a few days, but
I also hope to spend some time with your
dear Mother, whom I saw yesterday afternoon
& evening. Robert promised to see me to-day
if I will get your address from him. if you
have time I shall be delighted to hear from
you, but if you are pressed for that article,
I will read your letters to the family & write
whenever I think you would like to hear
from me. All of the family, but particularly
Robert, seem to feel very acutely the fact of your
going without seeing them, but as near as
I can learn it was quite unavoidable & no
blame should be attached to them for it. You
know after a thing has occurred we can
always see what might have been done &
how we could have done it. but at the time
it is quite impossible.

Monday.

I was interrupted by the arrival of
Robert & Mr Stein, they remained all the
afternoon so I could not finish. I find the
Philadelphians much more hopeful in their
opinions of our late war news, than the
New Yorkers, that city seems particularly

depressed, although enlisting is going on rapidly, but there is a strong Southern sympathy there, among a certain class, which affects the money market & causes these panics. I suppose however that a strong reaction has taken place since I left on account of the reinstatement of McClellan, who is almost worshipped there, but I begin to feel as if we needed a new man. We want a Lee or Jackson. From the north this morning, I shall expect to see the rebel army here before I leave, the darkest hour of our national existence is upon us & yet the people are as unconcerned as though we were in the full tide of success. Nothing short of a Japanese advent or a cable celebration can arouse our people. God forgive our rulers some of them will have a heavy account to settle before long. I am going up to Eleventh St this morning, I am fearful that some of my ultra Union sentiments will give offense, but I sincerely hope that all will feel as I do & act as I would were the choice left with me. They are going to look at your likeness on Wednesday. Robert does not like it, so he would not bring it home, but perhaps we shall see differently, at all events. if you can get time, you had

better try in Washington, if you don't like the rest for the head, ~~as~~
don't let them use it. Take a natural position & insinuate upon the
likeness from that, they will all do it if you are firm. Grandma
has given up her room and talks of going to Jersey this week, but
I do not think she will make it out. Make an effort to get
home as soon as possible & let us know the prospects immediately
as if you can not come to us, perhaps we can to you. God bless
you & keep you in health. With His protection & the spirit you have
already shown, your arm for defence will be strong.

Affectionately yours,

Mary C. Woodhull
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