

ON 25th MAY 1878  
Philad<sup>a</sup> May 25<sup>th</sup> 1878.

My Dear Joanna,

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the receipt of your last letter. I am, not well, consequently spiritless, and that must plead my excuse for my omission at this time. Since I heard from you, your Uncle, John Bessonet, had been at my residence three times. Bettie and Sallie entertained him on two occasions and the third call, I saw him, but had an engagement and talked with but a short time. Silence, <sup>sometimes</sup> is wisdom, and I forbear to write, what I think, about his interest for you in the matter of the estate, to be inherited by the Bessonet family. You will have a right to your mother's share, if any thing comes from it. They cannot keep it from you, but I do not believe, he will move in the matter

Should he go to France at all, it will be to see the Paris Exhibition, at the expense of the heirs of the expected fortune. Joanna, I want faith in Uncle John. Sallie is much obliged to you for the ~~slight~~ ~~sentiments~~ ~~he~~ ~~has~~ ~~expressed~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~in~~ ~~his~~ ~~letter~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~10th~~ ~~inst~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~great~~ ~~interest~~ ~~you~~ ~~take~~ ~~in~~ ~~her~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~constant~~ ~~transplanting~~ ~~she~~ ~~and~~ ~~with~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~success~~. I hope William's wife is improving in health. 'Tis hard to have the care of a family pressing upon you, and feel unable, that you are wanting in strength to attend to them. John B. said Sylvia's husband was getting much better. I am glad to know it. John, said something of your having adopted a child, was he right? I do not remember having heard it from you, and now ask for information. Tell me, when you write, how many children you have: whether boys and girls, and how many of each, giving their names. I would dearly love to pop in on you, and spend a little time with you, but I fear that will never be unless you pack up

and come north. If I could offer any inducements, I would be glad to say come to us - but, as it is, I think where any one is established in business, and making a ~~fortune~~ ~~for~~ ~~himself~~ ~~and~~ ~~his~~ ~~family~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~place~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~wife~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~little~~ ~~ones~~, to Sylvania and husband with hopes of his recovery. Tell her I would like to hear from her. I hope you will take great care of your health, for the sake of those children, you have still to raise, to man and womanhood. Remember, no one will care for them, or do for them, like their own dear mother. My hard experience, is authority for this. I have sacrificed my health for mine. What the end will be, remains to be seen. I expect to have some photographs of myself taken soon, and will remember you, when I get them. Your Aunt Sarah is very frail. Mary is better than she has been. My family are well as usual and send love to you all. Now with love to yourself and husband for whom I have the warmest regard

Reflections Aunt A. M. H. 4