



Springfield March 31st

My Dear Mary

I have just received your letter of the 13th and it truly fills my heart with sorrow to learn of your painful condition - surely you apply to a physician - and why can he not brace you up? I am so anxious about you - If I only had you with me I think you would very soon gain your strength by using some tonics, of a stimulating nature - It is terrible to toss upon a bed unable to sleep - An anodyne should be given you to procure that blessed restorer -

In the last letter I wrote you I told
you of a somewhat severe illness, &
I had passed through - Dr Buck found
that I could not take a sufficient
amount of opium to allay pain, with-
out affecting me unpleasantly - and
had it given as an injection - The
result was, comfortable rest, at night.
I am quite recovered from that
suffering - and do not think of it
as a chronic trouble, but brought
on by hard coughing -

Although I am by no comparison
as stout or healthy as when you were
here - nor could I expect to be, as the
evening shadow approaches, yet I
am usually about in a quiet way -
avoiding to make such exertions as
I did then - If I could think
of you this day, feeling even as

well as I am - I would rejoice.

Until you are here - I will feel constantly anxious - Can you not make such arrangements as will hasten your return to this country - I wish Lewis Baker could make it possible to cross the Ocean with you - but of course it will be no great trouble to find yourself pleasantly placed upon a steamer, and he will be in N. Y. on your arrival - I shrink from the thought of believing you in too feeble a condition to undertake the trip - God forbid - and I ask - Dear you? Do rally - and do not I beseech you, give way to such depression, as to wholly destroy your remaining strength - It is quarantining - and brings with the sorrow - so much of physical

Suffering - I am careful not to
speak of your ill health, even to
Francis - believing that you will
soon recruit - Should the papers
learn of it - in the usual way
would probably give exaggerated
accounts - But do keep me advised
and I will hope and pray, that
the next letter from you, will
greatly relieve my anxiety.

No special news in our family
circle. Saw that Francis is now
nursing Willie Wallace, who fell from
a ladder, and broke two ribs.
I would write longer, but must
haste for the mail.

God bless you and make
you well soon -

Truly your sister E.P.