

Baltimore 4 O'clock P.M. of
March 6th 1845

My dear Mary

I fully expected to have been home this evening - But being unable to see the gentlemen I wish, I have concluded to delay longer. - I only await to meet with some suitable person to introduce me to the President - I was in hopes to have met with Doct. Beaumont or Judge Legrand, but they have both left - If I do not meet with some suitable one to accompany me to the President tomorrow I think I shall go alone, or enclose my papers and send them to him. If it was not so near to the close of the Legislature I am induced to think I should in Washington several days - I am writing this at your Aunt Smiths, they are all quite well indeed.

About the first thing arrested my attention after I arrived, was the cry of fire. - It proved one of the ^{most} terrific conflagrations that ever was in this City. The "National Theatre" is no a heap of ruins - The walls and massive columns are, ^{the} only remains that are standing. - ~~Even~~ dwellings ~~part~~ the same fate. It was in the midst of ^{the} performance of an interesting play when the Theatre took fire, and it is said there could not have been fewer than 1100 persons present - The alarm and consternation were indescribable - Many were knocked down and run over in the agonizing rush for the doors, but few, however, were injured. Do press upon Theodore, James and Gilbert to keep an assiduous an active eye over the business of the P. office. - Give my love to my dear - dear children - and tell them to be good whilst I am away, yes, and be good when I return - and always to be good. Give my love to mother - and all the family - ^{Yours affectionately}
Wm. J. Wells