1860 January - March

SIDE ONE

Ivy Neck March 23rd 1860

My dearest Mother

After hearing from my last letter of the visit Ellen ~~has~~ had from William's father you will not be surprised to hear that she ~~has~~ ~~can~~ will go to live with them again. We were much surprised ~~yesterday~~ yesterday to see him ride up just before our dinner hour He staid until about sunset when ~~Ellen~~ after seeing him fairly off Ellen came up to me. It seems that he brought her a note from his Father offering that they should either live with them or have a part of their house (whichever they preferred) until the fall when they should have the other house and Mrs Wards daughters altho it seems useless to think of such a thing as she positively refused to let her go to Lottie even in her sister's place who was obliged to go home sick. It will be very hard to get Mary to go to a stranger she will not now go to any one but Ellen and myself. But as it is very late I must go to bed ~~&~~ and try to leave all these cares in the hand of an all loving Heavenly Father who has promised "As thy day is so shall thy strength be." Give a great deal of love to all, and write to me at once dearest Mother advising me what to do

As ever your loving child

Mary H Murray