Ivy Neck April 6th 1860

My dearest Mother

I am very sorry that you should have been so much disappointed at not getting a letter by last Saturday's boat. But I was under the impression that we had agreed it was best ~~[illegible]~~ to write by the mails unless there should be something of importance, as it made a good deal of difference in the postage.

I rode to the landing this morning rather expecting to find some one ~~[illegible]~~ with Mr Dillon to take Ellen's place and quite hoping it might be Sarah, but I was very glad to get the letter. I did not have a chance to speak to Mr Dillon, I think it rather strange that he did not come to the carriage to speak to me. He will I know be very glad that he got down to day, as Dr Franklin's daughter died

This must be meant for Murray, as Morris was ~~[illegible]~~ only 10 yrs old

find some way of getting from Belt. I saw Morris at the landing he told me that his Mother was coming down here with the two children next week, I suppose on Wednesday. I am very sorry to hear about Annie Perot beg her to come down and pay us a long visit perhaps the air here may be beneficial to her. Our lamps and oil are still perfection, I intend to send some of the oil to Mr Mercer tomorrow. Saturday morning

As this is to go by some of the servants who are off for the Easter holidays I have only time to add that we are all well I have had another talk with Kitty this morning who has been trying to make some arrangement amongst them about the milking but now reports herself unsuccessful. So let me know whether you can make any arrangement with Jane either to do the whole or part of the dairy work. If I could make such an arrangement with the same number of women that I now have I could let Billy off entirely. Goodbye Yours in haste

Mary H. Murray