

for hunger & really suffered but I look upon
cheerfulness as a duty on all sides - I try to divert
my mind from all gloomy thoughts - I try to direct
it among my acquaintances of those who have
suffered severe trials & recount the many blessings & enjoyments
which are so much more than I deserve - We have
anticipated how happy the blind can be & how im-
proved their condition now that they can be taught
and dispensed with the bare idea of such a privation
is not then so much a misfortune. William is very
much affected by this trial, he is devoted to the
little darling but we are both very hopeful & try
to encourage each other. We have a large family here
all sympathizing with us and they do not allow us
to be much alone - If we cannot get to Poplar Grove
which I fear will be the case I shall cherish the hope
of seeing you here - You know what a comfort it
would be particularly if William is absent. This at
present there is no prospect of that - In all my trouble
I have not forgotten Thomas & feel for him having to leave
a home where he has been so happy. Every one has
their share of troubles in this world but it does not
last forever and if we bear them patiently we
may hope for our reward. God grant that we may
soon meet and that we may be a comfort to each
other in our several afflictions - I have just had
spirit to write before & was doubtful whether

Burlington Tuesday 26th March

My dear Mother - I have just finished writing a long letter to
Dr. Hays of Philad^a about my little Sappie's eyes & this time
cannot refrain writing you a few lines in answer to your
kind and sympathizing letter I received this morning.
It is my first affliction, but from the first I have looked
upon it in the light in which you present it as a dis-
pensation from God and intended for the best - At
first I had very little hope myself of the little girl
recovering her eyesight but the physicians write
expressing great hope almost certainty of it.
As far as they can arrive at a conclusion they think
the injury has been since her birth, from violent
inflammation producing cataract in one eye
and partially so in the other - The right eye is
least affected, she sees light and sometimes follows
objects with it - No one could possibly know there
was any thing peculiar about her eyes who did
not examine, they are clear & bright but for some
time I have noticed peculiar white spots on
them and mentioned my concerns to Sister Mary
& several members of the family who always laughed
at me - About ten days ago Tom was sick & the