I shall tell you some things that will surprise you — to be sure a little mystery always enhances one's interest in any thing whether it be a novel or an exciting tale, but in general nothing is so alarmingly suggestive as these vague intimations. Apropos of Sou, soon after her return to town she sent me a very kind note, asking me in Abi's name to come on next month as his groomsman — to which after letting the customary time elapse I sent an equally affectionate regret giving my reasons wh. it would be needless to repeat. I think they will have a pretty good deputation at all events fr. Philadelphia, for Don P., St. George, & L. J. are all going to officiate and probably Hatty to look on — the latter is hesitating but only needs a little pressing. — I only heard last evening from the Jacksons that Anita had lost her child, but I suppose this will scarce make any difference in the arrangements next month as it seems so long before hand, and people somehow get used to such things thinking they can be replaced perhaps — with older folks it is different & no one now-a-days thinks with Byron or whoever it was that held "'Tis strange old people don't like to be buried", &c. — I have taken no interest in the endless talk I hear about the wedding, but I never meet any of the Js without hearing something new on the all important topic — they seem to be better posted than any body else: told me last night you were still determined not to go down — I guess that's all right, eh? as yr. Washington friend says — By the by do you ever hear from or of Miss Hudson now? I suppose you have mutually cooled off long before this — such violent friendships between ladies I am told, usually fall to the ground in half the time — I think you were remarkably constant. —

A letter fr. Ma this evening says she goes down in about a week, only to remain the same period: a weak resolution I'm afraid after a winter at h. but I shall be glad to hear of her staying as long as she can afford — might she not spend the second week with Cousin E.? you can say whether it would be a good plan. — Last evening H. J. sent for me expressly to set her right in the direction of a box of something or other wh. must go to you by the Express — I told her to send it to the Agent's care at Knoxville, so if it reaches you safely I think you ought to keep a piece* for me as I have been instrumental to great extent in yr. getting it at all.

*not of the box but its contents, mind.

I'm glad to hear Mr. Gaver has come to grief at last: he used to make my coats all sacks & my vests little diapers, so I'm sure this is a just

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