Castleis Jan 1. 1855.

My dear Kate,

A happy new Year to you and all the family – so there I have caught you all.

I presume Helen has transmitted to you the letter I wrote to her from Baltimore telling of my journey from New York to that place. I remained there until Saturday when I set off for this place in company with Mr John Kennedy and Mrs & Miss Anthony Kennedy and daughter and arrived here about two o'clock, the same day after a pleasant journey in beautiful weather. There is somewhat of a gathering here of the immediate relatives but no one out of the limits of the family excepting myself. The wedding is to be

strictly private, at home, this evening.
It was to have been in public at the church
with a train of bridesmaids &c but the sudden death of the father of the bride
groom changed the whole plan.

This is a splendid morning, the weather
as bright and golden as it is with us in
October. I am glad to leave the old
associations near behind me and enter upon
one which I hope and trust is to be
more happy and prosperous.

I shall return with Mr Lewis Kennedy
on Wednesday to Baltimore, where I have promised
to remain a few days, so that you need not
expect me at home until a week or two
last time. I hope to have a letter from
home at Baltimore

This is a mere forewell of a letter but
I am not in a writing vein and can

forsooth nothing better to write Love to all Dodies
& remain Your affectionate Aunt
SHR
Watkins Dec 5 1859

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