

I have been thinking of you
 very much lately. I hope
 you are well. I am
 feeling better than I
 have done for some time.
 I am writing you now
 as I feel like it. I
 hope you will excuse me
 for writing so long. I
 am not at all tired.
 I am your friend,
 Mary.

[The left page of the manuscript is heavily crossed out with dense, diagonal scribbles in dark ink, rendering the original text illegible. The ink is dark and the strokes are repetitive and overlapping.]

I thought an both influential men
at Washington
And now my dearest Emma, I will
tell you the only thing I can do to
aid, that is if you consider it aid.
I have no purpose, but if you really
with any love Belcher, I will offer
intend to give you whole heart a home
and means to reach that home.
Why will you not come and take
possession of the Lake? It is a
home to which by association you
must be attached. You would then
be near us all, and the Dr. would
be on the spot to take advantage
of any thing that might chance for
his benefit. Do you not think
that that plan will do, my dearest
Emma? Come out immediately,
the house is all ready to receive you
nothing left but in perfect
order, and it is much to let
a place so to ruin, for the want
of being occupied. If the Dr. will
such a situation, all pleases him,
we can say easily, leave and come
to New York, bringing you with him
if he can; and if he cannot leave
you there, and I am and I will
come up and take care of you.
And if he does not best of any
thing he can be ~~employing~~ himself
in the mean time by turning to
account every thing at the Lake that
he can. Now, you must consider it
all as yours as long as you stay
to do as you please; tear down, build
up, any thing, so that you only come
the house is in excellent order
and you know that the

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