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Nov 14th December - 43

The Arcadia is advertised to sail from Boston on Saturday, so that it is high time that our baggage should be begun for Spain. I can't think what relief your last letters, (when they did come) gave, for they were two days behind the right time, and we had given up all hope by that packet, and had gone into the wide field of conjecture as to the cause of your silence, each one in his heart yet fearing to own it, thinking you were sick; you will thus see how important it is you should not miss one steamer. You certainly see the real bona fide scenes of bloodshed & murder, there seems to be a restlessness of life and of talking life which is wonderful. The poor little Queen is in a sad interesting position, now she will have to bear the responsibility and perhaps odium of measures, which were formerly given to her ministers. The last steamer brought a letter to Pa enclosing one for me. We are preparing for a nice Christmas, (chief you could only drop down among us) We hope for Grandma & Grand Pa both the girls, Mary Ann & Mrs. Cambridge Livingston, perhaps & Aunt Schuyler and a great many children all on the "tip toe of expectation"

In the mean time we all going to "Ship in town tomorrow for a ball at Mrs Miller's except Mama who stays at Aunt Jan's. Mrs M. does not give dancing parties owing to the size of her rooms, but there are confidential hints of some great artist to make music for us, and I must tell you that our artists are not to be despised, have we not Ole Bull & Vieux Temples too among the best violinists extant. We had a nice little visit from Aunt Jan & Uncle on Friday evg. last. They came up in the elegant new sleigh with the long tail guys, the next morning Pa & Monsieur Tom went to town in the Fortino dinner & we had the nicest & the biddest party till Sunday Morning that could be. 8 O'clock P.M. I have been down to tea & have just coming wrap up Pa in his Chapeau to go jingling off to Constant to meet a few friends at which & a petit souper, George Schuyler came up with Tony last night, who came laden with quails & all manner of good things; George dropped in just as Geo & I were driving off to pass the evening at the Springs. Catherine had learned a duett that I sent her a few days ago & we played it together. we passed two or three hours very pleasant - ly, George helping us on with new jokes or old ones as the case might be, I never saw a house more neat & orderly than Miers is, Silver bright

every where, but I was told to leave half this letter for another lady & if I go on at this rate will not leave any thing like a fair proportion to my only & very dear brother I must sign my name Mary, & go to packing up my things for tomorrow.

26th December I see what a jump I have for my poor letter got no further than Pa's pocket and he presented it to me on Christmas day. I shall tie it to some papers and send it to you by a packet. I say you will not want four papers sent by a steamer & it is seems to be giving you such old dates & otherwise, that I hate to send them. — They are inundating our City with this vile French literature and the sales are immense. Thousands of the "Mysteries of Paris" are sold & every body is reading although the Condemned they read, they have now translated several others which are selling as rapidly. I 5th can a copy. Is it not a pity that such exciting stuff should be orientated here, which must do harm to most of those who read. Our country people love excitement under whatever form it may come. I shall write you all about our Christmas by the packet steamer but only send this unstates- factory scrap because it is written the breakfast bell has rung and George Schuyler is to take all this down with him in the boat. Merry Christmas & good bye dear Alex, I only hope New year will be spent together. You will have to tell us about Spain all the rest of our lives — Yes Mary.

London

for R. G. Beasley Esq
 Alexth Hamilton
 Secy U. S. Legation
 Madrid -
 U. S. Consul
 Havre -

[H908]

From M. Esq. 26th
 Recd. Jan'y 26th 1844

