

May 9th 1841.

You have given me a graphic picture of home. My dear Maria, I can see the bustling importance of the boys to have your company, and the guide man's resigned smile, as he passes by his own pleasant anticipation of the domestic game, in order to gratify his sister, and the complicated demands upon your wishes not to disappoint any. While you kindly postpone the pleasure of those around you, determined no longer to neglect the absent. The rapid sketch brought you all before me in such a flood, as had I the painters art, should stand in living colors - but then my new & long would look diminutive, as I saw them last and Howard would laugh at me, for not knowing them better - so let me do what I can - thank you for the pleasure your letter afforded and tell you how much we enjoyed Howard & George's visit. The former left us on Monday to go back to Mr Wilsons. he is in very good health & spirits, and was quite happy in the smiles of two beautiful girls - cousin Mary, always first with him, and her school friend Jane Dudley. She has been passing the vacation with Mary Jones. Howard planned his visit to Boston so as to be ready to escort them from Providence. Mary ^{had} a cold, & sore throat, which the continued bad weather has been unfavorable to. Dr Hays has had her in hand, and recommended her staying in town a few days longer. She is so much improved that I expect she will go to school next week.

Sara has been in New York a fortnight, and I expect
daily to receive forwarded your deers. which she is pleased
to have had an opportunity of receiving herself.
We heard that Beecher was unable to visit us this Spring
and wished to have her sister with her during her im-
prisonment so she took the opportunity of her father's
going, and will probably continue there until some time
in June. our sister Mary too is about to turn traveller,
after much difficulty she has obtained her own consent
to visit Rosa at Richmond. Ellen accompanies her
and I trust they will pass a month very happily in
the old mansion - and that her health will be improved by
the change. she will have so much to interest her among
her daughters, & their families, that I have no fear her
going, and tried to keep up her courage, when the
execution of leaving home bore down her spirits for.
Rosa has been so desirous of having her father to visit
the comforts of her home, that it seemed hard to dis-
turb her. I met Mrs J. Wharton in the street a few days
ago, who said she was on her way up to pay me a visit
on purpose to tell how much they were pleased with
Howard, he passed a morning with Frank, while the
funeral services passed, and made himself so agree-
able, that if they could have induced him to stay ^{to} dinner
they should have had not a single fault to find with him,
and perhaps he would have done so, for he thought
the girls pretty & pleasant. but it rained, and he
had escorted Mary & Jane & Sara, to Mr Swifts, and
he would rather have done without dinner, than leave
them unprotected with a safe conveyance home so he
got a wet coat, in procuring them a Cab - and then

