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Florence Dec 12th 1862

My dear Bell

I commenced this letter to you, as far as the date and address, you can see so by the alteration of the former, night before last but I took up the New York paper & when I had finished reading it, it was either too late or I was too sleepy to continue. I was not surprised to hear that you started for the city in a storm, as I know that when you make up your mind to go there or elsewhere you want to go rain or shine. I did think that it was about time for your periodical visit to that place & expected to hear from you in reference to the well being & of our friends & relations, as you seem to see everybody [soon] if you stay but half a day. As to Annie's baby. I am glad to hear that it is so fine a child you suggest that if I should have a particularly pretty name I should inform you. I have not

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heard any, nor do I think I shall in this out of the way place but if I come across anything very sweet or romantic, the parents shall have the benefit of it. So you saw Sam in a great hurry as usual. That puts me on mind that a day or two before I left New York, he wished me to tell you that Julia was then in New Jersey I believe but would soon come to the city & he wished you to see her. I forgot to tell you, but I suppose that he has informed you all about it. I have been expecting to see the arrival of Parker Prentice from Port Royal in the papers & have looked in them every day, but have not seen it & so I suppose he has not reached the city yet. Florence Kelly wont be at all pleased to have him back again, safe from yellow fever & cannon balls. Not she. I see that one of Gen Mitchell's sons has resigned & his resignation has been accepted. I should not think that Prentice would regret having served his country as he has, for he has seen & [experienced] sufficient to repay him for all the dangers to which

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he has passed through. It seems queer that you should see Fannie Haines so seldom, when you used to be so intimate. One cannot expect to always continue the same intercourse with one's friends. I am getting quite [*unclear*] for a water cure patient. There was what they called a [ball] in the house last night in honor of the birthday of one of the young lady patients & there were 5 invited guests, two married couples & a congressional minister. The ladies were young & agreeable, though married & the result was a very pleasant evening, dancing, refreshments to. The breaking up was early 10 ½ O'clock, but the excitement was so unusual for me that I did not feel sleepy & sat in my room reading till late. Sleighing has been good here ever since the storm of last Friday & for several days the skating also. A fine stream runs through the Doctors grounds & I skate some

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distance up stream & down to the mill pond. The ice is not first rate but might be considered so at Central Park. How do you like my "sanctum" You will find the stove worry you sometimes, especially when the wind blows down chimney. There is a new patient from Fond du Lac Wis, but he is so little troubled with good manners & social qualities that he does not add much to ones pleasure. I see in the Tribune the death of G W [Joes] of Danbury I did not think he would live long when I saw him. I wrote Mary last Sunday & presume that she has received the letter. There is so little transpiring here that I don't think I make my letters very interesting. You & the rest at home must make up for me. A great deal of love for all

Your brother

Charley