



Mrs Hart Gibson,
Care H. S. Duncan Esq.
Lexington,
Kentucky.

Constant prayer, at any
hour of the day, simply
 ejaculations, will draw
down Heaven's grace upon
you - You must pray
my dear Mary for
light, that you may find
the Church of God -
For the last month we
have had much company,
among others Fanning Marshall
Holt, one of Mrs Lee's
protégés, her two babies,
husband, & nurse - & then
Mrs Rowan, & Mrs Wigham
of New Orleans were
here on business - we

Washington D. C.
1325 K Street.
May 16th 1878.

My dear Mary,
Your long
detailed letter full of
the grief which so overwhelms
your heart, gave me
gratification, & reflection
upon the dispensations, &
the plans of Providence -
The killing of the rarest
flower, the choicest plant,
just beginning to display
its rare charms, is symbolical
of the death of your
darling boy - Think for

a moment on his happiness,
on his great gain in
that other World where
there is one constant sound
of praise;—

Teach your little ones to
pray to the dear Brother
gone before that he
may be their sweet, &
gentle guide — he loves
them, & you quite as
much as ever, & is only
separated from you all
by a few span of
years —

Trouble, & grief bring us
nearer, to the heart of God,

All sends it to those dearest
to him, & we must bow to
his will with submission —
The "Imitation of Christ" by
"Thomas à Kempis" is full
of grand, comforting
thoughts — It is a little
book to be read daily, it
becomes a necessity, it
inspires one with the love
of one's duty, & what
is due to God —
The Balm is also
beautiful full of
consolation — especially
the 9th Balm, it is
for one in affliction —

devoted all our time to them,
saw them often twice a day,
& regretted much when
they left - they are our
best friends &

Lee is again in splendid
health, rides every day, &
Leita often goes with him,
& Montgomery goes also, it
does him so much good -
We have no summer places
as yet - it keeps so
cool, that warm clothing
is necessary, & for ~~it~~
one feels like remaining
in dress -

When Brother East comes
on, you must come with

time, change helps everyone, &
you can be as quiet, &
retired as you like. - I
know you will feel good
effects from a few days
absence, away from your
garrison. - Write a few days
ahead however, so we
may be prepared. -

The family join me
in warmest love to you, &
Father's Heart - Kiss the
children for me -

Remember me warmly to
your mother, father, & Miss
Lilly - & the same to Mr. &
Mrs. H. Durcan -

Believe me ever, my
dear Mary, your devoted Sister,
Mary Montgomery Gibson.

APR 18
7 AM
1879
D. C.



Mrs Hart Gibson.
Care H. S. Duncan Esq
Lexington.
Kentucky.

you, by an All-wise Father who
wrote even the fall of the
sparrow - He doth all
things well -

My good husband has
been suffering for a few
days with his old complaint
in his hand - in two of his
fingers - he is not confined
to his bed, but can go out, &
is not altogether helpless -
He has had a winter free
from any ache or pain, &
may hold perfect health,
& just at present it is very
necessary for him to keep
well - but the Spring,
mild weather brings out the

Washington, D. C.

1305. K Street.

April 16th 1858.

My dear Mary.

The "Paper"
containing the announcement of
the death of your darling
boy was received a few days
since -

I was extremely nervous about
your great trouble, & could
hardly impose myself to
write, & included to
wait awhile, & then write
again -

Scarlet fever has made
sad ravage here, three
children out of a family

men stricken down, & taken
from their fathers & mothers,
leaving nothing behind them
for consolation -

I trust it has not spread
among yours, & that you
have been able to keep
them apart - the great
danger is of contagion, the
disease being so infectious -

I send by mail a small
book of "Scriptural quotations"
which may ease your aching
heart, & may cause tears of
comfort to flow, & ^{to} assuage
the pangs of those around you.
As long as our little ones
are in fine health, we

seldom think of what great
grief is in store for us, &
what sad parting may
soon take place - It is
well for us to think & look
upon our treasures, as only
"lent" for a short space
of time, but we cling to
them, with greatest tenderness,
& watch their every step so
carefully, & with such
solicitude, & thus they are
taken from us, & oh! how
hard to bear is the loss &
the terrible bereavement.

I trust you will have
grace, & strength, to bear
the cross which has been sent

disease, & it is not easy to
shake it off —

I think of going early to
Am. falling Earl on
a count of Loula who
was so much sick last
Summer — Mr. Cuyler will
hold a long session, I shall
probably return to the city
during the Summer, & go
to the Mountains —

So far we have all been
well, mother, & Leticia
enjoying fine health —

My children have never
been stronger — Montgomery
rides horseback with Lee,
& improves in every respect —

Grace is very tall, & stout, &
Dickie, is fast catching up
with her sisters.

With Lent, & its various observances
I am kept quite occupied, &
also with preparations for
summer, which is before
at hand —

I trust with the budding
& beauty of Spring your
heart will revive, & the memory
of your treasure boy will
be sweet, & placid, & you
will be able to recognize the
Hand of a tender, merciful
Creator —

I must close my dear
Mary as I have quite

Remember me warmly to Mrs
& Miss Montgomery

trespassed upon your time, but
I must not omit to say that
Lee, & I made enquiries
about the "Louise Home" as
regarding Mrs. Russell, & as
we find there are no applications
on file, it would be useless
to propose her name — I
proposed a Louisiana lady
but to no avail — Please
express our regrets in the
matter — Lee sends his best love —
Much love to your father, &
mother, Father, Heart, & Miss
Lilly — & with many respects to
the dear children —

Believe me, very truly,
your sister,
Mary Montgomery, Ellboro.