

At Home Mass June 21 1850

My Dear Mary

This is a pleasure that I have frequently promised myself during the past year, yet strange to think, I have delayed it till June 1850. I once heard it said that the punctuality which characterized a correspondence was sure test of the friendship existing between the correspondents. I would by leave to differ with the one, who uttered such a sentiment. My own experience teaches me that there are exceptions. I acknowledge my neglect of epistolary writing since I have been situated on the farm. yet no one could convince me that my affection for those to whom I am indebted has in the least diminished. The affection I entertain for my old schoolmates, the well tried friends of earlier days, is of too pure, too exalted a nature, to die prematurely. My long neglect of these pleasant and welcome letters is to be mainly attributed to an increase of care and domestic duties. The duties of a farmers wife greatly exceed in number if not in arduousness those incumbent upon a wife in the city. any one who is acquainted with a country life is aware of this fact, and yet my friends reproach me for unfaithfulness, & truly, an unjust accusation. I frequently thought of you Mary, during the past winter, and as often calculated ~~on writing~~ on writing to you very soon. but not being well I delayed it from one week till another, until Spring arrived, and found your letter still unanswered. and since the opening of spring my health has permitted me to write but few letters. I suppose Ma has told you that I have another daughter born on the 15th of Apr. we call her Anna Poppy, since her birth my health

Delivered by
June 22



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AND
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Mrs Mary Collins
Paris
Mass