

might think I was in the  
wholesale business from  
the look of my table. One  
bottle Whisky - one Bitters, one  
(Heaven knows what - they  
sent it to me from St. James  
for Sherry) one, of the best  
Golden Sherry - a present.  
and one of Claret. Of  
course the first three I don't  
touch, & the Sherry is the very  
Apple of my eye! This  
can't be very interesting  
but I must write you what  
I am about myself so that  
you may know where &  
what I am doing. I hope  
you read my letters to your  
self first for there are  
often parts, as in this, which  
I would not wish read to  
outsiders

Read to yourself

13/Julio St. J. O.

Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

My Dearest Mum

I'm going to write you a  
little this afternoon & finish  
my letter tomorrow, so as to divide  
the work & save my strength  
all I can. I could write it all  
today just as well as not, but  
as going to work too soon before  
gave me a relapse & put me  
back so much, I am going  
to be doubly extra careful  
now. My greatest difficulty  
has been the return of the fever  
in the afternoon, & while I would  
be fresh & well (this week) in  
the morning I was always sure  
to have to lie down by 2 P.M.  
In the eve. again I would be  
better, & able to go down to tea  
& sit in the parlor until 9 or 10 P.M.