

April 19, 1861

Individual interests are absorbed in this great National calamity - I know the fact - but cannot realize it. I look out upon the same beautiful landscape - the same clear blue sky - the same floating clouds - the face of nature is unchanged - nothing there that indicates that the darkest page in our country's history is now being written in lines of blood! But I turn and one glance on the face of man reveals the terrible certainty of some dark impending war - The 19th of April! Is it not an omen of evil import to those who have dared to raise the hand of rebellion against the common Country? for that day 1861 is again made memorable by opening the "Dance of Death" by the shedding the blood of the sons of Mass. as in the days of the Revolution 1775. And was this massacre at Baltimore a necessary prelude to the melancholy dance which has already

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Mrs. Miller Soc. you must before this have learned from my letter from Mrs D, Washington D.C. Dec 16/1861

Dear Madam

Your letter reached me on the 11th coming duty to hand at a moment when I was more than busy. and as I had just written Mrs D. since (of whom I read the articles) a detailed acct. of their history and final declaration. I have centered with much regret to allow your letter to remain unanswered for a day that I might find time to write you at greater length. You must before this have learned from my letter to Mrs D, the occasion of the delay (viz. uncertain order. rainy weather and Washington mails) and decide with me that the (concealed) package has long before this ~~for~~ accomplished its mission of cheer-ly & love. The bundles were all packed together in a stout box, securely mailed, and ^{given} delivered to the Sutter of the 15th Regt. who promised to deliver