

Pittsburgh Feb 20. 1854

Cousin Margaret

I owe many apologies for my long silence and I could make them but shall only take time to state one general or rather controlling one. time and again we had decided to have the sitting for the pictures when a cloudy day, indisposition, or when actually all ready after visiting some half dozen rooms we found so many waiting at each that there was no chance for us at length we succeeded after two sittings in getting what is considered by our friends a perfect copy of the originals. and as Mr McFarland expects to start this evening I shall only have time to say we all enjoy usual health my own has been through the winter on the whole better than usual notwithstanding the very sudden & extreme changes. Now I shall expect a long letter with a full expression of your opinion of the originals & what extreme surprise you realized and how greatly you have been disappointed. and all the mortification you feel. &c &c and what the children think of the pictures and last but not least if you can consistently give us the invaluable family group by Mr McF. as we are all anxious to look at them. give our warmest regards to all family connections. and if you can a long letter with all particulars of each. I regret that I have not time to write more fully but it cannot be expected that I can have so much to interest you, as you have to interest me. The Lord keep you and yours and preserve you all until the day of complete redemption our special regards to Richard and children. yourself our most affectionate remembrance
over

Since writing the previous post I have been home and
I think I certainly answered you last which is dated
Sept 14/53 but I do not remember answering your question at its
close where your "mother" laughingly said she was like the foolish Virgin
and I answered "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think
not the Son of Man cometh" (you then say "Do you remember the
circumstances" I now reply I do not. all I can remember is
that your father with others were preparing to go up the East river
Clam catching. I was worn down with the excessive heat for
it was in July & I had walked a great deal. and I fell
asleep on the floor when I left your father it was after night
and I lost my way in going to your grandmother but arrived
safely. I should like much to see both Mr Charles wife from your
description I already feel she has a corner at least in my
heart & my wife always did love such a character. you cannot
imagine how much anxiety there is at home to see Cousin
Margaret but I must close lest there be more repetitions
as I see several already. In haste hoping you will see
Mr McFarland Farewell Cousin John

Just I misdirect this I give Mr McFarland your brother's card
so that he may find them if not you & deliver the Daguerotypes

