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Title: Letter from Lily Macalester to Charles Macalester

Date: May 11, 1860

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The Executive Mansion Washington Friday May 11th, 1860

Your letter of yesterday with its enclosure my dear Father just received thanks for both I am sorry you had such unpleasant weather for your trip to New York. Did Commodore Stockton take his whole family with him? I was so shocked to hear of Dr. Henry's loss, it must have been a fearful blow to his poor wife, who was certainly devotedly attached to him. Dr. Jackson too is I fancy much grieved. This has been a very gay week, the dinner at Lord Lyons' was charming the table arrangements all very elegant the company consisting of 21 persons, very select & the host, Courteous gentlemanly and agreeable. He took Hattie to dinner & the Russian Minister took me & Commodore Tatnall Miss Buchanan gen. Scott was there Vice President & Mrs. Breckinridge, the Spanish Minister & a number of distinguished persons. In the evening we went to a party given by Mrs. Lewis & Miss Taylor which was delightful, where we had a nice little dance. Last evening we were at a little company at Miss Wilson's & today we have a large dinner at home. Gen. Scott & his aide Col. Heyes, a most agreeable gentleman, Commodore Tatnall are among the expected guests, 36 in all. On Monday the Japannese, it is supposed will arrive, on Wednesday the President possibly will receive them but the program has not been decided on I will go keep you posted. Today we are going under escort of the "officers in charge" to see the suite of apartments prepared for them which are said to be splendid. The President thinks the Convention at Baltimore has made a great mistake in not nominating gen. Houston who would have made a good man, Bell he does not consider a popular man & he told me what I never before heard that he drinks hard, did you know it? John Van Buren, was here for several days, & we saw a great deal of him, he is exceedingly agreeable & entertaining. He appears to admire Hattie greatly. He has been very sick & she thought he was looking very badly. A letter from Julia confirms you report as to the children's having whooping cough but the season is favorable & I hope they will have it lightly. I have been favored in the floral line lately, having received two lovely bouquets on Tuesday and another on Wednesday, one from Mr. Thompson, of Southampton (our Consul.) And two from Lieut Michler of the Army. Love to Aunty & Brother & John, Mrs. Gilpin & the Gross'. Hattie sends love.

Yours, ever affectionately, Lily.~

Thanks to Mr. Ellis, for sending me the Papers'.~

P.S. – I send you the Constitution with Jefferson Davis' speech in full. Remember me to Annie & James. [Written across the top of the first page]

Letter Addressed to: Charles Macalester Esq. 205 S. 6th Street Philadelphia