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Title: Letter from Lily Macalester to Charles Macalester

Date: May 25, 1860

Location: I-Friends-2000-4

## **Contact:**

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## Executive Mansion Washington Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> 1860

Nothing from you my dearest Father since Tuesday, but a letter received this morning from Puss gross assures me that you are well, & that she & Lon dined with Brother Shields & yourself on Wednesday. I was delighted to find that you had been so well entertained.~ Mdme De Limbourg's Matinee which I wrote you was to come on Tuesday, was really charming & elegant. The garden which is very pretty, was thrown open & beautifully fixed up, a tent at one end had Ices, & strawberries, & an area was lined (the brick walls) with bright chintz & filled with Lounges, chairs & etc... a table one one side with punch cakes etc.~ The substantials were on a table elegantly "Spread out" in the dinning room. The house is double & the dancing was in the back parlor, it was altogether, one of the most charming, & brilliant parties I have ever attended. The Japanese appeared much pleased with everything. The young prince with whom I had a small flirtation by the aid of dumb motions & my opera glass (which I showed him how to use) on Saturday recognized me most [illegible] & really was quite animated in his expressions of satisfaction. The others made solemn, & dignified bows to both Hattie & I.~ Today the grand dinner comes off & he is to take me to table. Hattie is to be seated between two, & declares that I shall be, but I am petitioning for "A Native American," on one side of me, She vows. I shall have two Japanese & so the war is raging; how we will settle it remains to be seen. I will write you an account of the dinner, which will I am sure be very amusing. We suggested to Mr. Buchanan that it would be considered a mark of distinction by the Ambassadors, if they were placed on either side of him at the table, whereupon he threw up his hands & exclaimed, " that he would not be paid to do it," so he will be quietly ensconsed as usual between two agreeable ladies whilst Hattie & I entertain the *[illegible]*.~ Mr. Buchanan is very anxious to procure some good champagne, & I said he would get you to by some for him, as he is not satisfied with what he finds in Washington & as his birthday came a short time since, & he reproached me laughingly with not making him a present. I wish you would send him a dozen bottles in a basket & if he likes it he can order more. I think it would please him & he is so kind, & so devoted to me, always doing, & saying something gratifying & flattering. He speaks of you constantly in the most complimentary, & really affectionate manner. When any visitor asks me about my leaving, he hushes them, & me right up with "She is not going for some time. I cannot possibly get along without her so that is fixed, her Father has her all the time & can very well spare her to me for this little while, when I so want her."~ Hattie desires her love, & tells me to say, "that in your letter you consented to my staving a month longer, & that she shall consider you professions as "empty nothings, if you violate that promise; but that at all events you are not to come for me until tomorrow (Saturday) week & then you are to come here & stay until Monday.~ That she will be seriously displeased if you dare to come earlier, I am however at your disposal dear Father any day after Wednesday. On Tuesday Madam [Bodisco's?] wedding comes off & on Wednesday, we have music on the grounds, which is perfectly lovely. Please bring a large trunk with you, as I have all my winter furs besides the additional dresses sent me, & want you to carry some of them home.

Best love to all from yours most affectionately, Lily.~

P.S.- Hattie sends you a flower how tender! It means preference.~

This is the  $4^{\text{th}}$  letter I have written you this week. [written across the side of the first page]

Letter sent to: Charles Macalester Esq. 205 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia