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Title: Letter from Lily Macalester to Charles Macalester

Date: May 29, 1860

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Contact:

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prosite should I not accomplish it she must bemember how much my time is layang a phreton me for letters pld up all the The Last months; I most you this lastbut - h hote from Isabel hours he wired land erenny, gives & aboring, secount of your dinner with which the has charmed Hore fall Smit ern affectionally

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must moderatant that only hant of time will purall me Inholar Bodisto, is to dine here I have begind to find that

Tuesday May 29th 1860 Executive Mansion

Yours of yesterday dearest Father just received & before making my toilette for The Wedding, I hasten to acknowledge it.~ The President is to give away "the fat widow." & we have had a great deal of fun with him about it as for "his wanting her himself," that is, as you imagined utterly absurd: he heard that she had said so, & was highly amused. She is a character, & very entertaining, she took tea here on Sunday evening, & was full of news, & gossip as usual. The wedding is it 12 no. & at 5 Mrs. Slidell has a so called Matinee, which will be, it is said, the most elegant affair given in Washington in a long while. The grounds are to be beautifully fitted up, & her house is very handsome, dancing in the drawing rooms.~ I wish you were here to go to it.~ Yesterday we drove to Arlington, Mrs. Mason your friend made up a party for me, & it was charming. It is a grand old place, full of interesting relics & associations. Have you ever visited it? Hattie desires me to give her love, & say "that she is indignant that you took no notice of her message to you she does not understand such treatment."~ Let me know what day to expect you, & I think your trunk will answer my purpose. I am delighted to hear that you have found a house, & much indebted to you for acceding to my request to keep them in town until my return. Mrs. Nilling I dare say, feels relieved at Mr. Schott's death, you will have to be discreet now about visiting her. The butter kettles are safe, & I will look after the cloths if possible, or rather direct Eliza to.~ I understand that Lincoln's nomination disquieted Douglas much, strange to say I have seen him but once, & then at a distance since I have been here, but I always speak of him, in terms of personal kindness to everyone. ~ I will try to write Aunty by this evenings mail if possible, should I not accomplish it she must remember how much my time is engaged & pardon me Your letters fill up all the vacant moments: I wrote you five times last week.~ A note from Isabel received last evening, gives a glowing recount of your dinner with which she was charmed. Love to all.

Yours ever affectionately ~Lily

[the following is a smaller note included with the letter]

I shall be so constantly engaged this week, that the opportunities for writing will be <u>rare</u>, & <u>brief</u> so if you think this letter would interest Julia, or Aunty please, let them read it, & say to the former, that I will try to reply to her kind letters if possible which were much enjoyed & appreciated, & she must understand that only want of time will prevent me. Madam [Bodisco?] is to dine here today.

~Lily

P.S.- I am rejoiced to find that she and [illegible] continue.

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