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Title: Letter from Lily Macalester to Mrs. Lathrop

Date: May 30, 1860

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Contact:

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

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Boyon want any of my Buller to day Lend was by James

Executive Mansion May 30th 1860

Your welcome note my dear Aunty should have been earlier answered, but that this last week has been filled up by incessant engagements, so as to leave me hardly a spare moment. Yesterday morning we attended Madam [Bodisco's?] wedding, which was crowded with all the elite of Washington. The ceremony was performed in St. John's Church & the bride was dressed in a most exquisite violet colored silk, with three superb [point d'Aleuson?] lace flounces, a white & lilac hat, & point lace mantle. It was a perfect toilette, & she looked very handsome in the face, but is enormous in figure. The groom was in full English Uniform, & a slight graceful young man.~ At 6 in the afternoon we went to a party at Mrs. Slidell's which continued until eleven; one of the handsomest entertainments I have ever attended. Her house is very elegant & her grounds, & Mr. Corcoran's adjoining, were connected by a bridge beautifully festooned with Japanese & American flags, & cosy little summer houses, & tents with refreshments, scattered in all directions.~ The dancing, was in the drawing rooms. At dusk the grounds were brilliantly illuminated with different colored lanterns, & as it was bright moonlight too really it looked like a fairy scene. The Japanese appeared to enjoy it immensely. I had an ecstatic time, danced to my hearts content, strolled in the moonlight, and – but it is not worth while to go into details, only I am too sorry it is over.~ I was glad to learn from Father's letter that Flora was with you, I hope she will stay until I return. Did she bring little Dick? Give her my best love, & say that I am anticipating great pleasure in seeing her again. I hope your present guests will not interfere with your plan of receiving the Japanese, as I mentioned your hospitable intentions, to Capt Lee, one of the Naval officers in charge of them & he was quite delighted, & accepted for them on the spot so you are fully committed.~ I suppose you are almost residing at the Convention. Do no dissipate too much. Hattie has been shouting to me for a half hour to go into her room, & lie down a little while before dinner, as this is Music afternoon, & we have to be out on the Piazza, & in the grounds until dark, so good bye.~ Thanks for your suggestion that my friends must be tired of me. Hattie was indignant enough at it. They evince very opposite symptoms, I assure you, & will not let me speak of leaving, I shall * however return with Father whom I am expecting this week.~ I will have so much to talk about, when I reach home that I shall hardly take time to breathe for a week.~

> Love to all, yours ever affect... Lilv~

Hattie's best love. The President was quite pleased at your message.

* [this portion of the letter is written across the top of the first and second pages]

Letter sent to: Mrs. Lathrop 249 S 13th Street Philadelphia