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**Title:** Letter from Harriet Lane to Lily Macalester

**Date:** May 4, 1854

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interesting for you.  
I have the liberty  
which could send  
some message - let  
as the despatch bay  
any else - I cannot  
as well for any tender  
worded interesting as  
I know they asked  
be to you. If you  
I sent the Pitt letter  
I am well - as I  
I have not time to  
write her this mail.  
I am to expect and  
I believe you will  
I am delighted to  
sincerely affectionate  
Greetings.  
Capt. West  
at a glance  
Lieut. - I have  
but a more or  
squadron escort.

to relate, concerning myself. - I only arrived  
here on Saturday evening, and until presented  
to the Queen, will not be fairly in the  
"London world." Everything is as comfortable  
and agreeable as possible, about my home -  
all things promise to me a pleasant  
visit. Uncle met me on the Ship at Liverpool  
& is looking remarkably well, & in good  
spirits - is as kind and good as possible  
& decidedly the most elegant looking man  
I have seen since I left home. My  
court-dress is now absorbing most of  
my attention, as I will be presented  
this day week (11<sup>th</sup>) this is rather intense  
as I must act entirely for myself - with  
not the good taste of Mrs Pitt to consult; whose  
kindness, at home, I always depended  
upon. I go to decide upon it today.

You have heard, dear Lily, of our long &  
bristrous voyage - a fortnight reaching  
London. - I have not ceased to moun  
on the pleasant evening, with you all,  
I was deprived of, when first we started.  
Friday 5. I was charmed at the Opera  
Last night. Beethoven's Fidelio. was the piece.  
I heard the great Cruelli, and think  
the subject - the music is gradually effective.  
Mr Parody's box is opposite the Queen's -  
she, Prince Albert, & two of the children were there.  
Mr P. is very kind - he had a large  
party of Americans last evening - and  
seems ready to entertain any who come.  
Give my warmest love to Dame Trip - tell  
her I read the little book every day,  
and think it sweet. I gaze upon my  
sisters with much tenderness, and bless  
the kindnets which gave them. Uncle is  
laboriously occupied - writing all the time -  
in fact, too much confined. I hope you have  
written me, dear Lily, see this - I will have  
the blues, if every steamer does not bring me  
some affectionate effusion - and could you know  
the value of a single line, when so far separated  
from every home association, I know you would  
write often. I sincerely hope you safely recovered from your  
cold. My love to Mr M. tell him the ginger bread was  
very acceptable. Love to Grandma and Mrs Rivington - and  
do write me often dear Lily - I hope my next letter will be more

U. S. Legation, London.  
May 4. 1854.

I must write you, dear Lily,

though, as yet I have not much of interest to relate, concerning myself. - I only arrived here on Saturday evening and until presented to the Queen, will not be fairly in the "London world." Everything is as comfortable and agreeable as possible, about my home - all things promise to me a pleasant visit. Uncle met me on the Ship at Liverpool & is looking remarkably well, & in good spirits - is as kind and good as possible & decidedly the most elegant looking man I have seen since I left home. My court-dress is now absorbing most of my attention, as I will be presented this day week (11<sup>th</sup> .) - this is rather intense as I must act entirely for myself - with not the good taste of Mrs. Plitt to consult; whose kindness, at home, I always depended upon. I go to dicide upon it today. Last evening we went to a Literary Club dinner - the ladies of course in the gallery. I was disappointed in the speaking - we had expected several distinguish speaker but only heard Lord Mahon, & Lord Stanley both men of talent. - Lord Mahon was the best speaker at the table - but he talked too much, and said to little. Lord Stanly talked a great deal, and said nothing. I was gratified to see the manner of conducting a public dinner here, but without doubt, our people are more prompt and eloquent - in fact, I have seen no improvements upon our country, except in servants, - here they are most respectful and respectable. Tonight I go to the Opera, with Mr Peabody and a party he has formed for me\_ he is a younger looking man than I had expected to see, & seems very good and kind hearted. He made very particular inquires about your good Father. Tomorrow and Saturday I go to dinner parties, and I suppose will be fairly launched in the gay world, after next week. I had a glimpse of the Queen yesterday - she held a Levee (gentleman alone) at St. James! Lady Oasily took me to the Park, where we had an excellent view of all the Royal procession - The Life-guards are splendid looking men - mounted upon black horses - the Queen's band played - of course, I was very much entertained - but I could scarcely convince myself that it was the ruler of this great kingdom- approaching the glitter was so great it appeared like a grand show. From the carriage, she struck me as being handsome, but she is not generally considered so. Your friend Mr Corbon is here from Paris - his stay will be short - he is to be here this morning - unfortunately I will not see him, as I am obliged to go out. You know Mr Holford is dead. You have heard, dear Lily, of our long & boisterous voyage - a fortnight reaching London. - I have not ceased to mourn over the pleasant evening, fwith you all, I was deprived of, when first we started. Friday 5. I was charmed at the Opera last night. Beethoven's Fidelio was the piece. I heard the great Cravelli, and think her superb - the music is grand & effective. Mr Peabody's box is opposite the Queen's - she, Prince Albert, & two of the children were there. Mr P. is very kind - he had a large party of Americans last evening - and seems ready to entertain any who come, give my warmest love to Dame Trip - tell her I read the little book every day, and think it sweet. I gaze upon my daguerre's with much tenderness, and is the kindness which gave them. Uncle is laboriously occupied writing all the time - in fact, too much confined. I hope you have written me, dear Lily, ere this - I will have the blues, if every steamer does not bring me some affectionate effusion and could you know the value of a single line, when so far separated from every home association, I know you would write often. I sincerely hope you safely recovered from your cold. My love to Mr M. tell him the gingerbread was very acceptable. Love to grandma and Mrs [illegible name] - and do write me often, dear Lily - I hope my next letter will be more

*[cross-written in the top margin of the first page]*

interesting for you. I have no doubt Uncle would send some message - but as the dispatch lay very close - I cannot wait for any tender words interesting as I know they would be to you. If you see Mrs Plitt tell her I am well - as I have not time to write her this mail. Love to every one & believe me ever dear Lily your sincerely affectionate

Hattie

Capt West is a glorious fellow - I [never met?] a more agreeable escort.

*[letter sent to Lily Macalester]*