

Baltimore, Feb. 15, 1848

My Dearest Mother

Yesterday I received a letter from Uncle John informing me of the accident which happened from fire on Friday night. I was very much frightened as you may imagine. Glad it was no work. I am about crazy to know all the particulars – none of which Uncle gave. I wish I could go home for one or two days to hear all about it for I shall never rest till I know. I find it very difficult indeed to fix my attention on my studies. I don't pretend to recite them perfectly. I find myself so often conjecturing what in the world you did when you found the fire out – being I believe by yourself. Uncle John said Mr. McIntire had taken you to his house & insisted on your staying til the house was repaired. I want to know if the kitchen was burnt to the ground? How long you will remain at Mr. & Mrs. McIntires? Where the servants are? & oh dear; I don't know what I want to know, only every circumstance however minute. How on earth did you get news to town? Did Mrs. Graham and the girls get home before it was out? I wish you would write and give me a full description of all or let me come home for a day or two to hear the latter. I would much prefer – Uncle though you would write after you get over the hurly burly, which I think you have had time for. I was rather disappointed that I did not get a letter from you yesterday but hope I will have better success today. . . . I called at Sun Ann's yesterday & there met a Mrs. Hall, who said she had seen an account of the fire in the paper and asked me about it. Aunt Ann was almost thunderstruck, when she heard it, lapsed her hands and exclaimed "good heavens?" And was so much relieved to hear the house was not entirely destroyed. . . . I am so crazy to know all about it & fear you will write me all I want to know. Please. I don't know what to do. Joseph Wallace wrote to George that it was all burned down. Mary told me. This morning you will please remember me to Mrs. & Mrs. McIntire and all the good folk of Elkton. . . . Did you go to Mrs. McIntire's that night? And how did he know it was our house burning? & house; did Uncle John & Robert know it? I have been told Mr. Archer has sent my report home. I want to know if it is good. I must stop now. Write son & relieve me.

Yours affectionately

J. Hollingsworth

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