New York April 21st 1865

My dearest Mother.

You sweet letter written upon my birthday was received this afternoon. I think there must be some irregularity in the mails for I never receive my letters for four or five days after they leave St Louis or rather the date of them I often think it is a whole week from the date to the time I receive them. I fully expected to hear my office from Lucie while she was at home but I only had two letters in which she said nothing about herself or what she was doing or who she was with, consequently I expect she will come home here I receive a number of letters from me addressed to the Continental, The reason

Rachel English mother & some Cousins of Ed Chapman, others to her Romans

And finally we decided to St Louis which I hope she will get an answer telling me every thing that she has been doing since she left me in New York which by the way seems perfect ages ago.

Every body & every thing here still continues to look gloomy and dismal. Mass Hamed on the day of the Presidents funeral took me out riding with her & we went over the whole city. The extent of the sadness which prevails every where cannot be realized. Every where the feeling seems to be spontaneous, and I did not see a single smile or laughing out most no matter how