

National Hotel Washington

May 11<sup>th</sup> 1838

Ah my darling. How sorry I am to be so  
kept from you - but it has been inevita-  
ble! I have never in my life been so  
entirely occupied as during the last  
fortnight or thereabouts. Since I came  
to Baltimore I have been suffering from  
the work & social excitement, my mind  
& my correspondence has suffered also -  
staying with friends. I feel as though all  
the leisure I can command should  
be theirs. This, when I am not acting  
is easily compatible with duties to my  
correspondents. But when I am acting  
I have rehearsals every day. I perform  
seven sixty nights, & late supper after  
the play, & visitors. I find my time so  
taken from my friends, that I am obliged  
to neglect those at a distance. But they  
are not out of my mind - because I



do not get the opportunity of writing to  
them. I think of my darling sweet  
"little Tom" with all the tenderness and the  
tender affection I have ever known for him  
& my heart aches when I cannot come  
to my communion with him - but I  
have many headaches - & must take  
them among the rest. By & by when I  
get to England I hope to have more time  
& then my darling one shall hear from me  
more often & more worthily. When I find  
I have only few minutes to devote to  
writing to him - I feel that it is worthily  
of his love for me - & almost irresistible  
to send the letter - but then I reflect  
"Half a loaf is better than no bread" -  
So I comfort myself that you will be  
content if you know I am in the land  
of the living - & loving you just as dearly  
though I am now able to write you  
long letters - as when in my western &

Southern wanderings - alone. I had time  
to write you my long letter. I doubt believe  
and thought, that they contained one alone  
when you long than comes to you in these  
country sheets. - Darling mine, my mother  
I sister arrived last night from England  
with Mr. Tibbels is with me so that I have  
a lot of company beside my professional  
duties - & am very much crazed for I am  
from now on will. I do want to know what  
your "bird" is doing. So long since I heard  
from you. Darling, you must not cease  
to write to me. Though I am compelled  
from circumstances, to seem unmerciful  
& if your love & affection, write to me dear  
& tell me of you for me. if you wish  
your letters shall be destroyed. but they  
are very safe - if you will permit me  
to keep them until you cease to care to  
& much for me, no one shall see them  
perhaps I had better keep them until

I see you - when will that be? and  
then if you must upon having them  
you shall. I cannot bear to destroy  
"heart records". How are you getting on  
with your reciter? Are you getting fast  
any sooner? There is a possibility that  
I may be in Phil<sup>a</sup> - from the 24<sup>th</sup> May  
to the 5<sup>th</sup> June. & then I go to Boston I  
believe - but I am a little uncertain of  
every thing but the work of the 24<sup>th</sup> May  
when you must direct to me to the  
Arch<sup>d</sup> Theatre - Phil<sup>a</sup>. I am here for  
the work - next week, at the Theatre  
Richmond. Sat<sup>d</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> I shall be in Bal<sup>ty</sup>  
may I hope for a letter there (Care of Rice  
Chase & Co.) in reply to this. I am very  
anxious about you & you dear & delectable  
thing - take good care of yourself for you  
are very dear to the heart of your  
fondly loving  
Kendall Hall at  
home. I want to see you so much!

