

Brooklyn March 7<sup>th</sup> 1853

My dear Parents,

It is my twenty-sixth birthday, and my thoughts turn to the home where cluster the height visions of life, and to the Parent's whose kindness has made life so much a gleam of sunshine. My heavenly Father has been very kind to his Child in giving her such a home & such Parents. Could I know that thus it would remain to the ends of my life I think I would never leave you, would never seek another home in this life, but I know that changes must come. I have been led to thoughts of this kind during the last week by a letter which I enclose to you from Dr. Williams, which if I answer will probably bring a renewal of an offer made nearly three years since. Feeling as I did three years ago, & under the same circumstances, I should act again in the same way, I feel that I acted rightly, and do not repent the course, I took. But if as I believe his affection for me as outlined so many reverses, I can't but respect the man most highly. Eight-years is long enough to test friendship, and such fidelity is seldom met with in this world, as is sufficient to cause me some serious thought.

~~There are but things that thought of now dislike in the man his owning slaves. I cannot make it seem right yet perhaps there may be my sphere and there is his not being a Christian.~~

Will you both give me your candid opinion in regard to him? I shall not answer it till I hear from you, & please return his letter in yours.

The Baby is growing firmly & for ought I see doing as well as if his mother were here. Louise & John have both been very good children. We miss Lucie & Lizzie very much & shall be right-glad to see them safely home.

I have nothing of interest to write you. Do write very soon. We are all well with the exception that I have one of my old colds. Love to all and believe me yours dutifully.

Sarah