

Quincy Mass.

Sunday Evening May 11th 46

I did intend this morning, Dear General, when I
started myself in the quiet seclusion of my own room to
have written a long & if possible an interesting letter in re-
ply to your two last. but the day has passed, & coming finds
my paper & blank.

I confess with— I received yours of
March 22nd & permitted circumstances, trivial though they
were, to prevent me from even acknowledging its reception
& nearly two weeks have passed, since I received this last.
But for this delay, I think I can offer a sufficient apology,
viz. the illness of a beloved friend, & consequently a attendance
upon her & some preparations necessary to be made
for the approaching marriage of an intimate friend, which
is to be celebrated on the 18th & at which I have the honor
to officiate, in the capacity of bridesmaid & less though
not least, an indescribable feeling of dread, which led me
almost to the conclusion to write you, so indefinitely, post-
-pone your visit. But a midnight-severity finds me my

and again be ever impatient to guide you with a happy welcome
to our quiet village. Yet I would beg of you Mrs. Rowland, not
allow your expectations to be raised too high. I fear the very best
poor charms sufficient to dissipate the tedious monotony
of a country village, as it appears to a stranger, within the
usual associations of childhood - we will however endeavor
to make your visit as pleasant as possible.

Please accept this, as it is intended - not as a reply
to your excellent letters, but as an acknowledgment
of their reception, with the expressed wish of my dear
- Mr. that you should visit us at the time you have specified
should, in unit your convenience. We desire, ^{very} earnestly
wishes for your happiness, & believe me.

Your sincere friend

Mary

James Esq. Rowland