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Harwood Family Collection, HS-022

12-7-1862

Correspondence, A.C.B. to unknown, December 7, 1862

A. C. B.

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Home Monday
Dec 7th 1862

My Darling:

What words can express
the surprise that I felt when on last
Saturday night our friend showed
me your last letter! I was surprised
and joyful. I knew my little Ella was
not a capricious damsel, acting only
from impulse, our firm ever thought
such is not your character and after
I read your seemingly strange letter
I felt that you had good reasons
for writing it and that you acted
willingly in thus sacrificing at the altar
of duty your own inclinations. You
have done well, Ella, and God will
surely bless you for it. Will you
tell me why you did it, Ella? I do
not mean to seek your confidence,
dear one, but if your heart prompts
you to confide in me, then in one will
listen with more loving sympathy to

you no one will so religiously guard
your secret, keeping it locked in my
own heart than Ada. But if on the
contrary my sweet friend thinks it
best to keep this secret confined to her
own bosom, I will not feel hurt at
it, in the least. You there are some things
not to be confided to any one. Assured
of your continued love dear sister friend
I am content. Only one question remain-
ing and then if you desire it I will
forth the subject shall never be mention-
ed between us! Do your parents, if they
know any thing of the affair, blame me
for the part I have taken in it?
Not for worlds and all their contents
would I forfeit their esteem and
confidence. My future happiness de-
pends in a great measure on this esteem
approbation and affection they have
for me. So though I love your birth
above all earthly things, I would
errone cast aside all hopes of happiness

with him, ^{off} ~~yes~~ comes out, my right hand
then enter in a family as a member, where
I was not welcomed - I am all alone, man
men ^{is} down ^{is} town, the children at school and
I am sick and low spirited - I feel serious
and therefore this letter must partake
of my spirit and be serious also. Do
not trifle with me, Ella! I charge you
by the love you bear me tell me if I have
lost their esteem - Answer me truly, by your
hope of happiness hereafter, tell me - What
ever the way their opinion may be of
me tell me without hesitation. I will
thank you for it. I have long wished
to ~~answer~~ ask this, but a foolish yet
natural timidity prevented me. Will
you not tell your Ade? I will esteem
it as the greatest favor you ever do me!
Write me a long long letter. Our friend
gave me a letter for you. I send it
knowing your own good sense and judge
ment will teach you how to act. Please don't
mark me down in your hearts calendar as

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untidy when you see these letters. Little
Heard. Since my return, will stay in my
Cap and in picking a coat he knocked over
the ink. Come to see me, darling, some
time today. Love to Annie, Fernie and
all other friends. My throat is very sore
and I am suffering with Neuralgia
but perhaps by swimming I will be able
to attend school. I am very lonely. Can't
you come to see me? Please write to me
today. I am so anxious to get a long
fulfilling letter such as true friends
should write to each other. I am well dear
dear Ella! Heaven only knows how truly
Love tenderly to love you.

Yours in confidence & love
Ada

Perhaps would be best to destroy this
letter after you read it. A.D.