

Columbus April 18<sup>th</sup> 1853

My dear Mother

I rec<sup>d</sup> your kind letter some days since and would have answered it sooner but for having been sick - this is the second time I have been sick in this place. - I left the situation which I had when I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter - and will now come home but the Lord only knows what I will do when I do come. - I rec<sup>d</sup> the miniatures all safe and sound - and I assure you that I have looked at them a great deal - ~~since~~ I can transport myself to my home at any time by looking at them - I think them a shade too pale though - Henry's lacks expression - and Anne displayed rather a funny taste by having ~~a~~ slight dress on at the time - Ma I don't know what to do - if I come home there is a very small chance of my accomplishing anything - And there are many very unhappy reminiscences connected with the place - I have had some idea since you wrote of going East and trying my fortune in some of the eastern Cities - - - for it is impossible for me to be contented to sit down and brood over the past - I am now I suppose as near any competence as I will ever be - for I have tried almost every invention and it won't work - I can make a living any place - but to be contented with a mere existence was never a part of my nature - the world is a broad one and I suppose there is some place on it or in it that will finally receive me - and perhaps gratify some of my feelings - - I do not wish to come home until I have secured some sort of a competence to ~~and~~ meet the emergencies that will await me - I will not however go to sea without letting you know it - and suffice it to say that I have given up my intention of going to Japan - I am now out of employment; and must do something for some out of money