

Albany, N.Y.
22nd April 1878

My Dear Joel:

I am very glad to hear from you & that
Mrs Joel & little Ruthy are well. You would have
heard from me before, but I felt uncertain as to the
fact. I got your note so late that I feared my
reply would not be in time for the Ceremony, and sup-
posed in that case you might have changed your
purpose. I am proud of your practicality, and shall
always regard with great interest the progress of
the young gentleman. I shall try to remember him in
some substantial way. Let him be as brave and honorable
as his father and he will be a credit to his parents and name-
sake. —

Mrs H. is in City. My duty requires me in
my Uncle's illness to remain here through the summer & perhaps
permanently. — The office I shall decline. — Kind
wishes to Mrs J. & "Ruddy" & —
Sincerely
R. B. Hart

Mr J. Ashford.