Dear Carrie

I did have the best time yesterday, and I will begin at the beginning and tell you all about it. You know I said that Mrs. Waterston asked me to come up yesterday at 12, so Grace and I started out, though it snowed. She was very glad to see us and took us first into the large library which is like a room in a novel! First we looked at the paintings and there was a portrait by Vandyke and an old Dutch portrait of a lady which I liked very much. Then we looked at some of the autograph letters which were very interesting. There was one of Napoleon the first's & Oliver Cromwell and Horace Walpole & Robert Burns & a leaf from the manuscript of "Kenilworth" and quantities of others, & then we looked at the part of the library where the old books were: old missals and Bibles and one of the books which used to be chained in the churches—with the chain still hanging to it. These books you know were made before printing was discovered, and all done with pens, painted exquisitely with the illuminated borders and capital letters, all done by some old monk. It used to take almost a life time to copy a book. Then there were some of the first that were ever printed where the common letters were done with type and the coloured letters done by hand, & these could be done so much quicker that people thought the printers were in league with the devil! There was a copy of the famous Nuremberg Chronicle which I had read a great deal about. Then, after we had looked over the books & pictures as much as we could we went into a smaller room beyond where there were cabinets of minerals petrifaction & fossils of all kinds, & curiosities they brought from California, & then we went up stairs first into Mrs. W’s own chamber & then into her sitting room which was the most perfect room I ever saw. There is a portrait of her daughter Helen who died, which I could not keep my eyes off of it was so lovely, and so many engravings and beautiful water-color paintings. Oh dear! it was so charming! We stayed nearly two hours, and came away in the midst of a portfolio of pictures Mr. Waterston began to show us for we found it was so late & I had an engagement. She went up to his study & brought him down & he was so interested because I came from Berwick. He did have such a good time. He & Grace & Mrs. W. & I paired off". I thought I liked Mrs. Green tremendously but I am much more fond of Mrs. Waterston already and I have promised to go there always. I told her at Mrs. Green’s that I like the poetry which you know she had printed for her particular friends—& don’t you think yesterday she gave me one of the books and a photograph of Helen! Somehow or other she knows I write and we were the greatest of friends. She reminds me of Aunt Helen Gilman somewhat. Well, after this we called upon the Soules' who were very pleasant though we could only stay a minute, and then we came home and I went to return Mrs. Winthrop’s call and then

"Footnote to above: I shall not spend Mother’s money."