A Letter from Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Jewett

[Nd but prior to Carrie Eastman’s death in 1897]
(in sleeve marked C-5)

Wednesday morning

Dear Mary,

Who do you think appeared just as we finished tea but Hetta Ward — “Where’s Mary?” says she as soon as her head came inside the door! She had written Willie Goodwin but not finding him she came sailing up here and we got her a little suppy and had such fun for half an hour until Theodore found Will at the mail and she went off with

[2]

him calling back messages until out of hearing. She is going to stay over tonight I believe. I am tempted to come over to get you tomorrow but I doubt if I can very well for reasons too numerous. I thought you might stay until Friday — do if you feel like it for there is nothing to hurry you. I have seen about provisions for the company and all that. Some lamb for Saturday [?] and a tongue & I have written to Johnson for some fruit & some squabs & chickens to broil just as we had before when they sent last.

Sister Carrie is going to have him [?] to tea Saturday night at least so thinks — She & I started off with John Clements at the edge of a shower yesterday thinking it was a mere dog day sprinkle but it rained harder and harder and tho’ we got as far as the turn to the Frank Jenkins [Perkins ???] road by Hobbins in Mercy to Jane A — we then came home. The garden looks very fine, it rained all the evening on it. Today is the circus

and I am much drove this morning on account of being obliged to go in the afternoon. Carrie & Theodore came in to tea so they were present when Hetta arrived — she was so funny. I asked her if she were on a trading [xxxx ??? looks like a “vyge” with two letters dotted] and she promptly got a box of Daniel’s silver things out of her bag!! I wanted a bracelet like yours for someone!!!!!! Give ever so much love to Aunts, and remember me to the Governor and the Judge — it sounds quite proud as I write it!!

Your
Seddie

[Cross-written on p. 1]

Dr. [Mr.] Willis happened up after all and was overjoyed at the appearance of in back [?]. A delightful letter from Madame Blanc1 from Barbizon [?]. She hopes to start in Labast [?] a fortnight [?]. Things have kept her. Her brother has been there from Martinique [?].

1 Madame Thérèse Blanc (Th. Bentzon) (1840-1907) — a French literary critic of substance who favorably reviewed A Country Doctor in 1884, and then translated some of SOJ’s work into French. After several years of an epistolary correspondence, SOJ and Madame Blanc met in France in 1892 — where they did stay in Barbizon, near where the influential painter, Jean-Francois Millet had lived and worked. Blanc visited SOJ in Berwick for Thanksgiving in 1893 (Blanchard pp. 266-267) — and returned to Boston in April of 1894. She visited Berwick again in May of 1897. SOJ saw her in France in 1898 (Blanchard pp. 305-310).