Dear Mary,

I will seize this occasion to speak of general subjects for I have been writing Carrie about Miss Matilda Macarty\(^26\) whom I hope she will like – and had not time to speak of general subjects. Yesterday was a busy day. I seemed to be going from morning to night and talking. I took a little walk early and Mrs. Whitman and Dr. Holmes came to luncheon and were so dear and delightful [.] It was a great success of a little feast. The doctor talked about his student days in Paris a good deal and spoke much French [.] Madame Blanc\(^27\) was delightful herself and every body is fond of her already. I forgot to say that I went before the luncheon to the eye doctor and was found much better and need not go again until Saturday Tuesday. Several people came in in the afternoon and Jess\(^28\) played a little and she & Lily stayed late. Then I took Madame Blanc to her concert which was a beautiful one – and we enjoyed it enormously. I gave her your message which she received with pleasure and we all are looking forward to coming next week. I think we shall need the relaxation by that time! I feel in quite a whirl, but things will settle down presently. Alice and George Howe were here today and failed deep in love with the company.

(please to excuse this pen, but I am too lazy to get another) I shall be so eager to hear how Carrie likes Matilda. She looked like a nice pleasant creature to me and one who could take both care and an interest and be trusty to leave. Do tell me right away! Alice Howe asked for you today. We are going there on Wednesday I believe it is. It was too bad Miss Johnson couldn’t come for as you say it was a good opportunity[.] You and Becca will be sitting down to suppy now.

Good-bye with love
from Sarah

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\(^{26}\) Probably a domestic helper under consideration for the Jewett household. See page 4 below.

\(^{27}\) 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. 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 – a month after Carrie’s death. SOJ saw her in France in 1898s (Blanchard pp. 305-310).

\(^{28}\) Jessie Cochrane – a talented young pianist friend of SOJ and AF.