A Letter from Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Jewett

[Nd, np – but before August 1887, as SOJ’s Uncle William is still alive]
(in sleeve marked G-10)

Thursday afternoon

Dear Mary,

Cora and I have been to Carrie’s to dinner and I meant to send you a letter by the two o’clock mail but somehow I forgot it until I was up there and it was raining & too late. Mother departed for Exeter at ten – She was going today at any rate she said; and hearing of Mrs. Tarleton’s death of course made her more [?] anxious to get there, thinking that Aunty might

[2]
go away today. It was very sad to think of the poor woman’s dying away from all her friends wasn’t it? Mrs. Fiske said there was nothing in the telegram except that she had died suddenly and Will took the afternoon train and went right on. She said that he had a note from Mrs. T. the first of the week and she was in her usual health then. Mother

[3]
took a little trunk and thought she might stay some days, so I am glad to have Cora here, not that sister is afraid to stay alone however.

It has been pouring until a little while ago and the snow is going very fast indeed. I went in to see Uncle William a little while ago and he was lively. You would laugh to see the way that Jack48 goes round with John Tucker49 – they cannot bear

[4]
to part! Sister hasn’t much news – but she kindly sends her love to Mrs. Ellis and yourself. Mother wished me to tell you that she has written to Mrs. Beamis and sister kept forgetting to mention that she has had pretty pussy willows for some days, that she found [?] from the Junction road. So no more at present from your very affectionate

Queen of Sheby.50

48 A Jewett family dog, no doubt. For the importance of dogs and horses to the Jewetts, see Blanchard’s SOJ, p. 117.
49 John Tucker was the Jewett’s much trusted and beloved hired man for years.
50 According to Blanchard’s SOJ (p.145) “The Queen of Sheby” was a family nickname for Sarah in the early 1880’s. See also p.48.