21 Bible House

May 4, 1876

My dear Father:

        What I am going to write to you will, I think, surprise you very much, but I hope it will please you too. I am sure you will be glad to know that your little Julia is thought so well of. Yesterday Dr. Hall came in and told me that the Secretaries had just been having a meeting, and that they had appointed me to take Mary's place. Of course they did not expect an immediate answer, and I have my own time to think over the matter. You must write and tell me what you think of it. The first and most obvious objection is, of course, my age. As Dr. Dennison says every day lessens that objection, still it will be six years before I shall be as old as Mary was when she first came here. In dealing with the different ladies I should think they would not like my being so young, but I feel more as though they might not mind, since Mary says that Miss Jay and Miss Baylies and some other lady have already asked her, and seemed to think it natural I should . Then, stronger, it seems strange to think of me as Miss Kearney's superior in office, still she would rather have me Secretary than anyone else since Mary must go, and we would know how to work together. She cannot take the place herself because of her home duties. Not decided, I have not yet thought of a thing that would appear to be a great obstacle to my deciding in the affirmative. Perhaps you are wondering that I have not mentioned the "soldier." All fear or anxiety about that is taken away in knowing that it will go into Mary's hands, when you and every one else must feel that it is not likely to suffer loss. It will make her rather busy, but it will be a change from this work of hers, and perhaps I can help some in proof correcting, though of course I mut give up all responsibility about it. I do not know that there is much more to say. Remember that I have not decided yet, and I shall look for your opinion. The gentlemen have been very kind about it, and seem to think it a good arrangement. I only want to do what is right.

        Your loving daughter,

        Julia