

21 Bible Anna.
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. Devision

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 Mrs. Baylies and some other lady have already asked her why I could not succeed her, & seemed to think it natural I should. Then, though it seems strange to think of me as Miss Kearny'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.

You must see from the way
I write that I do not feel a
disinclination towards the
work. It is very varied and
very extended, but, as I
told Mary last night, there
~~is no~~ is not any part
that seems impossible to
me, though there are things
that seem trying and dif-
ficult. If I accept, there will
be a great deal of responsi-
bility upon me, but you
know Mary will be here to
consult with and I shall
have the kindest advisors
and friends, and if I do
not succeed, there will
be some one else found,
who will. I do not look
forward to it with any en-
thusiasm. It seems to me
something that has just
come to me, as almost ev-
erything does come in the
world, quietly and natu-
rally enough. Though I have

not decided, I have not yet
thought of a thing that wd.
appear to be a great obstacle
to my deciding in the af-
firmative. Perhaps you are
wondering that I have not
mentioned the "Solaries". All
fear or anxiety about that
is taken away in knowing
that it will go into Mary's
hands, where you and ev-
ery 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, &
perhaps I can help some in
the proof correcting, though of
course I must give up all
responsibility about it. I do
not know that there is much
more to say. Remember that I
have not decided yet, & I shall
look for your opinion. The gen-
tlemen have been very kind
about it, & seem to think it a
good arrangement. I only want to
do what is right. Your loving daughter