

Albany 7. 26. 1866

Dear Ann

I have just recd the en-
closed letter from Susan. The first
part is an enigma to me & perhaps
will be such to her - but the rest
of the letter contains something about
Elizabeth which will interest thee
if thou has not already heard it.

Roon Lizzie seems to be at sea without
rudder or compass - but if she does
not have too much of it, the experience
may be of use to her. It requires one
to be built out of firmer stuff than
she is to venture safely so far from
her moorings - but when she gets back
into port again she will appreciate
the advantages of a safe anchoring
ground the more from having been
tossed about a little now. This

may savor somewhat too much of the
shop - It looks as if I was getting into
my second childhood to battle of ships so.

The weather has changed somewhat
& while it is not very hot it has got
close & sultry - Since dinner it has
clouded up & there are mutterings of
thunder so that it is quite likely that
it will cool off again with a shower
before night -

We are expecting Jonathan back
this evening - The boys are all
well & are here as happy as if we had
half a dozen women to tell us that we
were not doing the right thing - It
is a blissful thing to throw care & the
dogs -

Give a great deal of love to the
girls older & younger & boys
affly, thy husband

Francis R. Cope

F.R. 6.-7.26/886
Aunt E. H. B. in Europe