

N.Y. April 3rd 1854

My dear Jack,

Your letters to Mother & me, & your telegraph arrived today the former rather before the latter; so as one travels as fast as the other I thought it useless to telegraph back to you. I hope you won't wait for or expect it. I have but little to say except that the 20th is decided on, unless something yet unconsidered induces us to change it. It is alarmingly near now! I shall have to see Laura about her day & if she is not to be married before shall try to persuade her to select one soon after, that I may be at her wedding, which I want to be – Waiting for her, may spoil your plan of spending a few days in Washington but we shall see. It will be a convenience for all parties if I can persuade her, or if she has already fixed on the 25th or 26th. If you are not to reach here till the 15th the notes must be sent out before you come; on the 13th or the 14th ; so if a telegraph can travel like lightening let us know where you are at that time & if you will surely be here. It would be rather awkward if you should be detained or meet with accidents after the notes are out, would not it - & if it could be avoided I would prefer waiting till your arrival to send them; but from Monday to Thursday would be too short notice; too contrary to etiquette. James is to be telegraphed & written to tomorrow; John ditto. I shall write to Janey in a few days, as her dress may want time to make. I suppose you have of course sent them word, so that they will be prepared for my epistle. By the bye, Jack, do you not think you ought to give your uncle Jack some inclination of this affair. It would be more civil to let him know before than to hear of it afterwards. Mother is well & sends her love. She says it is not worthwhile for her to write to you, as she has to write to John & James & tomorrow she will not have time. She bids me say we shall be ready for you. Your gold account does not enlighten me much, but I suppose its all correct. From the style of your letter it is hardly possible to make out what is going on, - whether the whole machinery is successful or ruinous. Does your Father think you are right in your hurry? I shall write to Washington to meet you there about the 12th, but will not write again to Charlotte unless your next letter makes any change. You cant [sic] well do that now, as by all arrangements & talking being now fixed for the 20th you are decidedly "in for it," & a general smash up of the machinery must not keep you, or disappoint the good folks of the "spectacle" as the French say. Laura has pitched upon the most inconvenient way of arranging matters I ever heard of, & I am half vexed with her whenever we talk about it; but I am too tired to enter into particulars, so good night. By the Bye I am sorry I let that crockery go before me. You are out of the dilemma about too many dishes as fast as possible I suppose, but with all respect to a laudable desire for improvement advance of science etc. I shall beg you to provide a separate arrangement for scientific purposes, & to let the tea kettle & table appointments fulfill their proper offices. Dont you think it will be advisable. We are expecting a bride from Waterford this week. Mary Goodrich is to be married on the 5th & come to N.Y. but not us – I am too sleepy – so will close this absurd letter. Almost a match to yours - I am ever yours

Jeanie

- Mary Rhinelander Goodrich married (1834-1886) Abram D. Higham on April 5, 1854.

- On April 20, 1854, Jane "Jeanie" Renwick Smedberg married John "Jack" Wilkes in the Smedberg home on at 22 Beach Street. Dr. James Alexander officiated. Six days later, the newlyweds attended the wedding of their cousin Laura Renwick to James Augustin Monroe at Grace Episcopal Church. The Reverend Doctor Thomas House Taylor presided over the ceremony. (New York Society Library Marriages Online)