

White Sulphur Springs - Napa  
18<sup>th</sup> December 1856

My Dearest Mother

At last we are married  
and, though not quite, tolerably settled for the  
present. So begin at the beginning: On Saturday  
the 6<sup>th</sup> instant at 8 a.m. we were joined together  
in the holy bonds of matrimony by the Right Rev.  
Bishop Kip, who is a friend of Emily's people  
in Albany and knew us there - We did it very  
quietly indeed at the house of a friend where  
she was staying - We had no bridesmaids or groom  
and, to the horror of all those who delight in  
descriptions of the bride dress, she was dressed  
in a plain travelling dress without ornaments  
or nonsense of any kind. Her sister & brother in  
law, the Bishop's wife, 2 couples, friends of Mr. Grant  
(the lady at whose house we were) and Mr. Booker,  
our acting Consul, as my friend were all present  
and immediately after the



Some warm sulphur Springs here which first  
made the place known, and which have in  
addition to the beautiful scenery of the neighbour-  
hood made it a very fashionable and (in the  
Season) crowded place of resort. As the season  
has been over sometimes there are only one or two  
men here besides the proprietor, his wife and ourselves.  
It is a very large and comfortable hotel and they  
do everything in their power to make us comfortable  
and everything is very pleasant. We have very  
uncertain weather, but generally manage to get a  
good walk every day, with a ride occasionally for  
variety. There is good shooting all around and  
I take my gun with me sometimes. Yesterday Quilz  
went 8 or 9 miles with me and enjoyed the sport  
as much as I did if not more. She has adopted  
Charly's Chamouni style of <sup>dress, i.e.</sup> thick shoes (I firmly believe  
to be the first American lady who ever wore  
thick shoes) and her dress tied up with a piece of  
rope about 9 inches from the ground, looking  
altogether like a "Buy a brown girl" and a sensible  
woman. If you remember in one of my letters I