

To Lottie & Nettie —

Ash Mar 5. 84.

Received the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Received your "surprise party" but am not one of those who  
put, therefore to make it easy on all I hope — I guess I can say I believe  
that none of us care any. I would like if you two young ladies you are such  
are you would explain to me what caused this Rachel, Did I cause it if  
so in what way or how. — Your political intellect is very powerful indeed  
but as for the mitten I don't think it is ~~out~~ at Brinte's disposal  
as you two were the first to show respect in any way. Now in retaliation  
I can say — that your correspondence is similar to some as were the ~~errors~~  
to the man when he had eaten some of those crayfish. His remark was  
that he could eat them but ~~not~~ would not thank or after them and  
it is with your correspondence for though I can bear it or have  
patience with it, I will not thank or after it. Now Nettie you advised me to  
place my mind on all good things. I hope I am as capable of managing  
my own affairs as you are to advise and dictated to me. I think I am!  
Though the following is second handed I find it to fit me exactly  
and hope to be pardoned for inserting it without first receiving the  
of their consent. <sup>Happy is the cat</sup> Happy is Little boy  
<sup>Happy is the kitten</sup> since he received little mitten.