

My dear Mr Will

Have you not sufficiently
 furnished me for what you may think
 I have done amiss in endeavouring to make
 myself more generally useful by creating
 for myself, as it were, two homes, in
 each of wh. I might, by the grace of God,
 make myself a source of comfort & pleasure
 to those to whom I am bound by ties of
 natural affection & Christian ^{and} friendship?
 as the time approaches I feel that it is
 not a light thing to withdraw even partially
 from a home where I have dwelt so many
 years of my life & enjoyed so many seasons
 of happiness in the performance of duties &
 in social intercourse with friends: I
 can truly say that I have never, even
in imaginations formed any plan of life
 in Athens but in wh. one of the chief sources
 of pleasure to me was to be that of intimate
 & constant association with you & Mrs Will
 & now that I am so soon to be separated
 from you, but on my feet only in some
 as it were - may I not hope, that you

& Mrs Will will not wish to cast me from
you entirely, but on the contrary, that you
will give me, when I go to prepare a place
for my sister, your blessing & a God speed you.
I do not wish to conceal from you that
I feel that it is in the power of Mrs Will &
yourself greatly to enhance or diminish the
pleasure of my future life in Athens, because
though clouds of conflicting opinions & the
infirmities of human nature have often dark-
-ened & chilled the atmosphere of our social
life, especially of our later intercourse, the
strong affection of earlier life spring up
in my heart at the approach of any serious
separation - & one great source of our happi-
-ness here below, is I think pleasant inter-
-course with friends -

In love of the love

I am very affectionately yours

Mary D. Baldwin

Athens July 3
1862

M. & Mrs. Will }

(Remarks on the preceding letter) Neither I
or my wife can imagine what produced
this letter! Nothing whatever that we are
aware of had ~~produced~~ led to a state of
things which the writer calls "frustrating
her". Our conduct has been uniform
the same - but Miss Baldwin has
scarcely been seen in our family
circle for several weeks - & generally
only at meals - late in the evening
when tea is ready - & then chiefly
by herself or in conversation
with Mr. Phelps or Mr. Dickson
inclusive - The Cause
of her writing must be
in our Conscience as far
as we can divine ->

from Mary Baldwin
1862.

3rd July 1862

Rev. J. B. Stevie
