

Jan 1st "5-7
Oakland [family estate?]

I must say Lou that I was much surprised at the receipt of your recent letter, for I did not expect to hear from you. The contents were equally surprising, I could not but feel the injustice you had done me, keenly, and reflection on the past and present made me very unhappy. If I [unclear] had treated you as a fashionable acquaintance, there might be reason in what you say, but I never wait for my friends to call when they do not know that I am in the place. The last time you were in M, I heard that you got off the car at this place, but presumed it was only a flying visit, and was astonished when asked the [unclear] Sabbath if you were here, of course I did not know them. Frequently I have thought somewhat strange that one who professed to care for me should never find it convenient to visit me except fashionably, and especially as it would have fulfilled many promises_ but these thoughts were banished as unworthy of one that I loved so much, and until your last visit to M, I would believe you [unclear] to our friendship formed so long since. Best after that long stay here without one effort to see me, I believed you indifferent to [unclear] my society or friendship_ and I tried not to think of you, before the reception of your letter. Since that, I have let my mind rest on the subject, vainly trying to reconcile one thing with another. It is an enigma, and I believe any unprejudiced mind would think as I do. [unclear] Lou it is not I who have shown indifference, else I would not have felt this bitterly_ and believed that no one who knew me well would believe that I was willing to give up old friends, for new ones. I flatter myself that I have the capacity of heart to value the society of the one while I retain the other.

(page turn)

I intended to have relived my mind by writing in answers very soon, but a distressing event which happened here very soon after, turned my thoughts and employments into a new channel. I have gone back again tonight, and though you may be unchanged by this, yet still I feel better satisfied_ but it is of no use to

expatiate, so will only say Goodnight

M L Chester

Your communication of the 1st inst ~~has~~
~~have received~~ charging me with perfidy
& insincerity has been [unclear]. I do not
consider myself in the slightest degree
capable. Therefore your accusations
are not worthy refutation.

Respectfully &c.
Louisa Young

Walnut Grove
5th Jan. 1857