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Correspondence: John P. Varnum, 1877 - 1888

John P. Varnum Family Papers

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5-12-1877

**Letter: Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher to an Unknown Gentleman  
1877-05-12**

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher

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Mandarin May 12<sup>th</sup> 1899

Genl. Barnum

Dear Sir.

Was there any mistake about  
the ticket you so kindly relieved me  
of yesterday. This morning on opening my  
pocket book - to my great consternation  
I found a ticket to Gainesville from  
Jacksonville - dated May 10<sup>th</sup>. I can only  
account for it in two ways - namely that  
I handed you a <sup>not a ticket</sup> wrong paper, or that  
I gave you a complimentary ticket sent  
me for myself and three ladies - some  
weeks since, for an excursion clear through



to Cedar Keys - and among the Lakes.

There is one other explanation, which  
<sup>it be true that</sup> if "my very low company," might be a  
comfort to me - as making a business  
man ~~and~~ equally absentminded and careless  
as myself - that I put both the money  
and the ticket back again, into my  
Porte-manteau - and <sup>that we both were as</sup> ~~was~~ oblivious of the  
act - as I take it for granted, you would  
believe me to have been - but I can  
hardly believe that possible -

I think the probable solution  
~~will be found~~ must be that I gave  
you a wrong paper - or the Excursion  
ticket - If I have put you to any  
inconvenience pray permit me  
to remedy as far as possible - or

if only a ludicrous mistake, please  
do me the favor to let me know what  
it was - as it will greatly relieve my  
mind - I shall feel greatly annoyed  
and anxious, till I hear from you -

begging pardon for any trouble I may  
have innocently - caused

I am

Yours respectfully

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher

P.S. I inclose you the ticket - I fear equally  
worthless to us both - now -