To say that the supper and every thing else was splendid
would be useless. But to remark on the characters that
were present, I must say that as for the ladies, I never
till saw so little beauty in a collection of that kind, and
I must add that it was one instance of ladies making
themselves appear worse by their manifest anxiety about their
geogaws, and I thought that they made a great display
of their finery, without much delicacy of taste—Of
how little afraid is useless ornament, in making any
one appear intelligent. There were present a great
many officers of the army, and all of them had on their
military dress coats, with their caps—and also their
swords, hanging at their sides. They appeared to be
the greatest gallants present, and I suppose the ladies
were very well pleased at it; as that class of men are
generally most pleasing to them. I, myself, as well as
a majority present, amused myself by going through
the room, in the midst of the crowd, and looking
at the movements of others—making myself pretty
much as any case. Many amused themselves in
waltzing—for they had a fine band of music. As regards
waltzing, I do not think that it will add any
thing to our North Carolina ladies, where it may become
quite customary amongst us—it is not like our good
old fashion of dancing reels and gypsy, which is calculated
to give good wholesome exercise to the frame, but it is
a continual, whirling round and round, which must
have a disagreeable effect upon the head.

Well I can spare no more time in running down the
announcements of the Washington ladies. It is none of my
business—let every community have their own notions.
My principal object, in my remarks, was just to let you
know that I don't like them as well as our Carolina
ladies. After staying in Washington 10 or 12 days, I left
and went immediately on to New York. I spent 3½ days
There very pleasantly, and saw a great deal, that was
new and interesting, although the weather was very bad
part of the time. I became acquainted with several that had
been from M. C. and met with 2 or 3 old acquaintances.
While there I was somewhat (if I may use the expression)