Growing up, Eliza Chew had all the comforts of wealth and status. The comfort continued when she married James Murray Mason (1798-1871), a wealthy and prominent proslavery politician from Winchester, Virginia, and started their family of eight children. During the Civil War, Mason’s service for the Confederacy brought the family to England in search of British support for the Southern cause. After the war, the Masons fled the United States to Canada, living as exiles, separating Eliza from her siblings and placing the family under financial hardships. Correspondences between Eliza and her sister Anne Sophia Penn Chew (1805-1892) in 1866-67 illuminate a desire to be together again and sorrow and loss in the aftermath of the Civil War.