

No. 54 West 46th St.
N.Y. May 2nd 1885.

My own darling Harry,

This is bound to be another short letter. Dont blame me for I cant help it. We have our hearts & hands do more than full, and there seems no time for writing letters and no place to write them. We are very very anxious about mamma. She isn't near as well today. She was better yesterday, but has more pain today & is much weaker. She slept about two hours last night, the most she has done for six or eight nights. The doctor ordered some pills from the druggist's, some powerful medicine, to make her sleep. He said one dose ought to do it, ~~but~~ to give her a pill at 10 o'clock, but if she wasn't asleep by 11 to give her another, and ~~one~~ not to give her over three doses, each an hour apart. He tho't she wouldn't require but one & surely not more than two, and that she must not have any more than the third. Well I followed his directions. Gave one at 10. It had no affect at all, so I gave her another at 11. That wasn't any good, & at 12 I gave her another, but it failed to put her to sleep. The pain & the cough keep her awake I think. She cant breathe naturally & when she is awake she breathes carefully. The moment she dozes off, and just loses herself, she ~~breath~~ draws her breath in the usual way, and it brings the pain, and starts her coughing and that wakes her up, but the doctor tho't this medicine would make her sleep in spite of the cough & pain. He was dumbfounded this A.M., said it was equal to ½ gr[am] of morphine. Mamma is naturally a sleepy head & Jule is like her. Papa was the opposite, and I am even worse than he was about not sleeping, and prowling around nights, and it dont seem to tell on me, for I am not sleepy now after all this irregularity. Mamma ought to get sleep somehow for she cant stand it to have so little but I dont know how we are going to manage it. Her cough is very tight again this A.M. & she is very weak and looks awfully. The doctor said to me this morning, "I am very much worried about her. She is still on the verge of pneumonia. It is very serious. I think she'll get thro' but her cough is dreadful and her lungs are in a very dangerous state. I hope it will be all right, but I ~~am~~ must watch her very carefully and I want to see you every day at least once, at my office. I can tell better then, for it is very hard to make much out of her. Then I'll come to see her as often as it is necessary, & if there is any change let me know at once. I will have to keep track of her for a long time. It is very deep seated & will not be shaken off for a long long time and she needs the most watchful care, and she has got to keep [to] her bed too. Dont let her get up, for the slightest chill would settle it at once." I told him it was awfully hard to manage her & he said "I know it. She makes it out to be very little, but she has got to look out." Miss Smith was taken very sick on Thurs. It was very very sudden and they tho't she had ~~some~~ eaten something to upset her. Friday A.M. sent for their doctor who came and said he feared pneumonia & it is now a very bad case. Her symptoms are very alarming. She has awful nausea (which was what misled us all) and lies most of the time in a stupor. She is in a very critical condition today. I was with mamma & ~~went~~ had to go down stairs for something, and what did she do but get out of bed & put on a wrapper, & my worsted slippers & crawl into Miss Smith's room. This was yesterday when she was feeling a little better. Today she dont attempt to do anything. I cant make her eat; made some beef tea and she just took the least bit of it, and I couldn't make her take any more. The doctor says if she gets better we'll have an awful time with her, but we must force her to say in bed, but today she dont need any force. She is too weak to want to get up. The doctor seems to dread the time when she feels well enough to go about, for he is afraid she'll be careless &

then, he says she will be in great danger. It wouldn't take hardly anything to throw her back, & then nothing to save her from pneumonia, or something worse, for it has such a hold on her that I know he has some dread of its running into consumption. He didn't say so but he might as well have said it, for "something worse" meant that, and he laid such stress on it all that I knew what he feared. Oh that would be too much. Jule and I are almost wild at the tho't, but as he assures me that she hasn't any disease settled now, I keep up courage for we will watch her carefully and ward it off, & we can scare her into being careful if we cant manage her any other way. If she wont behave, we'll tell her all the doctor said to me. She has been better today and hasn't been as bad to manage, but I think it only shows her great weakness. I rec'd your dear precious letter last evening on my return from Orange and have rec'd another this afternoon. This letter has been interrupted so often, it is now after nine o'clock P.M. Your letters have done me good, brightened me up & cheered me wonderfully. I'm so glad you are better. Dont let this bad news of mamma upset you, for I feel sure she'll come out all right. We wont let her get chilled. We'll make her be good, and she will not have either of those dreadful things. It cant be. I know she'll get well. I am awfully worried, but oh she must get well. If the disease hasn't settled we can battle with it, & will be able to keep it off, because she only needs care. She seems better now than she did this morning, and I think if she can only have some sleep tonight she'll come out nicely tomorrow. If she gets worse, and she should be taken with pneumonia I will telegraph you at once, so if you dont hear any thing by telegraph you'll know she is about the same or better. I expect to write every day, but if the mails are delayed, or I get my letters in late, dont worry, for if she is worse I promise to telegraph you, but my darling dont think you ought to come to me, for now it isn't necessary, and I know how you are fixed, and will understand it. I know you'd come if you could, and know it will be hard for you to stay away, but dont follow your impulse to come. It would not be best, and it isn't necessary now, and even if mamma gets worse, you must not let your feeling influence you too much, & now it would give her too much of a scare, & would be bad for her. I dont know that you would think of this. I know you'd like to do it, & will wish you could, but I dont believe you will really think of coming. I dont think you ought to do it, but if there should be any bad change I'll telegraph. I only speak of this because I want to have you feel that I dont expect it and dont advise it. I cannot deny that you would do me more good than any one else can but it isn't best and you mustn't think of it. I believe that I can send you better news tomorrow. I hope so. Andrew left yesterday & we had a girl engaged to take his place (a girl we used to have,) but she disappointed us, & we haven't any one in his place. So much sickness makes extra work, but Jule is running the house, tho' I do the carving. I was so anxious for your letter today. So you tho't as I did about Mr. C's plan. I am so glad you approved of what I did. I know he didn't ask any thing out of impertinent curiosity, and I couldn't refuse to answer him. I [am] glad you are pleased that I refused his generous offer, because, tho' I tho't you feel as I did, I tho't it might strike you as wrong & foolish to throw away such a chance, and yet I felt that you would rather have us free. You know he didn't offer to work you into the Stanford College, but mamma & I both tho't he would do so, and so I wrote you our ideas & wanted you to tell me know you felt, so that I'd know what to say if he suggested such a thing. I guess I didn't make it clear tho'. I supposed you had read of the College Gov. Stanford is going to found in Cal. I haven't read much about it because I dont always see the papers, but there has been a great deal in them about it, and I have seen several things about it and have heard different ones talking of it. You

have probably read something of him for his name is in the papers very often and he is the Senator from Cal^a. He is a great railroad man, and enormously wealthy, and has taken Rev[erend] Dr. Newman up you know, gave him \$10000 & paid his expenses to Cal[ifornia] & back, for preaching his son's funeral service and eulogizing him, and Dr. Newman tried his best to give him his money's worth, for he said every thing, compared him to all the great and talented men, philosophers and so on, and even to Christ, and every one was more disgusted with Dr. Newman than ever. This boy was only sixteen and was an only child. There may have been some excuse for the parents but there was certainly none for Dr. N. I believe this College is to be founded in memory of this son (who died last year,) and is to be situated at Paolo Alto, Cal^a. I believe it is near Sacramento. It wouldn't be right away that you could do anything there, but within a year or so, and it is to be made a very fine College I hear, and if you could get fixed in such a place, your worry over money matters would cease, for I have heard that no expense will be spared. He hasn't any children, only his wife to provide for, and he plans to do everything for this College, and make it a grand success, and I believe he is working all the time. I dont know how soon it will be started but I have heard it will be as soon as possible. Mamma was the first to think of this thing. She believes it will be possible for you to get it & she has talked quite a good deal about it, and was the one who filled my head with it. Mr. C. knows Gov. S. so very well that the moment mamma heard of his offer to me & his interest in you, she said "why there is a chance for Harry to get in that College of Stanford's. I wouldn't be at all surprised if Mr. C. could get him in, & he'll probably offer to do it. I wonder how Harry would like it. It would be a fine chance for him" etc. She talked so much about it she got me stirred up too & I wrote you about it. Of course it is only an idea of ours, and you might not be able to get it, but we believe there is a strong possibility of it, and mamma thinks so even more than I do. I have not told her that we talked of being married as soon as a year from next ~~ju~~ month let alone a word about next Xmas. I know it will break her all up, and I tho't we'd better not worry her so long beforehand. She dont think of our marriage as being any where near. She is happy in the tho't that it is all indefinite. I tho't I wouldn't say a word till we have talked it over together. It will be time enough to talk to her about it next summer. I mean this summer. I hope she will be well & strong when you come next month. Oh Oh Oh, next month this horrible winter will end, and everything will be happy for us, and I am sure mamma will be herself by that time. Now goodnight my own blessed boy. With unbounded & undying love from your own

Effie

Dearest dearest Harry,

I am ashamed to send this letter & fear you cant make any sense out of it. It isn't as clear as mud even, but dont think I have lost the little mind that I have. It is all here but I am too tired & worried to know what I'm doing. I have looked this over and feel that it is too poor a scrap to send, but it must go, and you'll make allowance.

With deepest love,
Effie.