

No. 54 West 46<sup>th</sup> St.  
N.Y. June 16<sup>th</sup> 1885.

My own darling Harry,

I had company on Sunday and couldn't write to you. I hope this dont make you feel badly because I was so happy, & so glad of an excuse for not writing. I enjoyed my Sunday far better than I would have done in writing to you. My Sunday seems like a blissful dream. Friday night, all Saturday & all Sunday, I was ~~af~~ awfully afraid I was dreaming, & was in constant dread lest I should wake up, and now I am awake, oh dear! I tho't it was too good to be true, & too sweet to last, and it is well I made up my mind to that, and expected it, for now I am alone once more, and oh so full of longing. I miss you terribly, and get wild at the tho't of next winter. This seems too much like old times, and gives me the blues. I cant realize that you are as near as Madison. I expect I'll direct this thing to Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., and then you wont get it for days, and will wonder why I haven't written. Perhaps it will reach you sooner tho', for sometimes I wonder if you are not there after all, if I wasn't dreaming of your being here. The dream seemed so real that I tho't perhaps it was a dream, but when I got home from Orange I could not find you, but I found something from Purdue, and it was addressed to me & in your hand writing and it really gave me the horrors. This morning I got up, and you were not to be found, and things seemed to be going on as usual, and I fear all my happiness was a dream after all. No I dont really think it could have been a dream. It seems too good to be true, but it must have been real, for I am happier. I am alone, and writing to you again, to be sure, but there is a sense of relief, and I know I can send for you at any time if I get so desperately blue as I have been this spring. It is harder now to be separated, than it was before we had been together as lovers, and I dont know how we are going to struggle thro' the next long separation. I dont like to think of it, but I cant help it. The thing haunts me. I miss you more than ever before, but am happier because we understand each other as we never did before, and besides, I expect to see you soon. I can stand it because I know it is only for a few days, but it is going to be awful when I know it is to last from the first part of Sept[ember] to the last part of December, and then probably from Jan. till June. We are going to meet the strongest opposition if we attempt to marry before next June. Jule told mamma of your talk with her, and they are both wild, and bitterly opposed to it, but I wont tell you about it now. I only tho't I'd give you a little hint of the way they feel. I dont know why you are both so wild to have me, and I should think mamma and Jule had had enough by this time and would be glad to have me off their hands, and would say "thank you" to you, & wish you joy, but it seems to break them all up, & they say it cant be, and it shant be before next summer, that that is bad enough, but they wont listen to the other thing at all. I dont see where the wonderful attraction comes in, but I wish you & they could succeed in showing some other people where it is. That these other people cant see any, mars my happiness. It cant fail to do so. It isn't a thing to be put aside & forgotten. I wish I could be indifferent about it & say "oh well it dont make any difference. Of course I'd like to have it all pleasant, but if it isn't, I dont care. It dont worry me, and cant interfere with my happiness." Oh Harry I would give any thing to feel so, but I cant. To me it is a very serious thing, and always will be as long as it lasts, and I cant help it any more than I could help loving you. It must worry me, and it will worry me. Of course after ~~the~~ your answer to my question on Sunday night, it cant worry me as it has done, ~~for~~ for it cant separate, or interfere with us, but it will make me unhappy if it lasts, and I can't help it anymore than I could help loving you. I

am wild to hear from you, for the same reason I always am, and then so impatient to hear how you found things. I do hope that their kindness to me wasn't forced. I hope they were sincere, but what you told me makes me have ~~my~~ many doubts & fears, and I cant deny that I am worried, tho' I hope for the best, but darling if there is anything wrong I would rather know it all, and you must tell me everything. I will stand by my promise, and you needn't be afraid to trust me. Remember I made the promise of my own accord. You had nothing to do with it. You didn't ask it. You didn't even suggest it. I tho't of it my self, and tho't it all over, before I made it, or spoke to you about it, to see if I would have the strength to keep such a promise, for I knew it would not be easy, with my hateful disposition, to keep it, if things were as you tho't, for it would be hard to hold my tongue under such circumstances, but I knew what I was doing, and I feel sure that I can keep that promise for your sake. I do love them. I cant help it, & I long to have them feel ~~to~~ kindly toward me, & to love me, and they did seem to, and it made me so very happy, but I am worried now after all you have told me. If they change toward me, I know I can get over all the hard things. If they dont change, I'll be miserable, but my own Harry I will never do one thing to make trouble between you & them. That is, I never will do anything intentionally, and will be on my guard to avoid anything that can make things unpleasant between you. I have promised Sue that there should never be any difference in your feelings toward them if I could help it, and no matter what comes I will never interfere between you and them. I have made that promise and I believe I can keep it. If I could hold in after Sue's letter I think I am safe now in making this promise, and it was not made carelessly, on the spur of the moment. I tho't of it, all the way down from the Park, and all the time after we reached home, till I told you of it, and I took ~~in~~ every thing into consideration, and I believe I can stand by it, for it wasn't made lightly, but you must tell me just how things are, for I'd rather know. I can do better than if I was uncertain. I will not act a part, because I do love them, and long for their love, and I will not be insincere, and what I say to them, or write to them I will mean always, and as long as we are not interfered with, or separated I ~~cant~~ can be quiet, but any attempt to make trouble between us, and my promise would go to the winds. I can stand anything but that, and be able to keep my promise, for if I have you, nothing can ~~be~~ really crush me. I will not interfere between you and them, unless they attempt to interfere between us. This I am sure they will never do, or even think of doing. It may not be what they wish for you, but they will make the best of it, and I dont believe they will ever try to make trouble, and I hope their first feelings will not last. I think they must be wearing off, or rather I have believed so, but of late they seem to have gone back, if I can judge from what you tell me. I dont think there will ever be any outward trouble, and perhaps, if nothing hard is said, it will soon blow over, and we will have nothing hard said on our side, and nothing harder can be said on the other side than has been said already, and if we dont answer these things they will soon get talked out, if they haven't already reached that place. If they want to go on with it they'll probably think I dont know enough to answer them, but that cant make trouble, and if I once get started I could soon say enough to make a large sized row, and this I am bound shall never happen. If there is any inward trouble I cant help that, but I can prevent its ever coming to a head. Perhaps when I have sent this I will get your letter telling me that there is nothing serious, but if so there is nothing here that can make you uneasy, for I am ready to love them if they will let me, & tho' I must own that I am awfully hurt, and unhappy, I dont think I have what could be called hard feelings, and if I go to Madison and find that they are all over their first

feelings, I will not lay any of the hard things up against them. If Sue can change her feelings toward me, I can forgive all she said in her letter to you, for when she no longer feels so toward me, I will no longer have reason to worry about the letter, but if she cant get over them, I will at least never have anything to say to them that can possibly make trouble. I couldn't write to Sue last night but I wrote today. I wanted to write last night, but was somewhat "bunged up." I couldn't finish giving my lessons, and came home early. What train did you take for Madison? While I was waiting for my train, an Express passed me, and I wondered if it carried the one who is dearer to me than even my own darling mother. I got thro' with my lesson at a few minutes past ~~one~~ twelve, and didn't feel able to go on, but I couldn't get a train till 12:43 & I wondered if you were on the Easton Express. I tho't probably you had caught an earlier train, and yet it was possible that you were delayed in N. till then. In my letter to Sue I didn't speak of going to Madison this summer, but said that I didn't know when I'd have a vacation, but there seemed no prospect before the middle of July. I tho't that would prepare the way for an excuse not to go to M. if one is needed. I told her that you were anxious to see them, & had planned to go home, but that I could not let you go, that I expected we'll all fight over you and want you, and would all hang on to you as long as we could, that I supposed they'd keep you as long as possible when they had you, & that I'd feel the same, & we'd have to make allowance for each other. Probably you'll see the letter, tho' I dont know whether you will or not. You can if you want to & she'll let you for there isn't anything I'd object to your seeing, but if you dont show your letters you cant expect or insist on seeing S Sue's, tho' I guess you'll see it. I hope I didn't put my foot in it. I didn't want to, & tried not to, but I have a faculty for getting into some mess, & making trouble when I never dreamed of such a thing, and it may be so this time. I'm such a stupid ignoramus it never surprises me to hear that ~~either~~ I have said the thing I ought not to have said, & left unsaid the thing I ought to have said, or else that I have said the right thing but in such a stupid way that it is supposed to be the very opposite of what I meant. I suppose one reason I dont feel awfully hard toward Sue, is because I knew that there was some truth in her estimate of me, tho' you think I haven't enough gush & she thinks I have too much, but I mean the part about my lack of brains. Of course I cant blame her for that, tho' it does cut me up terribly, and hurts more than you know, but I hope she'll understand my letter in the way I wrote it, & meant it, and then it will be all right, & cant do any harm, tho' I dont flatter myself that it will do any good. Lottie is home but ~~she~~ Sue will tell you that, even if you dont see the letter. My darling I must stop. You see I am not over my blues of Sunday Night. I cant help being worried, and oh I'm so lonely & miss you so terribly. Dont leave ~~[H.]~~ me too long, not any longer than you have to, for I want you awfully, but you will know what is best, and if it is best to stay, I will understand it, but do come back as soon as you can to your lonely longing Effie who sends you more love than words, can express, but you know now more about it than you used to and can imagine what I feel, and what I could show if you were here. I can show it, tho' I cant express it, and since you have seen it, you will be happy even if I cant tell it.

And now goodbye my ~~greatest~~ greatest blessing. With love eternal your own forever,  
Effie.

I was afraid I wasn't going to have a chance to write tonight, but have been interrupted but once, and every thing has been lovely. With never ending love,

E.M.L

The Purdue Register came yesterday and made me feel as tho' you were still there. Write and tell me whether I was dreaming on Friday, Saturday, & Sunday or whether it was really true. If it was true, let it be true again as soon as possible. Oh you darling I hate to have you away. Dont stay long. The Astor Library will soon close & you must get to work you know.

My own darling darling Harry

I am happy, happy, happy. I cant tell you how happy. It is Wednesday A.M. and your letter has just been read. I dont know whether I ought to send the part I wrote last night, but I guess I will, for tho' it is all out of place now, perhaps you'll want what I wrote then. Now I feel so very different and am as happy as it is possible to be without you. Oh I am so glad that you were mistaken about the Madison folks, and so glad that things were as I supposed, before you told me of your fears. If they do feel all right about it, that is all there is to it, and I shall consider every hard thing as unsaid. It wont have one bit of effect on me, or make me at all bitter, and if Sue's hard feelings have gone, the letter she wrote you has no longer any power to hurt me, and I am sure I will feel as kindly toward Sue as tho' she had never written. I have longed so to have their love, that I couldn't feel hard, but that letter, and all you told me on Sunday, was like being cut with a knife. I honestly believe it hurt worse, but I am all over it now, and so very very happy. There is nothing left to worry about now, as far as we are concerned. I am sorry they are so unhappy, and hope we can brighten them up this summer. If I can do any thing towards it, you know I will, and it will make me the happiest girl you can imagine if I succeed ~~it~~ in doing some thing to help them. What is money compared to our happiness? Think what we have; all the money in the world would be nothing to us in place of what we have. We love each other with the deepest love, our families ware satisfied with the match, and there is now not a single cloud in our sky. Money would perhaps be very nice to go with all this, but it could never take the place of it, and if we cant have both we have the best, and we wouldn't give up what we have for any amount of money. There isn't enough money in all the world to tempt us to give up what we have even if it was offered, tho' I have no idea it will be, but if it could be, we wouldn't think of it for ~~and~~ an instant. Money isn't necessary for our happiness. It would go with it very well but we'll be happy without it. We couldn't be happy without what we have, and money is nothing compared to it, and now we have all I ask for. You dont know how happy I am to know how they really feel at Madison, to be sure that all hardness has gone. It was the only thing that marred my perfect happiness, to feel that what made us happy, was bound to make them miserable, and that they looked down on me. It was torture to me to feel this, and when I could no longer hide & control my ~~hide-my~~ misery, and broke down like a baby, you have no idea how I was suffering. I had hoped every thing was all right, & it nearly killed me to think things were just as bad as at the very first, but it is all over now and there is nothing ~~left~~ left to wish for except our marriage which will be something certain, and even if we wait till a year from now, we can get thro' if every thing is as it is now. Of course you must stay till Friday, or even Saturday. They want you and are so lovely and unselfish to be willing to give you up. They will find that I appreciate it too, and they wont regret it. I know they wont. I feel sure that I will sometime find a way to prove my appreciation, and I'll show them something too. At any rate I'll never rob them of their son or brother. If you think you can prove this to them any better, or make them very happy, stay and spend Sunday with them. I want you awfully, but I want to embrace every chance we possibly

can to show them that they are just as dear to you as they ever were. They couldn't love me if I took you from them, and they wouldn't be to blame, but they will be all right if they find things just the same as they always have been between you & them. You know I want you, but you must do what you think best, and if you feel that it would make them very very happy if you stay till Monday, and will make them feel that you didn't want to hurry away from them, why I'll be satisfied to have you stay, tho' I'll miss you terribly, but I can afford to make this sacrifice. If they feel so kindly toward me I am all the more willing to give up to them, and anxious to make them happy. I think the plan of your coming here till I can go to M. is just too lovely. No it isn't too lovely. I guess it isn't any lovelier than we want it, tho' it seems too lovely to be true. It is simply perfect. But I dont want to hear another word about your board, unless I am to pay my board at Madison. # It is six of one & half a dozen of the other, and if you think you must do it, why I will feel that I must when I go to Madison. Dont you see my darling boy that the rule works both ways, and as it works with you here it must work with me there? You can set the rule, but I will follow at M. the one you follow here. As for its being proper for you to make such a long visit here, it is no worse for you to visit at my house than it is for me to visit at yours, and if any one thinks so, why they have as good a right to their opinion as we have to ours, but we must chose according to our own ideas and they will do the same when they choose for themselves, for they wont consider our ideas. We think it is right, and our families think so, and it concerns no one else. I dont worry much about what outsiders think. It is none of their business, but I dont want to do any thing that your family & mine disapprove of, for it is their business, & concerns them, and I want always to consider their feelings, but the Aunts and Uncles & cousins, & friends will have to be left out, for it dont concern them, and they wouldn't all think alike anyhow. We must decide for ourselves and consider the feelings of your family & mine, & then not worry over what any one else says or thinks. I must stop for I want you to get this this afternoon.

With fondest deepest truest love

Believe me your own forever

Effie.

Give so much love to all.