

No. 54 West 46th St.
N.Y. June 8th 1885.

My darling darling Harry,

This letter wont be very long for I am so thoroughly played out that I am only going to write a little, and will then go to bed. I didn't get much sleep last night and didn't have strength to stand the heat today. It has been simply dreadful. You know how it sometimes is after a storm. It is the worst kind of heat, and seems to have used me up, but I'm happy to say it is only a tired feeling that there is none of the other trouble left, not even a trace, so I dont mind a little thing like this except as it interferes with my writing a long letter, but I may be able to write a little in the A.M. before I start, and I'll feel more like it after I have rested. I mailed a letter to you this afternoon and suggested the West Shore R.R. because mamma got the thing all mixed, and I tho't I would not attempt to straighten it out with her, but would have nothing more to do with their plans. We'd have one of our own, and go our way, and let them go theirs. As the letter shows, I was pretty mad but as long as it came, in time for us to settle on another plan I dont care, but I must say I dont like the company on Sunday, but we wont worry over that. This afternoon I went to the P.O. to cash your money order. I had kept it that way because as I wasn't going to use the money it seemed the safest way to keep it, but I tho't in case there was any trouble, perhaps I'd better have it cashed before you left Lafayette, so that I could let you know if anything was wrong, but it was all right, and I had no trouble. Many many thanks for the present. It will be so lovely to have my music bound. As it is, it is going to rack and ruin. I am so sorry to hear of trouble at Madison. It seems so strange that things must be so unpleasant. I dont see why they cant get along nicely. It seems a perfect shame that they must all be so unhappy, and I cant understand it at all. I dont know what the trouble is about I'm sure, but you said you'd show me Carrie's letter, and tell me about it. She hasn't said a word to me about it, but somehow I feel awfully sorry for your father, because he stands alone when you are away, & I think he ought to have a different life, for he is so good and kind and thoughtful. Perhaps he is a little cranky about some things, but not more so than they are. It dont seem to me that their lot is hard, but perhaps I oughn't to judge until I know all about it. Now I know only the best side. It is just nine months since we became engaged and we are both deeper in love than we were nine months ago. I hope it will grow deeper all the time and that we will never have things in our home come to such a state as they seem to be in at Madison. I know they never will. We dont get along always when we depend on letters, but all our trouble has come from the letters, and if we had been together there would have been none of it, & tho' we may have little fusses I know there will never be a real serious fight. We'll never have anything worse than we have already had, and we have come out of that all right. I doubt if we ever have anything as bad as the misunderstandings by letter. If our love was strong enough to carry us thro' those misunderstandings we have nothing to fear, for misunderstandings by letters, are the worst and most dangerous kind, but we have had them time and time and again and here we are as large as life and twice as natural, with our hearts more full of love than ever. So I guess we can feel perfectly safe. I mean I know we can. I dont guess anything about it, and tho' the nine months have been awfully hard, they have tested us thoroughly, and we cant have a doubt ~~af~~ about our real feelings. We know that we haven't made any mistake. Such a test was very trying, I might say risky, and in any ordinary case would have been dangerous. With a short acquaintance it would have been so, but we have come out

all right, and now that we have come so near the end, I think we can see some good in it all. It ~~have~~ has proved our love beyond the shadow of a doubt, and we are surer of ourselves, and surer of ourselves, and surer of each other than we could have been without this test, tho' I think it has cost us dearly, and we could have been sure enough without it, tho' not as sure as we are now. However I shouldn't advise anyone to try it unless it was, as in our case, a necessity. I feel so happy tonight in spite of my fatigue, & know I'll have a good rest. And now I think I must go to bed for it is getting late, that is late enough to go. Goodnight. With endless love from your own devoted

Effie.

Tuesday A.M.

I have only a few moments my own darling boy, but I have some good news. I slept all thro' the night and feel like a new person. The day is perfect, and the idea of Orange is not so dreadful when it so cool and delightful. And now for the good news, which I am sure will make you as happy as it does me. When I went down to breakfast I found a postal from mamma and this is what set me way up, and I'll give you the benefit of it. "Aunt Jennie has had to give up going with me this week, so I have decided to go to Herkimer Tues. It is just a chance of my being able to meet H. as his train does not stop there, so you needn't alter your plans. Possibly I may go to Hartwick." The luck has at last turned in our favor. Isn't it lovely to think we'll have Sunday alone after all? Oh I'm so happy. I wrote the West Shore R.R. and I guess we might as well stick to that, unless you prefer the Central, & can make better connections. If so telegraph at once. If I dont hear from you by Thursday night ~~th~~ by telegram, I'll take the West Shore, but if there should be any misunderstanding, I'll wait at the depot for you, and we cant miss each other even if we go on different roads. But if you should be delayed till seven o'clock ___ I was going to say I'd go on board the boat, but I guess I'd better not. I'll stay at the depot till you come, if it is all night. I will be like the boy who stood on the burning deck, if they don't arrest me for a vagrant. So, if I'm not in the depot, you must go at once to the Police Station. But I hope every thing will be exactly on time, for every minute we have to wait will be agony. Day after tomorrow you'll start & on Friday I'll take the 10:10 A.M. train from foot of 42nd St. via West Shore. And now I must go.

With more love than you can measure, unless you measure it by your own. Believe me forever your

Effie.

Will get state rooms today. Dont miss your train.