

“Pike’s Peak or
Bust”

Purdue
June 10, [18]85

My Darling

Only a word but I must write a little bit & this will be my last letter from Purdue this year. I received your letter this morning & think it not at all strange that things should work so about your aunt. I tell you Darling there is no use in caring what people think. If one is right go ahead & let them think what they please. If they want to feel slighted let them. I have given you up all the year & I shall not give up now & we shall not only come down the river alone but we shall be alone & unintended upon on Saturday & Sunday & I will depart in peace & there will be a genuine break[,] not between you & me but between us & the rest. I will not stand it & your mother if she wants to throw every obstacle in our way can do her best to get out of the way when the crash comes. She has stood between us all the year & with her alliance we could have been spared much of our troubles now & forever after. It has got to stop it. I regard this as a scheme of hers to keep us apart & am mad & shall[,] if I meet her & she makes any proposals & the next one will be to accompany us on the boat[,] tell her in the plainest language that we propose to take that trip for the sake of being alone & will refuse to let her go with me. I shan’t meet them this side of rochester. Dont be afraid that I shall around them if they get on my train. We are going to have each other now & henceforth I shall insist ~~of~~ on having your time both when I am with you & when I am not in a way I haven’t ever done before. I have only begged it before but I have a right to it & [when] I think of that thoughtlessness of our position I am fully justified in taking a stronger stand than I have ever taken before. If your aunt loves you more than I do then if I have to I will give you up & you may belong to her_ I shall not mind having her around for I don’t propose to care one cent what she feels. If she & your mother havent the sense to feel a bit for us then they havent sense enough to care what you do & if they have & feel badly perhaps they will be able to realize faintly how I feel when you are forever kept away from me_ I am mad enough at this last exhibition of utter disregard for our feeling[,] mad enough to speak out pretty plainly & shall do it when I get a chance to your mother. It is the only safeguard. If she can’t see our position I shall put it so plain that she can’t help it. I regard her suggestion that we take a trip home in the rail road train as pure & unmingled cold heartedness. She thinks that I havent any feeling or I wouldn’t have proposed as I did. It takes[,] it seems to me[,] more feeling to propose in that way than any other _ Dont fear Darling for they won’t keep us apart. They shall not. I have endured that all the year & worried you because of my complaints. You couldnt help it but I can & I can talk very plainly & shall do so. I feel that we have some rights that shall have to be respected & they are going to be respected. I don’t know I have sometimes felt almost sure that your mother was secretly opposed to our match & for that reason she throws so many hindrances before us__ I don’t really believe this but I know very well that she does not sympathize at all with us or think we feel any pain in being kept apart as we are__

Darling dont think that I am harsh or that I am too strong in this denunciation. It is not too strong. If anything it is not strong enough. When I see you I shall be able to make you see how all this looks to me & why I have worried so all the year about your being kept from me. Your dream has been my dream a hundred times this winter. I dreamed it again night before last. But what one can’t do in the dreams one can do when awake & I shall march you off to the

park or to church & the crowd that follows will be decidedly de trop for I am not going to have any more fooling when I am on the spot. When I can do something I am bound to have my own way about this. My rights have been infringed straight along all winter & the [ill.] excuse has been that I had no rights whatever. Your mother & every one else has acted as if there were no engagement between us. The engagement is mere theory practically. You are as much at every ones beck & call as you ever were & my place is no higher that that of any one else. It isn't so actually in your heart Darling. I don't mean that but it is in the estimate of everyone who feels any want of you. Now they have got to feel that I come first for I do come first & shall not be content unless every one admits that & stands aside when I want you. It is so with me. There is nothing that Don't have to get out short of an actual contract [##] & no mere caller can interrupt me if I feel that I ought to write to you. No study or even preparation except that absolutely necessary for my actual class work can hold me. You are always first & it has got to be the same way & I am going to settle that matter when I come to your house __ & settle it for good. Our happiness next year will depend on that one thing. I can never be happy so long as things are as now & if so you can't be happy either. I had to stand it this year but I have fussed over it a lot but I wont stand it next year or be trifled with by folks in any such way. As tho a desultory call was as necessary as your writing me[,] the help I have got to have & could have in your letters. You could write good letters & letters that would keep me straight & happy[,] I know that to a certainty[,] if you could have the time but this year you have been driven about so that you couldn't do yourself any justice at all. O Darling why have I made you think as you do think that it was your fault. We shall settle all this & never have trouble in the future over letters I am perfectly sure_ We shall get it all straight & the key note to the tune is to be a little selfish & say no when we have to with firmness that means no. Jule has got to be the Miss Loag next year & Mrs. this that & the other[,] when they want Effie must not call during her letter hours. I think this last move of your mothers shows just how she fails to understand either of us & I shall consider it my duty to enlighten her the very first time I get a chance_ I have no further regret at taking you to myself. I am going to pursue the policy that has been outlined for us by the other side. Possession means the cession of all rights from all other claimants.

I shall start tomorrow my Darling & a few hours after you get this letter[,] if you do get it before you start[,] I shall be with you. Isn't it too bad that this last letter should be filled with this subject[?] I won't seal this now & perhaps I can add some this afternoon but I am very busy today & this must go this afternoon. O Darling we shall get ahead of them all. Every thing combines against our happiness[,] even our own friends[,] & we are obliged to cling to each other. No one will help us so we must help each other. Goodbye now Darling. I won't omit to send my love this time since you don't believe in it unless I tell you about it. See how much better I am than you for [you] hardly ever say how happy it makes you to be loved & I am always telling you that it makes & keeps me happy in spite of every thing.

My own true love[,] one kiss now & lots bye & bye[,] true real kisses (if we can get out of sight as we shall do if we take the "buggy ride".[.]) With fond love for you & a good deal of determination to have you for myself anyhow.

Your own loving

Harry_