

25.

Madison - N.J.

June 15 [18]85.

My own Darling Darling Effie

It is already 12 o'clock & I am blue blue blue but I must write you something to send in the morning mail. First Darling I have good news for us. I know that this will relieve you & it isn't about it I feel blue tonight. The women folks Darling[,] whatever has ailed them[,] haven't been off toward me on account of you. They are all of them satisfied & happy over our romance & they don't leave room for the slightest suspicion that there is any thing like the feeling we suspected. I was wrong about it[,] completely wrong[,] and they are very fond of you & they asked first thing how soon you were coming & have always referred to the matter & spoken of it with evident pleasure[,] genuine pleasure. I feel quite positive Darling that I am not in error about this (Excuse the pencil. You can't hate it worse than I do.) And it has made me very happy all day long from the moment of my arrival. There can't be any mistake now on that point. They do feel badly to have me marry at all but if I must marry then they are very glad that it is as it is. I went down to the corner with Sue this evening and had a good chance to go for her about the unfortunate letter or better about the content of it for I didn't allude to the letter to Sue. I spoke of the first opposition & then asked her what she now tho't of the match after this interim. She said that she had never dreamed that our attachment[,] plain tho it was[,] meant anything like true love & so she had formed for me a sort of ideal wife who should be some learned damsel who had graduated at college & could sling latin & chemical lore etc. & could write a disquisition upon the finality of human judgment _ & all that and so at the very first she did feel a little disappointed about the matter. Its suddenness etc made it a stronger feeling than would have been had she guessed it & then had the time to change her idea a little to fit you, the flesh & bone reality. She didn't allude to the letter or apologize for it in any way & I guess she don't realize quite how strong it was_ She said that now she feels very warmly toward you. She was very nice about the trimming & your not having written & the others were very nice about every thing they have said about you. Tonight I had a chance to talk to Papa & I asked him about that & he was very good about it for he told me several things about you that pleased me & said that there wasn't the slightest feeling except a little jealousy toward you[,] that they are pleased & felt that you were fond of me & I of you & that it was a true love match & that they did not object in the slightest. So I guess Darling that we can set our minds at rest upon that matter now forever & I am so glad that we can do so. I feel absolutely certain that this is so. There isn't any rational doubt about how they feel toward you_ It will never cause any hard feeling when you marry me & they are wholly satisfied (if I must marry). They have done another good thing. They say that if I will stay till Friday I shall come to you & stay all the time till you come up here & then when you go back I can go along if I am wanted in N.Y. They proposed that when I told them I would give them half the time or so and they didn't make a bit of fuss about my spending Sunday with you my Darling. Now Effie Darling tell me if it is all right for me to come to your house for such a long visit. The minute papa heard of it he said I oughtn't to go without paying my board & I feel so too but I will ask you to advise me about it. I think that the reason the girls have written such letters is because they are so discontented here. I find that that they are in a dreadful state of discontent with the surroundings here & have been growing worse & they are lonely & often dispirited & that mamma is very blue & lonely for a place where she can have some society & it is hard for

them[,] very hard. I had a long talk with her about it tonight & that is what makes me blue tonight for it is very hard for them & I do wish there could be some change. Papa & I have long talks & he cheered me up but mamma is so terribly tired of the place & wants so to get where she can have more society & the girls can have a chance & papa will not work so hard. I will try & tell you about it & I think can make you understand how it is & perhaps I can talk both sides into something like a better frame of mind. I do hope so _ That is the outline of the news. It is favorable so far as we are concerned & you must come to Madison by the first of July to stay about 6 weeks. I will stay with you in New York till that time & again after that time so we shall be separated scarcely at all. They fully realize our need & want to help us & were all of them lovely about it. Now Effie I will close this short letter. Keep up courage Darling & I shall soon be with you again. Defer going to Brooklyn till Friday night wont you. With fondest tenderest love your own loving Harry.

Tuesday morning

My own precious:

I feel better this morning & hope that somehow this summer during the long time we shall be here we two can let the daylight all through the family trouble & make things pleasant & happy for all. I was troubled last night but a good refreshing sleep has improved me & now I feel much better & more hopeful. I feel sure of the advantage all around of your visit here & I want you to plan to come July first to stay till mid august. You know darling you promised me Sunday to do as I feel best about it & you know Darling that I feel for you about it & know how you feel. The feeling they have for you is very warm & tender and they are all right about that & you can help me to get them & papa all straight both by your counsel & by working with them for we shall talk it over together. I feel now almost sure that our romance will have the effect too of bringing papa & mamma closer together & that is the thing we want to do for them. I shall come to you on Friday. I wish it might be before for I long for you all the time & this morning felt the same yearning for my Effie. Darling my own Darling. Even this little separation is hard but it is nothing compared with what I felt last winter. The piano is splendid. I only write that much & set you at rest. I find no faults in it & think it the most satisfactory upright I know of. Will write or tell you more about it but must close this now. I couldn't get it into the mail as I had hoped. Will explain that later too but now must close.

With deepest love for my own Darling Effie
from your loving
Harry.