

18. My own Darling
how I love you.

Purdue
Thursday noon _
June 4 [18]85

My own Darling Effie

Have you been sorry Darling for the letter I wrote yesterday morning & wished I hadn't written? I was so disappointed that at the first I couldn't help showing it but Darling as I wrote I choked all that down & the sweetness of the love took its place & I have felt better ever since. I wrote you Effie every thing I felt & so I got out all the hardness & put the tenderest feeling in its place_ I am awfully busy now but I know you will want a letter on Saturday so I am going to write a little & send it to you. Dearest we sometimes think that the blue letters are better not written but it isn't so. It is a mistake to ever to think so. We need each the others sympathy & I always feel better to have you write me your troubles & to write & help you all I can & if we didn't do this we should certainly come to grief. When I began yesterday to write I felt very miserable for it is hardest of all for me to get straight when the Sunday letter fails. I know you feel badly over it but for the time that is obscured by the more selfish feeling. It is selfish. I know it is selfish but at the first I can't help it. If I hadn't written I couldn't have gotten straight so soon. But Darling as I wrote I felt almost as tho I was with you and that was so precious that every thing melted away & left nothing but the same love I have felt for you all the time. I do hope we shall hit on some way of making things smoother for us both. I believe we shall. I hope it will be to marry at Christmas. If not[,] that you can be allowed some way by which you can write without invasion_ O Darling it isn't much longer than we have got to endure. I am still dreary with longing but I have no feeling of blame for you for Sundays failure. I know that we shall fix things so that it can't happen next year_ We will do so because we will have to do so in self defense. I hope it will be by our marriage at Christmas. I have felt that that was the soonest we could marry but I have felt that we could do so then & if so it is best for the sooner we begin our united life the better for us both. Are we both sure that we do truly love? Has the year shown us that we are constant[,] that our feeling is true love_ To me it has. I thought I had no doubt when I told you that I loved you & I hadn't any doubt at all. I knew it. It is the same now. I know I love you with all my heart. It is a consuming passion & never leaves me a moment. In the morning when I awake the first word is "O My Darling" & it is the last thought at night. And Darling I know that the same is your feeling. If I thought that you felt mistaken I should want you to tell me & we should give it up but I know you havent changed & I know that if I could see into your heart I shouldn't be able to ask for more love than I could find there. If I didn't believe this Darling I should be wild. I had such a blue letter from Carrie. I will show it to you but won't send it. Did the poor girl tell you any thing about her grievances? She was writing about papa & how hard he is to get along with. It is dreadful because they will misunderstand each other & there seems no way to get things straight. Papa deserves his share of the blame but he is not the only one to blame & I think that the blame is divided & that the whole trouble grows out of [the] fact that he feels that they all combine against him & he can't get any sympathy from Mamma & the rest. They all of them speak first & don't think at all & I have often seen him when he wanted to be pleasant & have a pleasant talk turned completely about by some hard speech that slipped out as easy as could be. It is often[,] tho less so[,] the same way with me & I will begin some pleasant thing but get so sat down upon

that it makes me cross & sullen & so it goes_ You know what hard things they can say & while I do feel sorry for them I think that they bring it all upon themselves. You will have to know about it and you ought to. It will throw light upon my character too that you ought to have for we both must know each other perfectly so as to give each other all the help we can_ That is what we shall do as we grow older together & is why we should marry & live together as soon as possible before our character is too fixed_ We are neither of us perfect. We shall see little faults in each other. We can't help that but they are only little imperfections & we needn't magnify them into great things & let them obscure the image we love. O Darling. There is so much about you that I love that I never think about the little things that are nothing at all_ I do love you Darling. You know I do. Don't you Effie mine. Do you sometimes feel that I am cross & hard to please? Does it seem to you as though you were almost afraid to ever marry one who gets so blue when he don't get his girls letter? Well Darling try to think how much he wants that letter[,] how nothing can take its place to him & how he wants you & perhaps you can forgive the crossness__ O Darling it will be over soon[,] one week more & I shall be on the wing. I hope you will decide to meet me on Friday night. I will spend Sunday in New York if you say so but we can't meet too soon & I can't stand a whole night that I don't have to. Goodbye for now & I do want a letter this afternoon. Try and mail a letter on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday morning so I shall have them everyday at the last. With love[,] the deepest fondest love
always your own Harry_