

My Beloved Effie:

Your letters for the last three days have come every day & they have been such a help & comfort. I haven't been as happy for a month as I have during the last few days & I guess that now the real dawn has come & pretty soon it will be day light. I was rather stumped last Friday when I got your letter telling me that you thought it was best to wait & meet on Saturday. I felt sure that the reasons you gave to make me see that you felt it a good plan didn't seem adequate to me & yet I didn't see through your scheme or see what I afterward came to believe was at the real bottom of the thing. This was a sort of false bottom. It didn't seem that your reasons were all that there was in it. I felt as tho there wasn't any thing that could keep me if it was not a positive duty here, no pleasure here[,] nothing short of my duty to the position I felt could hold me at all. I felt that sightseeing would be a grind & that we should lose what we should always have regretted[,] that first hour together, after this horror of nine months, upon the river. That night I had hoped & counted on for days ever since you first proposed the plan & I felt horrible to lose it _ And yet you had said you felt it would be better & pleasanter than the other & I felt that I ought to like it best & I didn't want to oppose it or say a single word to make you feel that I wanted to have my own way in the matter. And more than that[,] I had written on purpose to let you object & have your say if you felt as I did that we ought to have that Sunday. I felt that it would please the folks to have me get home on Saturday night & I felt willing to give up my own happiness for the pleasure of pleasing them. I felt that it would be a sacrifice to both of us & yet I thought I would tell you & hear what you said about it. I don't recall that you ever said a word about it but I knew that it cost you as much as it cost me to give it up. I felt that to start on Friday would be a way out of the mess but I couldn't stand it to wait longer than I must. I am just wild to see you Darling & that is all there is about it. So when you proposed this change I never once suspected at the first that you were scheming to keep me over Sunday without making it possible for the folks at home to feel hurt. That was kind & thoughtful of you and it was a good plan to accomplish it that in the easiest way. But I think we can accomplish that any how. After a while it began to dawn upon me that perhaps that was your scheme but I wasn't at all sure for you hadn't said a word about being unwilling to let me go so soon & I thought that you felt as I had & were willing [to give?] up our happiness for the time. I don't mean that I tho't you didn't care. I never once tho't that but I tho't you were feeling as I did about it. I wish you had come straight out & told me for perhaps Darling you have been feeling a little badly because I proposed what would be so hard for us both. You must Dearest always tell me all that is in your heart. It is better Darling always better. I know we can't go wrong if we will always do that. But I didn't mean to scold you[,] you lovely lovely girl __ So I was a little deceitful to[o] & promised complete compliance to your wish[,] fully believing that you did prefer to spend Saturday in Albany & wondering how you could endure Friday night. I felt that if you wanted it[,] it was too utterly selfish for me to come out & oppose for the Albany suggestion had first come from you & I felt it more for me to try & turn you about. But at the same time I thought when the idea struck me that it might be a dodge to keep me over Sunday that that I would just drop a promise to stay over Sunday & I was willing enough to do that any how & see how it struck you. I am afraid Effie Darling that you saw that I wasn't very enthusiastic over the Saturday plan but Effie don't think I meant to make your mind

over it for I didn't & I didn't even feel, tho now I see I ought to have done so, that I could come straight out & tell you just how I felt because that must change your mind about the thing & that was what I didn't want to do. I think that I can mollify the folks at home & whether I can or not Darling I can't give up those two days with my love. I wish they could be alone but that cannot be so we won't wish it but we will be alone all we can. Lets both think of some thing for Saturday. If it is a clear day I guess the longest possible sail to some place would be nice. Perhaps since we shant see the lower part of the Hudson we could take one of the short day trips or something else. But we will talk about that anon. Now we are inside the last week & five days more here & then I am off for my Effie. O Darling I couldn't think of anything last night but the trip down the Hudson & of any one but Effie Loag. My Darling what a place you have taken in my life. The longing for you is indescribable. When I feel it not at all satisfied[,] I am simply wild[,] almost crazy[,] but when it is half satisfied O Darling such sweetness & peace. I always know I have your love & when I am in my right mind this makes me so very happy_ But when you are kept away from me I feel beside myself & I sometimes feel as tho I should like to have a chance to appear on the scene when you have been taken away from me & have my say. I guess you are meeker about it than I am for I wouldn't stand it. When I first came here I found that it was the custom for a professor to stop during a lecture & attend to any one who had any errand with him. I stood it two or three times & then I kicked & the consequence was that while I had two or three rows at first people know now that that time isn't going to be given up to anything else & they have sense enough to keep away _ I simply won't stand it & don't feel under any obligation to stand it _

We will then plan to meet on Friday night if possible & will save the Saturday plan to use in case I am unable to get away on Thursday Afternoon. I will telegraph you when I start & you may call at the Albany Depot of the Central Road at the Telegraph office for a telegram when you arrive there & if there is none & none comes by the time my train is due you will be sure we are making our time. I shall go straight through from here & shall go at 4 PM on Thursday or whatever the time will be. I shall go over to the Ticket office in a few moments (It is not [now] Sat. a.m) & make inquiries & will let you know the time then_ I will look for a telegram from you at Utica but if there is no telegram I shall look for yourself[,] your Darling self[,] or else a telegram at Albany. I hope it will be your darling self & not the telegram I shall find to greet me at Albany. I may arrive first if your train is due there at 4:30. In that case if I find no telegraph I will infer that all is well & shall be already to receive my own Darling _ We will give up the hope of my meeting the boat for I feel sure now that it makes no river stops _ I think that you had better secure state rooms for the Friday night trip down. Get forward single staterooms outside if you can_ My ticket entitles me to a state room berth but I should I think feel better to pay the extra dollar for the security. Also I shall be free as you will to retire when I please & get up when I please. I presume we shall both be pretty sleepless & think we will do well to get up very early to see the lower Hudson by the morning light. Get adjoining staterooms so we can wake each other up if necessary_ I should get them I think at once so as to be quite sure. I can't see any reason why I can't be in Albany on Friday & I feel sure that this whole plan will be productive of greatest happiness. N.B. Be sure & carry a heavy wrap with you for it will be needed. I shall take an overcoat expressly for that occasion_ Now I must stop & go to the city at once & there I will add a word about the Wabash train. Now I think that all is clear. I shall not mourn because I shan't [i.e.] meet your mother for Darling I want to see you first of all &

nothing else will do me any good. O Darling I long so for it. The days dont go fast enough.
They can't seem to go__

O with fondest love my Effie & hope & tender longing

Your own loving

Harry__

My Darling I can't find out anything very definite yet but all accounts I can get point to the inference that my train from here at 4 PM is due at New York at 7:30 & at Albany at 2:30 or thereabouts. They may [know] more on Monday. I will come on that train & you can go up by central & meet me at Albany on Friday aft. I will await the arrival of your train & you the arrival of my train at the depot. I think you will prefer the central perhaps for it will be much handier for you. If you prefer the West Shore & should decide to come by that it would give us to each other a little sooner. I shall expect you by Central in absence of contradictory information.

O Darling how glad I am it is so near. I wish it was tomorrow. Now my precious Darling Effie goodbye.

With fond love always[,] warm tender fresh & new all the time & O how very strong
for my own Darling Effie

from her own Harry