

No. 54 West 46th St.
N.Y. Nov. 29th 1885.

My own darling Harry,

I sent you a time table day before yesterday. I got it on my way down town and enclosed it in my letter. It is dated June, but is the latest. I noticed the date and asked about it and the man said it was all right, that there were no new time tables. The time is exactly the same as it was in the summer, that there might be a change soon, but he had heard nothing of it. Now I wonder if it will be possible for you to get the 5 P.M. train from Balt^o [Baltimore]. Your train isn't due in Balt[imore]. till a few minutes past two. Will that give you time enough to do what you want to? Even if you reach B[altimore]. on time I am a little afraid you wont have as much time as you'd like to have, but ten chances to one the train will be late, and it surely will be if there is any special reason why it should be on time. The thing would be some what risky, for you say you will need some time with Brooks, and must work around to your business gradually & not fire it at him in a hurry. You might manage your business with Brooks, but if it is important for you to see Martin too, I am afraid you cant do it all & make the 5 P.M. train. If you can do it[,] it will of course be the best possible plan, but if you think you are likely to be delayed till the late train which would not reach N.Y. till Sunday A.M. I doubt if you had better stop there on your [way] home, for it will not be best to delay our meeting till Sunday morning. There is every reason for not doing it. But if you can make that 5 P.M. train I'd rather have you stop on your way home. If you cant I would rather have you stop on your way back to [~~##~~] Purdue. I have a special reason for this. If you do come that way I should think you could buy your ticket right thro' to N.Y. and get permission to stop off at B[altimore]. till the 5.P.M. train. I know that it is allowed on some roads and should think it would be on this one, and it would save you at least \$2.00 and I dont see why you should get your ticket to B[altimore]. & then get another for N.Y. Besides, if it is an Express to Washington, I should think you'd have to change cars at B[altimore]. anyway, & in that case I should think you could get permission to ~~sp~~ stop over in B[altimore]. till the 5 P.M. and perhaps that would be the best connection you could make even if you were coming right through, & didn't want any time in B[altimore]. I have tho't of a scheme in case you think you wont have time to do all you want to in B[altimore]. before 5 P.M. I will not tell you till I make some inquiries, for it may not be a good idea, & if it isn't I'm not going to tell you any thing about it, but if it is in a good one which we can work[,] I'll tell you about it as soon as I can find out about it. Now I must go on and finish about the Madison news before it get too stale. Your name was mentioned by some one every little while, and tho' I suppose no one kept up such a steady constant thinking and longing as I did, yet I was not the only one that tho't of you. They all wished for you and talked about you a great deal & they are all looking forward to the vacation. They expect us to spend Xmas with them, and spoke of it many times, and they want us to stay as long as we can. They suggested my taking a vacation so that I would not be obliged to come home right away, and said they wished I'd try to manage my pupils so that we could stay for a visit after Xmas. I didn't tell them any thing definite except that we would go up on Xmas day. They want us to go up in time for dinner, and at night they are going to have a tree, and a big time. They expect the boys from Phil^a [Philadelphia], and that will give us a good deal better chance for being alone some than we would have if no one else was to be there. When they have George & Paul both, I imagine we'll be able to do pretty much as we please, for they'll be so taken up with the boys

that it wont worry them if we slide out now and then, but the trouble is it wont be as convenient as it was in the summer. It will be as easy to slide out, but harder to find a place to slide to, for your little den will be too freezing cold for us to sit in, and the rooms that are warmed will be pretty well filled with the rest of the family. I told them we would come on Xmas, but that I couldn't tell yet about a visit afterwards. I tho't I would not commit myself till we could talk it over together. Mr. Artz is going home about the 19th to stay till the 2nd of January, and so we can make you very comfortable here. We wouldn't be perfectly independent in either place, but I think we could stand a better chance here, but I know it will break ~~them~~ the Madison folks all up if we decided to stay here. Your father said "Harry said some thing in one of his letters about leaving Lafayette on the 18th. Then he'll get into N.Y. Saturday night or Sunday A.M. Why cant you come up here and spend the whole of Xmas?" I told him that I must spend part of it at home. He said "Well if Harry gets into N.Y. on Sat[urday]. or Sunday, he cant stay down at your house till Xmas, not much. He has got to come up here before that." I suppose we cant decide what is best to do till we can talk it all over. I had to appear very ignorant about your plans, because I was afraid I might put my foot into it if I said much, and I wanted to leave things indefinite so that if we want to stay here we can do so with as little fuss as possible. On Thurs[day]. A.M. I told Mag that I tho't that I had better come home that night, because I had a lesson on 57th St[reet] at 9:30 A.M. Friday, and if I stayed over I would have to start so early, and I'd hate to bother them so much. Mag said "What nonsense. I guess you wont go tonight. You come so seldom that you must stay as long as you can. It wont be any trouble at all to have you go on that 7:34 train." She said it as tho' she meant it, and Carrie spoke the same way, & your father tho't it was dreadful for me to think of such a thing. I was sorry it happened to be Sue's week to get breakfast. She didn't act disagreeable about it, but I dont think she was overjoyed, and I felt a little uncomfortable about it, but Sue treated me very well. I cant get over my prejudice all at once, but she gave me no cause to complain of her. Carrie spoke particularly about my letter, and I think it pleased her very much. She said "Mag and I had been talking about you and every day we meant to write, but something always came up to prevent. Of course when Sue was away we had a great deal to do, & were kept pretty busy. We really meant to write and felt ashamed that we hadn't," etc etc. On Thanksgiving your father wanted to go hunting and wanted to have breakfast at 7 or half past, but Sue told him, it was all nonsense and she wasn't going to get up. They talked about it a few minutes, and he tried to talk her into it, but she would not give in. Your mother put in a few words for him, but even that wouldn't move Sue, and your Aunt Mag said "I wouldn't do it either Sue" & a lot more that I wont take time to quote. It made me so mad the way she kept poking her say in. It was none of her business, and I should think your father would hate her, and she is such a disagreeable visitor I wouldn't blame him for getting angry and giving her fits. Some how or other when she goes to Madison she always acts so abused, and as tho' she was doing them such a favor. It would make me perfectly furious if I was one of them. It makes me mad as it is. Well we got thro' breakfast at 9:20. We sat around and visited most of the time after that. I wrote your letter in the morning, and the rest of the time worked on the "it." We didn't get thro' dinner till four P.M. ~~after~~ We had a delicious dinner. Oyster soup, (perfect, the best I have had for ages. "I tell you Margaret is a good cook") then Turkey and vegetables, and the des[s]ert, pumpkin pie & doughnuts. Your mother's doughnuts are the only ones I ever eat. I hate them usually but hers are delicious. After dinner Cousin Mag, Sue,

Mag & I drove to M[adison]. and I got your dear letter. While we were gone Carrie ~~decide~~ made some nut candy, which we all appreciated. They decided not to have a regular supper, as we all voted against it, but to have a sort of picnic about 8 o'clock or so. Cousin M[ag], Mag & I went out for a drink about 6:30 and ~~we~~ M[ag]. proposed a turkey sandwich, and "we didn't care if we did," and we had a little feast and enjoyed it very much. Later in the evening we had pie, coconut cake & chocolate cake & doughnuts, and those who wanted cider and fruit had all they wanted of both. I worked on the "it" all the evening except during the picnic, & for about half an hour when I was showing Carrie & John a new game of solitaire. & It wouldn't come out at all, and finally I gave it up, but they knew the game & John worked it out afterwards. I am very much pleased and encouraged by what you told me of your talk with Dr. Smart and think there is no doubt about their doing well by you next year, and I think it will be better for you to stick to your specialty than to go into a high school, & besides \$1200. will go farther there than \$1500 or \$1800. would here. Of course if Brooks can do anything for you that will pay it would be very nice, but I think it will end in your staying where you are. You wont stay unless they make satisfactory arrangements, but if they will give you a fair salary you'll be contented, and so will I, but I am glad that Dr. S[mart]. understands that you mean to be stiff & independent about it, for he wants to keep you and will work hard to get the trustees to make you a good offer. Last year you felt that you had to stay, but this year you can be more independent, & Dr. S[mart]. understands that you mean business, & he dont want to lose you. I should think you'd feel very cheerful, for things are working out all right. Now darling I must answer you about the whiskey. It may be very useful in case of a sickness, but I wish there was no such thing in the world, for it does far more harm than good, and I'd be willing to die for the want of it rather than have the diabolical stuff in the world. As it is here, I would of course take it in cases of necessity, but ~~even~~ very few people have any idea about when there is real need of it, and are too apt to resort to it when it is not absolutely necessary. I think in cases of faintness it is necessary. In such a case a strong stimulant is needed. It braces you up for the time, and that is what you need, and I think it is wise to have some around for such cases, but I know that people are not careful enough, & even mamma is apt to rush for it when any thing is the matter, if she happens to have it. If she doesn't have it I notice we manage to get on without it. I really believe that when I was so very sick brandy was a very useful thing, and I will own that it did a great deal for me, once or twice when I had sinking spells. They had to do something to keep me up for the time, something that would act at once at once, and once I will own that it may have saved my life. It is only a temporary strength, a false strength, but sometimes one must get a false strength ~~till~~ to carry them thro' till they revive a little and get a little of their own strength. If people would use it only in such cases where nothing else would take the place, & give this sudden stimulant, I would not object to it as a medicine. But how many use it as they would a use as poison? Mamma has seen enough of it with Uncle A[ndrew]. & Uncle W. and she has a greater horror of it than you have, and yet she is too apt to use it when there isn't real necessity for it. A cold, or chill or a pain, all seem to suggest some such dose, and I do not approve of it for any of these. I would only give it in case of faintness, or where a person ~~needed~~ needed was very low, and had a sinking spell, & needed strength for the moment, till there was time to recover their own. I know for instance that on ~~Wed~~ Tuesday night I would have fainted dead away if it hadn't been for the brandy mamma gave me, and in such a case I should not hesitate to give it to you. I am not afraid to trust you with it, and since you have it you may as

well keep it in case of ~~such~~ an emergency, but I have never heard of your being troubled with faintness. I think when you are obliged to be out all night, that you ought to have some thing, but I dont think you need whiskey then at all. I think that coffee would be a good thing. Some strong hot coffee will be all that you need, and it would be no trouble at all if you had one of those coffee pots I told you about, and I'd rather buy you a dozen of them than to have you use the whiskey, and I dont believe that the whiskey is the best thing for the pain you have. The camphor helped you last summer & I'd rather have you use that. You may say there is ~~alcohol~~ alcohol in that. I know that, but I dont think that there is any danger of it in that form, & besides you'd only take a few drops, and you'd require a good deal more than that of the whiskey. It would take at least a tablespoon full, & I doubt very much if that would be tho't a large enough dose. It would be altogether to[o] homeopathic, and wouldn't be considered any dose at all. You dont approve of camphor but I'd rather have you take it, or else go to a doctor and get some remedy to keep on hand for the pain. I shall feel very uncomfortable, more very unhappy[,] to have you use it except in case of faintness, and then if you were in the state where I should approve of it, you would not be able to help yourself to it, but some one might be near to give it to you, & you may as well keep it, for of course I know I can trust you with it. You may think me very silly and may think it shows a lack of confidence in you. I cant help how it looks. I cant help my strong feelings about it, but I wouldn't ever trust my self with it, that is to take it as a medicine for this that and the other thing. I'd rather risk fooling with a poison. Darling I am very glad you told me, for if you hadn't done so, and had used it, and I had found it out, it would have been a pretty hard blow to me, and would have shaken my faith considerably, for I couldn't have helped feeling that you knew my strong feeling about it and yet had used it on the sly. It would simply have broken me all up. I know that you will be very careful now, & will not use it except under the most desperate circumstances, and I am not afraid to trust you with it. I believe Huston needs some one to go for him. I guess he uses it altogether too freely. I dont know that he ever gets intoxicated, but I will bet that he is so hardened to it, and so in the habit of taking it, that it would be a mighty hard thing to get him out of the habit, and if he has gone that far he is in danger. You can laugh at me if you like, but I think that it is only a step from such a habit to some thing very serious, & tho' I may misjudge H[uston]. I judge from what you have told me yourself, and I must say I am prejudiced against him, and it would make me very wretched to have you like him. It isn't only men that get drunk that I am down on, but men who will deliberately go to work and fool with a thing they know does more harm & ruins more men than any thing else, then when it becomes a disease, people excuse it & say "Oh it is a disease[.] He can't help it." It may be an incurable disease, & he may not be able to help it after it is once settled on him, but he is to blame for having the disease. No one has any right to say he is stronger than others who have fallen, and I wouldn't dare trust myself to take it as I believe Huston does. He may never get any worse, or lose control, but there is no telling anything about it. More wonderful men than he is have fallen. Now I think Huston is pleasant company for you, and I know he helps you very much, and I think it is good for you to be with him, for he cheers you up and entertains you. If I hadn't perfect confidence in you it would worry me to have you with him. ~~but and~~ His influence would be very bad for most men situated as you are, but I know I can trust you, and I am not afraid that he can influence you, tho' I do not like this whisky business a bit, and tho' I wont worry over it, I do feel sorry that he had enough influence to make you feel that you wanted it. I dont care where his

old whisky came from. It is whiskey just the same whether it is the best or the worst, and if there is any difference, I prefer the worst, for that would be so vile that it would not be pleasant to take, and I don't think you'd screw up your courage to take such a dose unless you were in a pretty bad way, while the best whiskey might not be such a disagreeable dose, so on the whole the fact of its being extra fine does not make me feel at all reconciled to it.

_____ I have just come from supper. I didn't start the subject, and didn't, for a wonder, say a single word about it but simply listened to the others, but this very thing came up at the table, and they were talking over the amount of money spent for the stuff in a year, and some one had been reading some thing about it, some statistics showing that more money was spent for ~~whiskey~~ liquor, than it takes to run all the railroads in the U.S. How much of that is used for sickness only when necessary? Beastly stuff. I[t] bothers me more and more all the time. You need never expect me to feel differently about it, for I never shall except to be more opposed to it every day I live. I didn't mean to write so much about it, but you know you got me started, and when I get started on that subject, there is no stopping me till I have had my say. My darling Harry[,] you know that I don't believe you would ever use it to excess, but you know I am as afraid of it as I can be, and don't believe in any ones fooling with it, as a medicine even, except in desperate cases, and when you have been exposed all night I hope you'll brace yourself up some other way. You know that we all like Ed very much, but I should hate to have you take liquor as he does. He never takes enough to intoxicate him in the slightest degree, but he is too fond of it altogether to suit me, I imagine just as H[uston]. is. I don't know how fond of it H[uston]. is, but I know I shouldn't care to have you so free with it as he seems to be or as Ed is. Now don't be provoked at me for writing all this for you have haven't any idea how strongly I feel about it, and I hope you'll never touch a bit of it. I hope you won't have any sickness desperate enough to require it, and now I'll drop the subject till I see you, & then I suspect I'll give you another dose. To change the subject I will tell you that my vaccination has taken a start, and has been acting kind of suspicious since last Wednesday, and now it has finally decided to "take" and it is making a regular business of it. It bothered me in the night, woke me up several times, and today it is worse, very much swollen, & inflamed and hot, and I guess that I am going to have a pretty desperate time after all. It is at least as big as this circle [she drew a circle around the first word of the sentence and then a larger circle around that]. That is the inflamed part, tho' the sore is as big as the inside circle. The out side circle is a good deal too small. Honestly the inflamed part is much larger than that. I don't know how I happened to draw it so mild, for goodness knows it hurts enough to justify me in drawing it large, and it is funny how I happened to get it smaller. If this letter isn't any good, don't blame me. I'm too blue to write, but have done the best I could, and have tried to make up in quantity what the thing lacks in quality. I hope things will be better sometime. I suppose they will be if we don't die before the time comes! There! I guess its time for me to break off. I've said about enough now, and better stop before I make this letter still worse than it already is. Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ

With love beyond measure from you own blundering

Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ

Effie.