

Purdue
Sunday Evg
Dec 21 [18]84

My own Effie:

Darling your letter as you already know reached me this morning. I am relieved[,] very very much relieved to hear that you are better. I feel that I brought that sickness on or at least helped to make it worse _ I am very very sorry for my thoughtless selfishness & Effie I do not think that I shall very soon again give you any excuse for doubting my love for you. I sent you a note this morning & referred then to your plan of writing so I should be sure of letters on Sunday & Wednesday. This is good but Dearest promise one more. Promise one on Friday too. Then you will write three a week & I think you wont find that too often. O Effie it would be too hard to go from Sunday till Wednesday & then again all the way to another Sunday without letters. I wont complain if they are shorter than four or three sheets but it seems so long a time when the days go by & no letters come. I am afraid that if you set twice a week as letter days things will soon bring it about that I shall not hear from you but twice a week. O Effie can't you insist upon Sunday[,] Tuesday & Thursday as letter days? Darling it is a great help to me to have your letters. I do not exaggerate for the rhetorical effect when I say this _ I long for you & the letters help me so much _ I don't want you to feel that you can write less often than three times a week _ and I feel that if we put any less number as the rule we shall find that we shall not be allowed to make many exceptions. Now I leave this matter with you and I don't want to tease you to adopt my plan only to present to you my case just as it stands _ I want you to realize just how much those letters are to me before you make a plan which will be I am afraid in effect a plan to write only twice a week _ If it must be so & you must decide for you know now all the circumstances then we will adopt that plan & I will write on Sundays & Wednesdays & also expect letters on those days _ for Effie when I write frequent letters I cant help wanting them. I don't feel vindictive about it but if I wrote often I could not feel satisfied at all. I could not help feeling badly over only two letters a week. Your Fridays letter was postmarked 6 PM. You know that it is risky to get these letters in too late in the afternoon. Let me caution you once more dear about this for one hour in New York on the Sundays letter means 24 hours here & it means more than any other 24 hours in the week for I prize a letter on Sunday as I have then full time to enjoy it.

Now I will tell you some news about Purdue for of late these things have been rather crowded out. In the first place we have had some pretty cold weather here. Last Sunday night we had a heavy fall of snow and the thermometer began to fall on Monday. On Tuesday evening at 5 PM it was -2° & during the night fell – to -10°. On Wednesday it was cold & on that night was again low. On Thursday night was -31° & the highest for 24 hours was -4° ___ The air was dry & crisp & this intense cold was not penetrating or unendurable. I found my room uninhabitable several nights & had to go to bed early and also managed some how to take a very heavy cold & am still barking around and talking as though my voice cords were situated just inside the soles of my shoes _ I can't understand how I got the cold for I haven't done anything that would bring one on _ I enjoy the cold weather & the beautiful snow & do wish we could have had moon light nights with it. Maybe tho the snow will last until the next batch of moonlight nights. I am almost alone. Miss Elder is in her room in a distant portion of this great building. The Stockton family who are the family of the matron of the club are in their

part of it but the numerous boys who used to frequent this building with such periodicity three times a day & the girls who roomed here are all flown like birds of passage at the first sign of the winter season_ They will reappear in two weeks as instantaneously as they went. In the meantime I am monarch etc. Miss Elder goes on Tuesday & then I am alone for I haven't much chance to be friendly with the Stocktons. The son is too young & the daughter[,] a very pleasant girl[,] is one of my senior students in physiology & I can't pay her much attention with safety to my influence with the students. Our boarding hall seems very deserted. No one is now here except Mrs S.[,] her son & daughter & Mrs Lemmon[,] her sister who is old & very deaf[,] & Miss Elder & I. We two fly out on Tuesday[,] Miss E. home & I to a boarding place in Chauncey with Prof Goss & his wife __ I have been busy with a hundred odds & ends & have not yet been able to begin my vacation work but hope to start in on it tomorrow afternoon _ Tomorrow morning we have a faculty meeting to decide upon the student term exams _ I shant stick any students __ They have to get about 70% to pass. My lowest one is 74% & most of them stand [ill.]. I feel pretty well pleased by the terms work for the men seem to be interested all the time in their study & do their best[,] also spending more time[,] often much more time[,] upon the work than is actually required __ I think that I may feel confident that I am succeeding here which is the first step toward success in some better place. I feel sure that Dr. Smart is favorable toward me & I know that Barnes is so_ I am doing all that I can to improve that impression for I don't want to have them feel like losing me at the end of the year. If I should fail then of getting out of them a marked increase of salary I should think that I should have a hard time in quieting Mamma's complaints even if I didn't feel personally discouraged. But let us get away from this subject for I don't want to think about next years position quite yet or until I have some pretty definite assurances about our State appropriations.

I have unearthed quite a little gossip in the school. The students think that Miss Weed is mashed on me _ You know I told you that Prof & Mrs. Goss last year were situated as Miss Weed & I are this year. Now if they put it upon Miss Elder there might be more sense in it for I am with Miss Elder much more than I am with Miss Weed but o no they wouldn't do that _ I had noticed that the ladies were terribly busy & couldn't let me come to their room to read after supper & a lot of other things & so I tho't that something was up. At last Friday or Thursday night[,] Thursday I believe it was[,] I went for Miss Weed & finally by long course of questions found out that she had heard of these rumors & been annoyed by them. I had a great chance to get at this subject by the items marked in the copy of the Purdue I send you _ On the strength of them I questioned Miss W. & found out what ailed her. Isn't it strange that people should be so absurd. The whole school knows I was engaged and Miss Weed is ten years older & six inches taller[,] at least looks so[,] & yet they will get around a story that we are going the way of our predecessors. The average American & almost all Hoosiers are born fools & no mistake. Of course no one alludes to my habit of smoking now & then. No. [Ill.] is a crack at us tho' it so happens that one of the instructors will surprise everyone by marrying during the holidays. I don't care what they think about me but it makes me mad because of course I shall not any longer go to Miss Weed & Miss Elders rooms if the thing excites comment and annoys Miss W. & shall thus lose a pleasant hours reading after supper once or twice a week _ Ah me _ Well they may be fools but it wont pay to try & shame them out of it __ I send you a copy of the last number of the circular of J.H.U. It contains an abstract of some of the things I

am going to work on this vacation __ This isn't a long letter but as we used to say at the university it is meaty[,] meaning full of meat I suppose. And now goodbye my dearest__ With deepest love your own Harry ____

P.S. My little darling you mustn't read the Christmas letter until Thursday. No promise me that you wont _ & Darling don't write me that you wont promise three letters a week. Dont until you feel quite sure you are doing right. I shall be strong in the future if you stick to that [ill.] deviation. You know I will now that things are in such a good shape all around_ O Darling how my heart goes out after you. I love you. O I love you_ How I do love you_ Goodbye. I must go. I send two little pictures that Miss Loomis made for my lampshade in Baltimore. Arent they cut & pat_ Send them back after a while. No hurry_