

Purdue  
Xmas \_ morning Dec 25<sup>th</sup> [18]84

My own Darling

Your last few letters have filled me up so full of love & happiness that I feel that I can't write at all. I can only seem to gasp & gasp some number of "Oh's." Really it seems impossible to write[,] so many things rush out for a place as I begin each new sentence. O Effie your love[,] your happiness are so precious to me. It seems as tho I ~~should~~ shall go up I feel so light & happy hearted as you reveal yourself ~~fe~~ more & more to my longing soul \_ I almost expect to find my self floating[,] held down only by the ceiling of my room. There are so many things that I want to say all at once & at the same time. I feel as tho I wanted just to sit & repeat your name over & thousand times. But if I go on like this you will begin to think I am crazy so I will try to tame down a bit. Let me tell you tho that it will be hard work for I am so wound up that I keep striking all the time like an unruly clock breaking out with the indication that internally I am all love love love for Effie & happiness happiness happiness for Effie loves me \_\_\_

I got your Saturdays letter & the Sundays letter at the same time viz. Wednesday evening & too late to receive your orders not to open the box \_ On Tuesday night I received a notice from the American Express office to come for a package. It was then 5 PM & supper was due at 5:30. I didn't care. I couldn't stand it till Wednesday for I knew there was bound to be a letter & I was just hungering & thirsting for a letter. It was a hard night[,] cold & windy with a driving snow storm but I was well protected[,] my cap with the skin flap completely enveloping my head & forehead[,] ears & way down on my neck[,] my big clumsy over coat with the collar turned up[,] warm gloves[,] the only exposed place my mouth[,] nose & cheeks. I hurried over almost sure the package would prove to be from you tho the card had said nothing about it (I have both express offices trained so that they immediately notify me when anything comes for me & I also can call them up by telephone). I got there & found a box in the handwriting that makes a profounder impression on me than any thing my eyes ever rest upon except your own person \_ I grabbed it & hurried home & opened it for I had not been forbidden. I am glad I hadn't your orders in time for it & the letter made me so wonderfully happy \_ I didn't see the letter at first & was disappointed but didn't get "off" because I felt that you had done everything for the best & I was at last willing to be patient. I was so late that I had to hurry to supper before I examined thoroughly the "it" and found the letter & then wasn't I happy. O Darling you needn't apologize for anything about that letter. It has a big red star upon it so I can find it readily to read over & over again \_ There are many things in that letter I should like to write about but I will only write about one or two of them. One is the choice you made when thinking of something to give me \_\_\_ My own Darling you couldn't have found anything that could give me more pleasure than this "it." You made it all. That in itself is such a delight to me for when I use it there is the constant thought of how much it was with you & how lovingly your fingers worked upon it & your eyes rested upon it and you chose something that I would use all the time & that when I used it would be a comfort and a real protection, and your letter tells me that all this was in your mind as well as a thousand happy sweet thoughts of love about me. O Effie it makes me too too happy to feel that all this & more was in your mind all the time. And as I use it as I have & do constantly to touch it seems like an electric shock. Darling you have magnetized the thing in some way so that it cannot touch me without causing a current of sweet & pleasant thoughts about you to stream through me. You shan't say it is

not beautiful. It is beautiful. This [is] not another delusion as you call them but a fact. The “it” is beautiful & you couldn’t have chosen anything [ill.] you cant get a good picture that [ill.] have given me more pleasure. Do you know why you cant get a good picture? Because you are an original of such rare virtues that no imitation is possible. You cannot be copied but I carry a picture of your dear face about in my brain & I have only to will & out it stands before my eyes true to the life. Another thing in your Saturdays mornings letter I want to speak about is the place where you refer so tenderly to your own feelings when I make you think that I feel abused since things prevent your writing \_ Darling I see now as I did not see it before how all this had hurt you. You shall not feel so anymore[,] not because I do not tell you when I feel badly but because I now do truly understand you more & better than I did three weeks ago even. The short place where this feeling shows itself in the letter[,] inadvertently almost[,] touched me very deeply indeed. I do feel sure Darling that now this matter is finally settled & we need have no further fear of a recurrence of this trouble. It does seem so\_ But let me jump ahead to your Sundays letter now that we are on this subject & finish up all I have to say about it. I think the secret of all the trouble is just here. There is one subject upon which we are terribly sensitive & that is our love for one another. It is a new possession & what ever seems in any way to menace us in this possession makes us just frantic at once. I suppose that we are not to blame for the feeling for we can’t help it \_ It is our sore point & must not be fooled with. Darling how can I blame you in the least for feeling dreadfully when you imagined for even an instant that you might be going to lose what you valued so highly. I have no complaint to file against you. You were not more cut up than you ought to be considering the nature of my offense\_ I cannot blame you in the least for your noble letter which I will call unselfish in the highest degree even if you do think me deluded and I shall preserve that letter with jealous care & solicitude. Oh Darling Do you know that such a love as yours is a blessing that is conferred upon only a few. I do not want you changed for Mrs Ellis or for a person with her sort of love. They are happy sunny natures to be sure & have much in them to admire but I prefer a nature which like the grand old ocean may be calm & smooth & beautiful but has wrapped up in its mysterious depth a whole majesty of power & might that can at times be stirred up into all the grandeur of a genuine storm. Darling do you not suppose that I can see through such feelings to the soul within capable of that[?] I wouldn’t for worlds make you feel badly & prefer the sunny ocean to the storm for every day comfort but the possibility of the storm shows a force & intensity in the nature which I had rather have present. Oh my Love Do not think that I mean that I am glad for all the trouble I caused by my unhappy letter. I am not so at all \_\_ but as I told you before such a love as yours for me brought out as it was never before by that unhappy Sundays letter makes me beside myself with happiness. And now Darling I shall not wound you again[,] at least I shall be very very careful & you Darling[,] if I seem unfortunate in the way I put things[,] never let go this one anchor or rather let it go when the storm comes on for it will hold you through it all. I love you as I can not love any other. I know this. You may not see why I love you. It is natural I suppose for you to wonder at it since you idealize me as you do but I see why & may possibly tell you sometime. At any rate I do love you. I adore you & worship you. Hunt up the strongest word you can find & then strengthen it by italics etc & you wont half express what I feel for you. This is not pure transcendental sentiment but it is based upon a knowledge that you are fitted to me in every way. Now don’t try to understand this. Only believe that I am utterly yours & that no attempts of man can part us. I knew what your mind was & what you knew. I know

your world by position & prospects. I know your education & accomplishments. I know your physical attractions. I know it all. I haven't gone it blind & I am not going to be turned around by anything[,] you may depend\_ Now Darling you must never in spite of any appearances let yourself think for one moment that I can desert you or give you up. Such a thought is a poisoned thought & if it gets in it will make you so wretched that nothing could be more wretched than you. I say this now and I couldn't before I knew what your love for me is \_ I haven't said all yet. I want to but I have got to stop for Dr Smart has invited me to his house to dinner. I shall mail this now & go on from where I left off when I get back. I am not unhappy nor blue nor gloomy today. Your wonderful love has floated me clear above all that into a space of clear sunshine. The clouds are all below me \_ I haven't your mother's package yet. There has doubtless been some delay about it \_ We have no Adam's Express office here. Their things are I believe turned over to the American Express Co. It is better to ship from New York by the American direct.

Now goodbye for a bit my Darling. I shall continue this subject just as soon as I can get back. I think it was very good of Dr Smart to invite me there \_ I was at Barnes to supper last night. With the fondest deepest love for my own Darling Effie & the hope that I may soon get back to her.

I remain her vassal Harry.