

Purdue
Sunday evg Dec 28 __ 84
9 P.M.

My own Darling

I received your telegram as you know. It was so very kind & thoughtful in you to send it for I should have certainly looked for a letter from you today _ But this morning in spite of the rain & terribly slippery walking for we are having a thaw & the ice everywhere in the walks is smooth as polished glass if there is such a thing as polished glass _ In spite I say of the rain slidyness I thought I would go over to the post-office. I don't know what sent me over I am sure for I felt no hope at all of a letter because I felt sure that your telegram had come after it was so late that it would be utterly impossible to get a letter to me _ I simply went in spite of your injunction _ I had had two from home ~~in spite~~ last thing yesterday & that chance of my getting anything was too small to be worth anything. But I seemed somehow to feel "Well if there should be anything I want it bad." And I did want it bad too for I am just about sick today[,] nervous headache all day & heavy cold _ Well I went over & went in & saw nothing in the place where the man usually puts my Sunday mail to have it ready for me _ I looked at him & he hunted through the Purdue mail & my Darling Effie he actually got out a letter. I could hardly believe my eyes but there it was postmarked Friday 6 P.M. I don't understand now the telegram but suppose that you thought ~~it~~ the letter too late in the box to be safe & so telegraphed to save my worry & fretting for it. There is so much I want to say to you my love that I hardly know where to begin. I guess I will answer this letter first & then go back to some things I want to write about from your last few letters or else put this off till tomorrow night. My Darling I do understand your feelings about the books. I mean your delight over the present. Of course it is dear to me to have you write about your pleasure tho you feel that you only feebly express what you feel. [III.] I can feel with you without the medium of words. When two hearts are linked as ours are linked there are communications subtler than words[,] currents setting back & forth from the one to the other that can be felt without words. You can't know[,] yes you can too[,] you do know what inexpressible delight it gives me to have you so much pleased. It fills me all up when I feel that I have made you so happy _ It made me feel dreadfully when I felt how I had wounded your trusting loving faithful heart and now it makes me happy to feel that I have given you pleasure. Darling it is more blessed to give than to receive isn't it? I feel that I cant say any thing about it but you know how very very happy it makes me to have you so pleased _ And my Darling shall I have to confess that I was fooling you a little when I spoke of a little thing? I was for I meant these books & nothing else. But why not a little thing? I don't see why you make so much fuss about these. They aren't so dreadfully costly. If they had been I suppose I couldn't have gotten them. I haven't the bill for them yet I think they are to cost \$13.20. I tell you this to set your mind at rest over the question of cost. I have lots of books that cost more & expect to buy lots more _ So I don't think that they need be considered so dreadfully dear. If they had cost three times that you should have had them & at once for I want you to have the use of them all the time. If they had been bound in true calf or some other form like that you might call it extravagant but as it is it is just simply a necessity as much so as the afghan _ Darling I know you will not find fault with me & you needn't to have guarded me so carefully from suspecting it for I know that you were thoroughly delighted with Grove. What you wrote about it however suggested several thoughts that I will write about

now because they are things that we ought to look at together. In the first place if I give you things like this Dictionary of Music (& I shall complete it as soon as the fourth volume appears. Don't say a single word. I simply shall do it_) that seem to cost something you must remember that I am getting off pretty cheaply after all. Since I don't live in or near the city & can't see you often I don't have to be sending you Huylers candies every week or so & bringing you little things all the time & taking you here & there with an eat after the show. Don't you see that I should do these things[?] I couldn't help indulging myself in that pleasure. Now it is denied me. But this is not a very ~~grave~~ grave thought suggested by your letter[,] a grave one is a reflection upon your own character which I have ever loved to dwell upon _ My Darling you can't know what a happiness it has always been to me to know that you understood that I was not rich & always somehow helped me to feel easier in my penuriousness impecuniousness shortness than it is possible to feel with most girls. I know that you have never once thought that I was close[,] stingy or whatever you please to call it. There is nothing which galls me more than to be unable to spend money freely & do everything for all my friends & yet I have never been so situated that I could spend money freely _ It has often been a great trial to me to do without a clean fresh suit of clothes & hang on to the dingy tho whole & neat but shabby suit so as to have money to use for some study or books or some trip or some recreation which I considered valuable to me. I pretend not to care about it but all the same I do care about it & it isn't always pleasant to feel that a better dressed fellow than yourself has an advantage over you in spite of all you can do_ I hate myself for failing in this way & yet I can't help traces of this feeling when I am among people who are dressed well__ Well you don't see how all this is coming out do you? It is just in this way _ In spite of the fact that you have always had so many friends who have money all they want & can have that luxury of spending money all they want of it in spite of the fact that this so often spoils people & makes of them ~~mere money~~ mere money-worshippers who cannot get along with simple pleasures[,] you have always seemed to me to escape the taint & to have the rare power of being contented with a little when those around you have much_ And I may have imagined it Darling but I have thought that you fully understood my situation[,] fully appreciated just how I am situated & have always been with tastes way beyond my power of gratifying them. And so my Darling when you write as you do about the Dict. I appreciate it. The books are not a tremendous gift even for a man who owes [ill.] hundreds of dollars. I don't know what I shall give you next Christmas. We won't worry about this now. I shan't have as easy a time to find things as I had this time, I guess. My Darling I have often & often wanted to give you presents[,] bring you little things when I came to see you[,] take you out to places etc & there were hundreds of ways in which I could have so enjoyed doing things but I felt that I ought not to do them from principles of strict economy and Effie I have never hesitated to come to you lest you might think I was parsimonious. I have felt that you always understood me in this particular. I won't say that I think this a noble trait in your composition. You know I should admire it if I found it any where & you have more of it than any woman I ever saw. And now my own Darling you must never[,] when I give you things[,] feel that I am reckless_ Mamma is always charging me with being a spend thrift but she is unfair. She thinks that if I spend money in going to theater it is wasted. She would be right about the theater here but not in Baltimore. I must know about the best music[,] the best actors[,] the best painters[,] the best writers _ I do want a little money I suppose. I have spent thirty five cents for tobacco since I have been over here & ten cents for two pipes & that

tobacco has been smoked away as pipes or cigarettes & wasted but it isn't very extravagant so long as I don't average over 10 cents a month[,] do you think so_ Now this is quite a good deal upon my second point isn't it_ You understand me my darling don't you_ I am so glad that I have found a girl who is so sensible. She shall have to stare these things in the face sooner or later. Why not from the start_ I am so glad then that you do understand me in this matter. So you must not think me reckless when I spend money for you for Darling I shall not buy you useless trumpery & I think the purchase of the Dictionary was a fine stroke. But I believe I enjoy your satisfaction over the picture even more than the other. O Darling it is such a satisfaction to me that it could have been so good. The folks at ~~had~~ home passed the same verdict_ I suppose that now you will let it give you away as badly as your pictures have given me away for ~~it~~ they always stand on my writing table & I ~~can~~ can see it[,] the galaxy[,] hundreds of times every day. I am so glad too that I saved it up till Xmas for it is in itself such a pleasure to have a darling wish gratified. O Effie this Xmas hasn't been so bad after all has it? We have both been made very happy ___ I am not going to allow you to criticize my taste so severely about that afghan. It is not ugly at all. If any body dares to tell me that here I shall knock him down or else get knocked down_ according to our relative sizes. I shall not permit even you to call it ugly. It is not ugly nor homely. It is not bizarre[,] rococo[,] fantastic[,] if that is necessary to beauty but a thing may be beautiful according to my idea without being merely pretty _ And you needn't think I have out done you in the matter of presents either for I suppose that time is worth something & such a gift as yours couldn't be bought for twice what both cost. But who cares for money value any how in such things[?] We are both perfectly happy & satisfied & that is too delightful to both to let anything else come in to bother us. Now Darling am I not right in all this_ You can't be spoiled. Don't you suppose that you would have been spoiled long ago if you could be spoiled[?] So don't let that worry you _ I wonder what the thing is you hint at now & then so mysteriously. What can it be? Maybe I could help you. I am a pretty good schemer. Don't you think you had better let me into your confidence. I won't write on one thing I wanted to about your letter & that is the sentence "I don't think I was ever so tired before as I have been during the last few weeks & this week it has seemed as tho' I must drop." Remember you have promised_ Your health Darling is the very first thing to be looked after. I hold you to your promise.

I must stop now & go to bed. I shall write tomorrow night I hope. Perhaps I may get some time during the day but that is doubtful because I am working hard now at Limulus. I am so very glad I got your letter this morning. Have you understood my second point? It is so hard to always be sure that one is perfectly plain_ You must not refuse to send me the date of our birthday fearing that I shall feel obliged to send you some present that I cannot afford to buy for I shall never do anything of that so. You may rest easy upon that for I know that it would hurt you to feel that I was really wasteful_

Now my own little girl good night. I hope to have a good sound sleep & be well in the morning for I can't do good microscopic work when I am not in fine trim. Goodnight dearest dearest Effie. My own Effie how sweet those words. What treasure your love is to me my darling. May God bless & keep you always_

Your own loving Harry___