

[Written upside down at the top of the first page:]
O my Darling a thousand loves. My Effie_ My Effie

Purdue
Mar 29 [18]85_

My darling darling Effie

Your dear precious lovely[,] O what shall I call it[,] letter was at the post office when I got there this morning waiting for me. I wonder if any one could have guessed how much comfort & joy & relief would come to the fellow who should claim that letter. Perhaps the four cent stamp would have looked suspicious & one might say "O I see_ He has a lady-love in New York." "That young fellow fairly haunts this office on Sundays & one might think that he was carrying away a fortune, not ¼ oz + of trash from a girl." Cynic[,] what does he know[?] Who would think such a thing[?] What right has he to spend on such a subject? Darling I never greeted your writing more warmly_ Do you remember what an impression hand writing produced when a frost was in progress! This hand writing affected me as deeply as that, I do believe but instead of causing foreboding it had the opposite effect & told me that my Effie was at least well enough to write to me. It was like the other writing[,] that of an angel too. I went on to Sunday School & then that was all I could stand. I must get home & read your letter & I couldn't & didn't stay for morning service. I couldn't have sat through that. Don't ask me to tell you any thing about my happiness over the letter[,] not happiness merely to have a letter tho I wanted that badly enough it wasn't my worst want[,] happiness to have you well enough again to write to me so. You didn't tell me how you felt ~~after~~ on ~~Satu~~ Friday after the sleepless night & whether the pain still lingered but from the long letter I feel sure you were a good deal better. Effie you sweet girl[,] my sweetheart[,] do you know that I couldn't help my blues during the last few days or do anything at all with myself. To be away from you is bad enough but to be away & then have you in such distress is dreadful. I feel so helpless. I want to do something & there is nothing I can do[,] nothing at all. I can't even write I feel so wild_ On Thursday evening I was [ill.] way down. I wrote that evening but didn't dare to send you the letter. It was too blue & could only hurt you. I some times feel that some dreadful thing will happen to you[,] that you will be taken away from me & this is horrible. I don't feel this often. I have too much hope for it but when things are so blue black I get almost beside myself_ But let us leave this painful subject for there are too many happy ones in your letter that I want to write about. I am not quite straight yet. I can't get so all at once. This last thing has been too awful to be thrown off in a moment. Jules first letter came on Wednesday just as I was going into Chapel. We have Chapel at 8:45 during exams. I had to sit there & play an almost merry tune & O how it jarred on me when I wanted to go away alone & brace up to meet this new thing_ Well well let us hope for better things now my pet. It can't be winter for ever. There must come sunshine. Now let us hope it Darling any how for this dreadful foreboding makes us so very miserable_ Your letter[,] what shall I say of it my own Effie[?] It was so full of sweetness & love_ You know Effie how much I depend on you. I have no strength alone now. You know we get into habits in our wants as in other things & now that we have shown each other our love I feel this want of your love all the time_ The letter told me a great deal that I wanted so much to know. I wrote on Friday that there were some things that it might make you happy to think of & You Darling had been thinking of those very things when you could not

do anything else_ O how precious beyond words to be loved as you love my Effie. Last night & this morning I was thinking over & over again the delight of this love & of having such a place as I feel I have. I think over them often. They are not trite or commonplace thoughts to me no matter how often they come up and I longed so for you, as I do often, to be with you[,] to caress you & to hear your words of love[,] every word moved me[,] an intonation touched with love tho the words were not especially love talk_ I could say your name over & over it sounds so sweet to me Effie Effie Effie. The longing is intense. I want you worse all the time but there is a quieting balm too for I know that you feel just the same[,] just the same as I do & I can't feel sorry to have you suffer in this case. I am too selfish for that. I feel horribly if I thought you feel any less longing than I feel_

I was already to catch the kiss you sent. I caught them both. You will not find them returning to you but if you look out you may find others designed especially for you that I send every day. You don't always see them, I feel pretty sure or if you do you pretend to be unconscious but I fondly believe that the unconsciousness is only feigned & not genuine for I have come to believe that you affect a great many times unconsciousness when you are really feeling deeply_ O yes I am always on the watch for the least display of tenderness for I live on that. I am so weak & silly about it. You know how I am in that regard for I have exposed my self completely. Darling let me tell you something that you have long ago forgotten. On the 30th of Jan[uary] 1882 you wrote "My letter seems fated - - - a few minutes ago I made another attempt & wrote nearly two pages. I had just dipped my pen in the ink & had a big supply of the latter when the top of my pen holder came off and rolled the whole length of the page making about sixteen blots on its course which necessitates another beginning. Now if this had been for a girl, I should have let it go & said the blots stand for so many kisses. Since you are a ~~girl~~ not a girl I have to begin all over again." I think I never look over that letter without wishing you had sent that blotted sheet. But no I was a boy & couldn't have the kisses. It is well and I am glad now that we neither of us ever forgot at all under the then cover of cousin ship that kissing is not the proper thing as between young people of opposite sexes however pleasant a folly it is. I revere the whole memory of all that friendship & your part in it all & love & worship you Darling every time I think of it for I do believe that had you been different[,] I will say [##] as I fear many girls would have been[,] my feelings might have led me to acts that are not regarded as especially out of the way in ordinary etiquette[,] at least in the code of a hundred men I know[,] I don't know any thing about the women in this respect[,] but which would have made us have less respect for one another forever if not have actually prevented our ever loving at all. (Dinner) So I guess it is just as well that you didn't send the blotted sheet that time tho if you have it yet you might send it now. It couldn't do any harm now you know. If you don't I shall collect that as a just debt with a heavy interest too.

I am glad that you took the morphia for I have no objection to it on the ground you objected. I don't think that people are going to take to hypodermics & injections as a mode of dissipating & have no horror of a hypodermic syringe in your hands as one might learn to object to a bottle_ I don't understand the action of morphia very well. Of course you know that it is opium but while I should decidedly object to your forming the opium habit I can see no objection to your using it medicinally & getting all the relief you can from it. I think one ought to be careful not to resort to medicines except in cases of necessity but one ought to have & you always would have balance enough to define the proper use of a medicine. The neuralgia is

said to result from insufficient nutrition of the body. It is "the cry of the nerves for better blood" & is supposed to be due to stimulation of the nerves by the production of the activities of the nerves accumulating too fast for the removal of the blood. There isn't the least doubt in my mind that you are now spending more energy in the form of work of one sort and another than you are taking up & making into available shape ~~in~~ from your food. You know that in a bank [##] when more money is going out than is coming in the bank has got to burst. It may be a long time at it but in the end its fate is certain. You may last till next summer when we shall take care that you store up more than you expend but all the trouble of this winter and your own work is too much of an expenditure. I won't say a word Darling in the way of complaint with you, for I know that you think you are all right & that you are doing what you think best but I tell you this so that you can see how it looks to me_ You have suffered enough to be warned by it if you only understand the lesson & take its teachings. I haven't the least doubt that you are doing more than you can stagger under. I cant say give up your pupils for you think that your first necessity so I won't say a word about them tho I can't see why you want money so awfully all of a sudden_ But you must rest more some where or other[,] try and sleep more. Don't sit up so. Run up and down stairs as little as possible. Avoid very long or tiring walks & above all things avoid catching cold. Don't sit by an open window now (if you even do). Dont think you are tough & risk it when you are hot & feel that the cool air is refreshing__ Now Darling I know that you will say that you do all these things already & I believe you do but I must speak of the points at which I think you need to be most careful. I must speak about them because I will admit I think you need to be on the lookout at these points and cant you manage some scheme to have a lunch in Orange[?] Those two days are harder than all the rest. You oughtn't to do another thing on those days for that orange work is enough of itself. Cant you get about then by the horse cars[?] Why did you walk the windy track. There is always a strong breeze in a narrow passage hemmed in by buildings as that track is in part_ I don't know as you can use the horse cars in Orange at all but these are the things that come into my mind on the subject & you will let me tell them to you & not feel that I am picking at you wont you Dearie_ I am seriously alarmed for you Effie Love. You are dreadfully run down. I know that by the way that things upset you and I am very anxious indeed about you. I feel that another time like this is every way probable if you should get another such chilling. That is hardly probable now tho for the weather can hardly be as severe again__ But Darling you will be very careful of yourself wont you & not let any thing like this come again if you can possible help your self. You mustn't sit up after twelve. You can't run or do little sleep tho you think you can. I suppose that like me you feel less like sleep than ever but nowadays I am not often up after eleven oclock. And Darling do believe me when I tell you that I take all possible care of myself. I can't sleep anymore than I do now. I try to but I can't do it & I now often lie an hour after I awake & doze & do nothing till it begins to get light I do all I can to take the best care of myself and I think that I am all right[,] as all right as I can be for I should never have believed that I could be so in love as to cut up as I do_ Dearest you will believe me I know when I tell you that I take it pretty easy now. Four hours work a day is not hard work by any means. Of course I am busy more hours than that. In fact I am busy about all the time at something. I wish I could enjoy doing nothing but some how that worries me worse than any thing else. Now Darling I have said all that there is any use in saying on this thing I suspect & you won't get hurt my Love because you think I don't believe you are careful for I do believe

you take care of yourself but I think you think you can do more than you really can_ And I am glad we have got that old matter all settled for now. I feel sure that you haven't anything that is making even the least little bit of pain for either of us_ O you lovely girl how could I have been such a bear & acted so horribly[?] Arent you afraid of me when I growl so? It is like Beauty and the Beast we used to hear about when we were youngsters_ Darling your letter is lovely. I have just been reading it over for the fourth or fifth time to see what else I particularly want to write about_ You think I am good about writing often. O Effie it don't deserve mention if I feel that it made you any happier & would possibly do it. Do you not think I would do it & would want to do it. Darling I want you to be happy & contented. I have to blame myself for a great deal of the hardness of this long separation & for having made it even harder for you than it need have been by my behavior. I don't want you to feel at all that I am trying to be good & pay up or anything of the sort for I know Darling that you sympathize with me & forgive every thing & there is no paying up to be done. It isn't that at all. But this is it. I feel Darling a wonderful happiness in doing anything to please you and I feel that letters as often & as good as I can write are but very little for me to do for my Effie_ And this leaves out of account the pleasure of writing that I get from it & it is a pleasure to me[,] the greatest one I have next to getting your letters. O course I wish you could write oftener & sometimes I get blue about it but when I get straight I see it all right, & know that you want to wrote badly enough_ O sometime we shall not be dependent upon letters & I can see my Darling all the time & talk to her & hear her talk & shan't have to picture it all from my imagination. O you lovely how I do love you my Effie[,] my own darling Effie__ I am so glad you like the pictures. I had some misgivings about them, in point of size fearing they might not be large enough to suit you. I believe you are fond of large pictures & you like them framed. You made more fuss ~~of~~ over my picture frame than you did over the picture__ No Darling that was only said to tease you & I can't let you think I believe it for a moment you precious treasure. You mustn't have any more pain about being misunderstood_ I sent for one doz[en]. One was out of print in the size I ordered & they said that there was a balance in my favor as they had replaced the one I ordered by a smaller one. I didn't order any of the small ones for I don't like~~n~~ them so well but as he had sent one I told him to end on also one of Wagner which they have only in the small size. You have already received the key or list or what you please to call it so that you can tell who is which. So you like the idea of partnership. I wonder if after we are married you will claim one half of my razor. ~~Whe~~ "Wife where is our razor & shaving brush & other weapons?" If you do that I will raise a full beard for I won't have you using my razor to cut up kindling with or split whalebone_ Yes I will too. You can have the razor. Darling I will give you any thing & wont be mad if I do have to grind the blade every day when I shave_ Won't it seem funny to see me shave[?] You never saw that skilled labor performed. I shall have lots of things to astonish you with you no-brothers-sort of a girl. Now my sisters are partially trained but I shall have to take you & begin at first principles _ I think I shall rather enjoy your grumbles tho_ O Darling won't it be heavenly when we can be together all the rest of our lives and with~~e~~ no one to do a thing to keep us any longer apart? But I daren't think of that happy future. It will be lovely next Summer. How I look forward to it. It has so large promise.

Darling you said that you still had some pain in you when you wrote to me. I hope that writing so long a letter did not make it any worse. I hope for the best. Now I must quit in

haste. I want you to get this on Tuesday if possible. With deepest love & with fondest longing
& hopes

your own loving

Harry

I got fooled. That was only the first bell. I think that if I mail this by ~~Huston~~ you may get it on [ill.]day [ill.] wont be as sure of it as if I take it so I guess I will mail it my self this evening. I darent risk it with any one. I can walk over after tea ___ Goodbye sweet heart with love love eternal for my Darling little girl & Darling you are well enough now to take that hundredth kiss I didn't dare let you have & one or two more ~~fr~~. O for the time when I may kiss you really & truly & unmistakably & put my arm about you & hold you very near when I tell you what a joy & happiness it is to me to have your love & trust all mine. Darling we can not be perfectly happy now but we can get a good deal more that we ever used to know[,] all because now we know that we are beloved. Does it please you to be loved[?] O how it pleases me to find that you whom I love so fondly love me as fondly[,] think there is none like me. Goodbye Effie my own Darling[,] my own Darling Effie ___ with love beyond measure for my own Effie

from her own loving

Harry

Dont look for any letter on Wednesday for you see I am beforehand with this _