

Purdue Dec 8, [18]85.

My darling darling Effie

I can't understand what has suddenly gotten the matter with the mails_ The letters for the last few days are so very irregular. The letter you mailed on Saturday I did not receive until this morning & your Sundays letter I did not get today at all_ Perhaps this storm has some way affected the mails for they are delayed after being stamped in New York.

I am so glad you are feeling better & I am so anxious to hear from you now I have the dear letter I received this morning for I am sure your Sunday letter will be a very helpful & comforting one_ I was awfully disappointed this evening. I cant help it Darling. It isn't doubt about you at all. I know all about how you feel but I just simply want the letter since I cant have you__

We are having a regular down right storm. It has grown much warmer & this morning when I awoke there was a coat of snow everywhere_ It has rained & thawed all day & is still at it & you can imagine the Noachian result. I postponed my constitutional tramp to the city until a more favorable occasion_ It has had a good effect on me tho for I have occupied my rocker all the evening from 7 till 11 steadily reading up on foods & cookery__

Did I tell you what capital series of articles on the science cookery & foods I have found in the Popular Science Monthly[?] It is entitled the chemistry of cookery & is what I have sought for years "and mourned because I found it not_" You will no doubt hear from it later in your career for I mean to purchase it. It has been printed by Appleton in Book form and [I] have half a mind to get it for a Christmas present for Margaret only I am afraid she might feel insulted.

I am struggling through the scales the second time faster and am having a dreadful time. I cant play them any better than I did the first time and have to stop & learn the fingering just as if it was a brand new thing. I value the scales for the finger training but I do think the time I spend trying to commit to memory the fingering instead of having it on a score before my eyes is a dead waste. I get so mad some times I get up from the piano & tear around the room & feel as if I wished the infernal scales were in sheol. All the minor scales without exception bother me fearfully & the 6th & 10^{ths} are exasperating to the very last degree. I guess I am like my uncle Charlie. He used to get so far & stick there & so do I & I guess I might about as well give up ever expecting to make much out of the piano unless I had a great deal more time than I have now. I find the scales useful however for I am sure my fingering is easier but they torture me half to death at times. I shall keep them up however until I get them even & fast in all positions. I have set about that & I am going to do it if I dont do another thing this year. I get about 45 minutes practice per diem. Of course that dont amount to much. I rarely play anything but the scales or some improvised things during the week but usually play a good deal on Sundays_____

Darling I can't understand the hitch about the Catalogue of the Etching Society. I am sure I took it down as Dr. Brayton gave it to me and he had had several he said. Don't bother anymore about it & I will hunt ii up when I come home. I was afraid to wait but it has got so late now that I guess a couple weeks wont make any difference. I will enquire for it at Astor but dont you take time to go there. If you have a chance you might enquire at

Kepper & Co's

23 East 16th St[reet].

Right near the corner Brday [Broadway]_ That wouldnt take much time but I guess you had better leave it Effie Love & let me hunt it up when I come home__

Darling I am so anxious for it. I want to be with you so very much. It is so hard out here without anyone at all and most of all without you. If I had you I could spare the rest. I am glad I am not so bad as I was last year. Then I was too utterly miserable to work but now I can & do turn out a big lot of work all the time. That takes the place of friends & confidants and all that & I can grind grind & forget a good deal. I haven't heard from home for over a week & shouldn't have known Mag is away if it hadn't been for what you have told me_

My Darling I must go to bed. Tomorrow night[,] Effie mine[,] I will try & write you a longer letter __ Now my Darling[,] good night & kisses & love all the time leaving me & going toward my Effie __

from your own loving

Harry__

Darling just another word of love for there is plenty to send you. Oh how I wish I could tell it to you & fondly kiss you my own but I send the kisses. You know darling there is the desire tho we cant gratify it.

With fondest love

Your own

Harry