

Madison N.J.
June 6th 1886.

My own darling Harry,

We took Laura [Burch] home last night after tea, but it was too late to mail your letter, for the mail goes at 6:30. I knew it would be too late, so I didn't take it over. I tho't as it ~~w~~ couldn't reach you before Wed[nesday]. I might as well keep it, and send with this. I am so sorry that you will have to do without letters tomorrow & next day, but it could not be helped. In one way Carrie will have a harder time than we have, for she cant get her letters as regularly, and it wont be so convenient to send them. Darling I did not receive your letter yesterday, and so I am going two whole days, and half of another, without a word from you, so you see you are not the only one to suffer. You say that it is my fault, but darling I told you as soon as I decided to go home on Monday. I was not sure of going as soon as that, but as soon as I settled it, I told you. I never tho't of going on Sat[urday]. and I dont see why you should think of my going then, for you knew that I wanted Laura for three weeks, but could only have her for two weeks, and so have had to rush things through & work every possible minute, and as we would be working till supper time on Sat[urday]. I couldn't very well go home after that. I never dreamed of your thinking of such a thing as my going home Sat[urday]. and as soon as I decided to go on Monday I wrote you about it. I am not blaming you for it, but I must say that I dont blame myself either. I dont think you tho't of it very seriously or you surely would have realized that I couldn't very well go on Sat[urday]. for we'd have to work up to the very last minute. As it turns out, even working till the last minute didn't bring us out even, & I will not be able to leave here till tomorrow afternoon. Laura has had to leave a few little things to do tomorrow A.M. I hate to take your mother's time, but they say it is all right, and as it will only be a little while I guess it wont make any serious difference. Darling the wedding dress is really elegant. Every one is wild over it, and your father was so worked up over it that he came in from his work & hung around about an hour and a half so that he would be sure to see it when it was tried on. He was very enthusiastic over it, and the others are perfectly delighted. I really think, that tho' the dress didn't cost a quarter as much as Ada's, no, it didn't cost over an eighth as much, it is going to look just about as handsome. The effect will be just as handsome, tho' of course if the two were put side by side, mine would not compare with her's [sic], but as it wont be put side by side with her's [sic] it will look just as well as her[s [sic] did, tho' the bride will be a hideous one, instead of pretty, and even Ada's dress couldn't change that. I am really astonished to have such an elegant dress. I knew it would be lovely, but I had no idea it would look quite so fine. It has a perfectly plain train, & the rest of the dress is very simple, not at all fussy looking. I mean that the making is simple[,] doesn't look fussy, tho' the material is rich and not very simple looking, but I was only speaking of the making. I hate a wedding dress to be made fussy, with ruffles and no one knows what all. I wont describe it to you for you would not understand it, and I will have to let you wait till you can see it yourself. Darling what do you think is the

latest? This A.M. Sue and Miss A[damson]. & I were in the spare room looking at the dress, and Miss A[damson]. said she had a little package she wanted me to put in my trunk. She went in the other room and brought out an exquisite fan, which she gave as a wedding p[resent]. I was so astonished I could hardly say a word. She got it in N.Y. on Friday. Sue said she asked her what to get, & asked if it wouldn't be nice to get me a fan, and Sue said she tho't it would be a lovely present, so they selected one. It is perfectly lovely, and I am delighted with it, tho' as she is your friend it seems hardly fair for me to have a present that you cant enjoy. No I wont say that, for I know you'll enjoy it. I mean that it is an individual present, and as it is from one of your friends it seems as tho' it ought to be something for us both, or else something for you to use. I will of course carry the fan at the wedding. Five presents already, and over a month before the wedding, Ethel's lilies, Maggie's lace, Cousin Mary's berry spoon, and Gertrude's lamp, & now this exquisite fan from Miss A[damson].

Darling I am going to invite Laura. She has taken so much pains, and such an interest, & has worked so hard to have every thing nice, and I think it would be very nice to show my appreciation. I spoke to your mother and the girls about it, and they seemed very much pleased, and were so glad I felt so. Darling they have all been so very kind, and every thing has been so pleasant and harmonious. The two week's work is over, and not a disagreeable thing has happened. They are all so happy, and I know you will be delighted with the change. They seem to think every thing of me and your dear mother seems just as lovely to me & just as ready to do for me, as tho' I was one of the girls. She treats me exactly as she does them, and I cant tell you how lovely she has been. Your father is just as he always has been[,] as kind as he can be, and I cant tell you how many ways he shows his fondness for me. The other day when the girls were going to N.Y. he was going to drive them to the depot. I never tho't of going along, for I had so much work to do, but your father said "Oh yes Ef do come along. We wont be gone long, and after we leave the girls at the depot we'll hurry home. Just let your work go for three quarters of an hour." I saw he was very anxious to have me go, so I got on my things and went. Coming home we had such a nice talk. Finally when we got talking about the wedding he said "Ef I want to ask you something & I want you to be frank about it, and answer me, for I have been wanting to ask you, & now I want to know. How are you fixed for money? Are you going to have enough to do all you want to and not feel pinched? You've had quite a loss, & I tho't maybe you'd be cramped for money, as you had of course not counted on losing that money when you made your plans. There are going to be a lot of our folks at the wedding & I want to help you out if you need it. ~~Not~~ Now tell me just exactly how you are fixed." I told him that I had plenty for the wedding expenses. He said "Are you sure? Be honest with me, & dont hesitate to tell me." I thanked him & told him I was sure, that I of course was sorry over my loss, but that it wasn't going to put me in an awkward position, that I had hoped to have some thing over, and tho't it would be nice to save something and start our savings with some of the money I had already saved, but that it would of course change that plan some. I would

not be short tho' for the wedding expenses. He said he tho't that was very nice, and he seemed very much pleased with my idea of saving some, and said "Well that was very nice, and I am glad you think about such things, but if your money dont go as far as you expect it to, & you need more, I want you to be sure & let me know." Wasn't that awfully good of him? I think it was lovely. I know I wont have to call on him, but I appreciate his kindness just the same. Darling every thing is so pleasant, and I have so much to tell you about my visit here ~~but~~ but I must save it till you come home.

Now my own darling, this is the last Sunday letter, & I know you are as happy over that fact as I am. I suppose you rec'd my letter & Carrie's this A.M. I hope Carrie's letter showed her real feelings, for I know if it did, it would please you very much. She appreciates your sympathy very much, tho' darling, they are all lovely about it, and they dont abuse her by any means. They are very well satisfied, and every thing is very easy for her. Your father is wonderfully delighted over it, and so Carrie isn't made uncomfortable even. Still I ~~think~~ know she was very much pleased & touched by the way you took the news, and the way you wrote. She feels that you had been thro' it, and can understand it, and she has spoken several times of her appreciation of the letters you wrote to her & your mother. I read her parts of the letters you wrote me about the affair, & your opinion of Mr. U[pham]. & of course she was delighted. Now darling I must go downstairs.

With so much more love than I can measure Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ

Ever your own devoted

Effie.