

No. 51 West 37th St.

N.Y. June 8th 1886

My own darling Harry,

I went down to Maiden Lane this A.M. and ordered the invitations, and I also went to see Mr. McDonald about my check. He says it is all right, & he'll send me another one as soon as his book is made up. He hadn't sent it because he knew I was out of town. I am mighty glad that I am to have that \$15.00, & that the fiend who robbed me couldn't get the benefit of that. Darling the invitations were less than I expected. They were to charge .60 a line for the plate, & you know we counted ten lines, but they dont charge for the to, which is on a line by itself, and the 1886 at the bottom, they dont count either, so that makes the plate come to \$1.20 less than we had counted on, and the bill for plate, engraving, and envelopes (two ~~sets~~ sets inside & outside) was only \$8.55. Isn't that wonderful? I found that 150 invitations would be all we'd need. Darling your letter came in the 2 o'clock mail, and got here a few minutes before I did, and I found it on the mantle when I came in. I enjoyed it very much, and it helped me a good deal, for I think you were feeling better than you had done for a few days. I guess darling that your questions about how Carrie felt about your letter, have all been answered, and you know from the letters you rec'd on Sunday how she felt about your letter. She was delighted with it. She didn't show me the letter, but I know from the way she spoke that you wrote exactly the right thing. I dont know whether she showed the letter to ~~anyone~~ the others, or whether she even told them about it. I suppose she did, but I don't know that she did. But she & all the others were much pleased with the letter you wrote to your mother, and Carrie gave it to me to read. She spent a long time writing her letter to you, and I tho't it must have been quite a long letter.

Darling my trunk arrived last evening all right, and my dress wasn't mussed a bit. I was afraid it would not look quite as fresh & nice after it had been packed, but it is so lovely & soft that the wrinkles all shake out. Mamma & Jule are so pleased with Laura's work, and feel so grateful to the folks at Madison for suggesting the plan, and for all their kindness to me. Mamma says she dont know what I would have done if it hadn't been for them, for this house has been in such confusion. ~~but~~ The painting will, we hope, be finished today. We hope the servant question is settled for the present at least. We have two very nice girls, and we hope that we will begin to have some comfort in our new home. We would have been in order long ago if it hadn't been for the pesky workmen. They poked along, & wouldn't hurry one bit. They'd come one day, & stay away two or three, and have just made every thing uncomfortable, and then the trouble with the servants has been so tantalizing, but now I guess we are to have a change, and things will begin to go right.

Darling your father bought my ticket, & checked my trunk, and all I had to do was to take the ticket and check, & get on the train. He has been so lovely to me in so many ways. Darling they spoke about my saying father and mother, and want me to begin it right away as

soon as we are ~~more~~ married, ~~and~~[.] They think it will seem very strange to me at first, & that I'll probably make a good many slips, but they say that it will be easier for me if I begin in from the start. I am glad they want me to do it, & glad that we had a chance to talk about it, for I would so much rather know just how they feel. It will be hard at first, but I want to do it, and intended to do it, even if they hadn't spoken of it, but I will feel so much better now that they have spoken of it, and will have no uncomfortable feeling. It will be strange at first, & hard on that acc't, but after the first few times it will be as easy and natural as can be, and I mean to start right in with it and not put it off. That is a thing Ada dont do, and I dont like it. Mrs. Underwood thinks the world of her, & wants Ada to say mother, but Ada dont like to and doesn't do it, and I think she does wrong. I think she is lovely, and I usually approve of what she does, but I have told her that I tho't she was real mean not to say mother when Mrs. Underwood wants so much to have her do it. Ada is just as sweet and lovely to her as can be, and she treats her just exactly as she should, and is very very fond of her, but she says she cant call her mother. Perhaps one reason she feels so is because she calls her own mother "mother" a good deal, & is afraid her own mother will have some feeling about her calling some one else by that name. Mrs. Hull is lovely but she has some very peculiar peculiarities, and I think perhaps Ada has a good reason for feeling as she does. If she should call Mrs. U[nderwood]. mother it couldn't make her have a kinder feeling towards her than she already has, for everything is just was as it should be as far as feeling is concerned. Darling I have talked with mamma about your feeling about taking me so far away from her, and how you dread so parting us. She appreciated it very much and was just lovely about it. I told her about your lovely & unselfish offer, to give up Purdue and even your line of work, if I wanted you to. She tho't it was very lovely of you, and appreciated it fully, but she felt, as I knew she would, that it would be a dreadful mistake, and said she would rather make the sacrifice than to have you give up the work you had prepared yourself for. She said perhaps we wouldn't always be so far apart, but that she wouldn't for anything have you give up your work, that she felt that you would succeed, and that tho' the separation from me would be very hard, she wouldn't want to have you do any thing foolish, & she says, she thinks perhaps something better will turn up before a great while. She was just as lovely as she could be. Darling I promised to think about another usher. I said I didn't feel like asking any of the Hiller boys. I think it would do better to ask Harry Snyder. I had tho't of him before, but he is rather bashful and I tho't perhaps he wouldn't be quite equal to such a conspicuous place, but I think he would be pretty good after all, and I dont know but what he would do better than almost any one else we can get. Mr. Artz would do splendidly, but I dont exactly like to ask him. Still I dont know any reason why I should feel so. I have half a mind as long as you have put it into my hands to write to Harry Snyder. The more I think of it the more I am in favor of it. Uncle Theo was so very kind about offering us his house, etc. and I think they would all be very much pleased if Harry was asked to be usher. But darling I guess I'll wait till I hear from you. If you get this Thurs[day]. aft[er]noon].

you could send an answer that night, & I would get it Sat[urday]. & could write at once to Harry. Thurs[day]. will be a busy day for you, & you may not have time to write much, especially if you have already written that day, before this reaches you, but if you cant write more that [sic] a postal card that will do. If you have no way to mail it, unless you make an extra trip to the city, it wont be worth while to bother with it, but if you can write just a few words, & get some one to mail the postal, or note, for you, I'd like to hear about it on Sat[urday]. but if you have to go way over to Lafayette, I'd rather you would not do it, for I know you'll be very tired, and I'd rather have you rest. Of course if you can leave on Friday you need not bother at all, but if you are to be delayed at Purdue, I would ~~like to~~ like to know what you think, so that I can send word at once. I think that probably you will ~~be~~ be delayed, and dont count on anything else, but I will be patient, and am satisfied to have you do what you feel is best.

Now darling I must close. With unbounded love and such a longing to see you I am
ever your true & loving
Effie.