

Purdue June 5th [18]86__

My own darling little girl Θ Θ

I have had no letter today and you may be sure I shall go in person to the office tomorrow but I don't imagine I shall find it as uncomfortable as last Sunday would have been_ I think darling[,] you have done splendidly with your letters while at Madison and I am so glad for they have helped me so much but I am thankful that in an hour or so we shall begin the last week. I am so wild to see you. My imagination hasn't played out & I live with you very often in imagination but it isn't as satisfactory as the real thing and I want you in person_ I shall have you soon but these last days are trying. This week has been far easier than last somehow and next week will be so busy that it will be well filled up_ Darling you will write every day up to the letter for Saturday[,] wont you[,] for even if I go on Friday & so miss the letter it will be less loss than if you dont write & I stay here__ I still hope in spite of fate but it is a very faint hope indeed and I don't expect to get away until Saturday. You Darling will write me a letter for Saturday on the chance[,] won't you[?] I would do as much for you__ I shall write you in full in a day or two as soon as I can find out the Wabash time scheme just what I will do in several contingences & then when I leave will telegraph what I have done_ By that time you will have written planning our meeting. I do hope you can plan it so that we shall be able to spend sometime alone at first & for that reason I shall try to take the train which gets into New York in the evening. I want the long quiet we should then have & tho I shall be very tired it will rest me wonderfully to be with you__ Oh wont it be a rest & relief darling to be together again & feel that this sort of thing is over. We must wait a few days longer & they are hard enough but we shall have the thought of our meeting brighten them up for us_ Do you think much of it. I know your thoughts are mainly & chiefly upon the great event and necessarily so but I believe that you must think of the meeting we are to have just as I do__ I wish that we were to be married at once & then settle down for we shall be so upset but that is mean for I ought to be willing to stand some of the confusion of the preparations. I am so impatient for the summer to begin July & for July seventh to come around. It will be a happy day & a still happier night for we shall leave all & go off by ourselves and what a relief it will be. I suppose that during the day we shall really see almost nothing of each other__ Our party will very likely not arrive till eleven oclock or near noon and it will take some time for dressing before the ceremony and in the interval we shall very likely both be busy at particular duties so that I presume we shall not be able to get alone by ourselves and by five oclock we shall be getting desperate & by nine oclock or so when I presume we shall start for the boat we shall be still more so, but after we are actually off we shall be alone__ Then we shall both feel too sober over our partings to enjoy our full happiness except in the happiness we shall feel in comforting each other & being comforted. To me marriages are usually terribly sad occasions. I wonder if at the time mine will be so. It seems now as if it would be the reverse[,] full of gladness after my long sadness

but I imagine at the time I shall feel pretty sober and any thing but jolly. But I don't doubt Darling that I shall be happy whether jolly or sober__

I wonder how you liked my letter to Carrie or whether you saw it at all__ I don't know that I did right to send it in the manner I did but I preferred to make certain that the rest should not know Carrie had had it until after she had read it_ I am afraid that I didn't do it right for I am just utterly worthless at writing congratulation letters. I can't seem to enjoy writing in a high sounding pompous style & yet that is the style most suited I suppose. I just wrote in the plainest way what I thought about the thing and sent it. I think there is some doubt if she will like my writing about her not waiting till Mr. Upham has a fine appointment & good salary. I think that her notions on that subject will suddenly & radically change. It seems perfectly ridiculous to hear some people talk before they know what they are talking about_ Carrie has been one of the worst and she will I guess eat her words with a good appetite. I think she has the sense for that and will do the nice thing if the old stuff is brought up but certainly not be so foolish as to wait until she can live in plenty_ Sue & Mag will sometime[,] I hope[,] have a chance to come down from their high stools. Sue in particular needs to be married. I guess Darling you won't believe that or that any woman ever lived who couldn't be perfectly happy single. You fully believe you could yourself have been or at least would have believed you were & that would have been as good. I don't believe that of most women tho I wont dispute you if you assert it of yourself tho I privately dont believe it all the same but I fully think Sue will have to be married to be complete. Mag is a more doubtful case. She dont fall in with every one but Sue takes to most men a little & would more I think under certain circumstances. I know[,] fully believe[,] that I could never have been perfectly happy if I were a bachelor all my life. I am not built that way I feel very sure__ And I think that some women at any rate[,] if not most[,] are likewise constituted so that they must be married to satisfy them__ There is unfortunately Darling no way to prove this so if we differ there can be no tribunal_ But if we do differ it wont kill us. We shall be likely to differ on many speculative matters if we do any original thinking_ I suppose that at home the excitement had not yet died out when you left. Carrie hasn't written to me. I don't blame her for she doubtless feels embarrassed at the notion but I shall not blame her if she don't write about it or be surprised if the girls don't for they will reason that I have heard it from you. It is fortunate for me since I do happen to care very much about the affair that I am to be home so soon for I know they wouldn't write about it or more than mention it. I count it very lucky that you were in Madison at the time it was disclosed. You see Darling I havent a very high opinion of the girls from an epistolary standpoint & you wont wonder when you see how it goes next year_ I havent had a word from any one except Papa since May 17th. You have written & kept me pretty well posted & so I havent suffered but you see it shows that they are only anxious to get out of writing. I save time by it any how__

Today I have been packing my things[,] some of them. I propose to take the thing by easy stages and gradually get every thing in. I am going to packup [sic] all except a few

inconvenient things & let them be packed if necessary by Golden in the fall if I want them[,] e.g. my pictures, a rocking chair and a reading desk I have. I may possibly pack the pictures but it will require the construction of a special box & seems hardly worth while for I feel semi-certain that we shall come back here. But I do hate to feel sure of it on your account for I am afraid you will get terribly homesick Darling. I know I havent painted the horrors half strong enough_ But I know that you are brave enough to stand it even if you are homesick if you only keep well so I am not afraid. Oh Darling my darling[,] I shall be so happy when I can call you mine again & kiss your dear sweet lips__ Goodnight Darling with boundless love & kisses Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ
from your own

Harry.