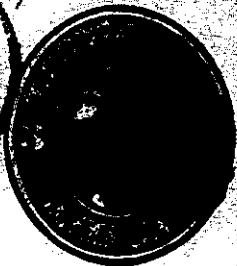


If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to



Mrs. Emma K. Tourge  
# 227 West 6th St  
Erie  
Penna.

CHAUTAQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018

from Roxboro  
next Sunday  
as I shall be  
in the country  
until then -  
Mrs. Albion -

Greensboro N.C.  
Oct. 1 - 1878

My Darling Wife:

I did not forget your birthday yesterday - Indeed, I did nothing but think of you all day, and yet I could not write to you as I knew I should make you feel so bad if I did. I have not been feeling well for a few days and of course am not as cheerful as I might be - I am so glad you are happy - I cannot tell you how much pleasure it gives me - I think of it almost all the time - As I ride through the country my one dream is of your happiness. Oh, my Darling, why did I ever bring you here to experience sorrow. How happy we should always have been, if we had remained in Erie - I do think it was the very greatest mistake of my mortal life - Bechik is over - We must now make the most of the few years

which remain - if indeed any remain.  
I will live only for your happiness hereafter.  
- if I am permitted - I feel as if I had  
blighted and darkened the sweetest  
and noblest of lives - and I fear I  
shall have no time to atone for it.

It is so strange, how wonderfully em-  
tent your happiness makes me - I  
want to see you, I want to realize your joy,  
- Oh so much - but I would not  
have you come back into this old  
sad life again, even for a day, for  
anything in the world. Yet I would  
have you ready to come. It may be fool-  
ishness but I cannot think I shall ever  
see you again - I do not think I shall  
live long. I think I am going to be sick  
but if I am, I will send for you, at  
once. Don't be troubled about me. There is  
no reason why I should have these  
visions, I suppose they come from the  
great wide gulf between your happy  
life and the old one here - never

mind them - only be ready to  
come, if I send for you.

There is no estimating how the elec-  
tion will go. The Greenback craze comes  
and goes in spots and streaks. I  
think the general notion is in  
my favor and people think I will  
win - I do not waver in any faith  
on that point. I may be wrong but  
do not believe it.

Of course, I know nothing of any  
other news - Thayer and his father  
are here. I can tell you a secret  
dear, Thayer is in love. With whom, do  
you think? I am half a animal not to  
tell you, but guess I will. It is yourself.  
It is funny enough to see him come in  
to my room and talk about you. I  
don't think he would ever stop, if I  
did not lead him off. I declare, if  
I had known it before, I should  
have been suspicious. Eh? I think  
Miss Hull will console him but she

has a very poor opinion of you.  
She is shrewd enough to be jeal-  
ous of the right one. She told me  
quite spitefully, this morning, that  
she did not think any woman except  
Mrs. Tourge could ever please Eeb-  
ward - I rebuffed her by telling her what  
an exalted opinion you had of him and  
how much alone he was to you in  
my absence &c. She has gone up stairs  
in anything but a cheerful humor,  
but she has shut her little Yankee jaws  
together with a full determination to  
conquer Thayer or I am quite mistaken.  
I like the Dr very well, did not at  
first, but he grows on one and well  
very well indeed - I am in pain  
and cannot write more now - My head  
and bones ache and I feel bad - Think  
I will send for some lemons - I shall  
not be at home again for about two  
weeks or a week from next Sunday -  
will write you as I can, But you need  
not expect a letter until I write