

Jan 5 '79

Mrs. Abigail W. Sawyer
No 227 West 6th St
Erie
Penna

Greensboro N.C.

July 5th 1879 -

My dear wife:

I suppose you will think that I have been very busy, ~~and~~ ^{not} to have written more this week, but I have been at work so closely that I really could not write letters. I wrote to Lottie on New Year's night and suppose that was very little satisfaction either to you or her as it was all funfornacle. There is a heap of news to be told and I believe several questions of yours to answer. Well, first in regard to the Shaffer mortgage I wrote you long ago that it was discharged and released of record. I suppose Angie has got to dreaming about it and conjured up some frightful thing about it because she has not got the mortgage. Not knowing that the possession of an instrument of record has no more to do with the character and relation of the parties than if it were held by the man in the Moon. It is discharged of records.

(2) I have rented the place to Mrs Simpson, for one year, with the privilege of three if still held and rented at \$125; or she to board your mother, allowing her one room, for the rent, as long as you all may desire her to stay. Now,

in regard to that, I have but one word to say. I think you had all better leave her here. She no doubt writes very delicious things about her fearful unhappiness &c. It is all funny. She was never heartier or better since I have known her. Indeed I have never known her to be so long without actual illness of any kind. She does nothing, as to spend and amuses herself very completely by reading whatever she gets hold of to one of the Lempson girls by the day and both like it. She is just as well off here and better than anywhere else, and the place will pay her board. At the same time, I cannot see just what you would do with her there. She cannot live with you and Berlin. Is it proposed that Angie set up by herself in one house and you in another? Of course I do not pretend to dictate to Angie. She will decide for herself. That is my notion. I expected to be through with my manuscript this week (last rather) but have still 580 pages. One week's more work. Then there will only be the index to prepare. I do not think I shall go to Raleigh until next week - probably next Monday -

Judge Kerr died on yesterday, so that the Special Term in Hillsborough, which was to have been held tomorrow will not come off, as I suppose, at least no one will be there and no business done.

Do not be troubled about me. I have got over all the shock of the pest and am as full of determination as ever. I knew that if I did not tie myself down to this work, I should die - give up and die of the shocks of disappointment. I am over it now and am only alarmed for you. Please do not brood. Do you know Darling what a great and constant fear of that, I have, with you? You must break off from it. Live in the present and do not permit yourself to think of past or future. Don't be troubled about me. I am sure you will have a happy New Year if you will let yourself - what is past cannot be helped. What is to be cannot be changed by any such course on your part and

I do think you are in very great peril from it. Go out all you can, visit every body you know and come you do not know. I beg of you cheer, to do so. If you yield to melancholy and brooding you will very soon destroy all capacity for enjoyment. I fear that you have greatly impoverished that now, live solely in the present - You cannot see the future now nor can you foresee its state, where or how it will be you cannot know. Do not indulge in bitter-ness or repinings. We must take things as they are. We are healthy and strong now and make our own unhappiness because we will not let the future take care of itself. If you will not do it for your own sake, or if you will not believe my fear please do it because I desire it.

Do not have any fear as to my health. It is good and is going to remain so. My eyes, I found were chiefly injured by the jaundice, that I have remedied. I will come and see you as soon as I can, and will do all I can, but you must not worry - You can only wait and trust. I am trying to raise some thing out of the land. Don't know whether I shall do it or not, but I shall try.

You must not think that I mean to blame you, by anything I have written. It is only my great love and terrible fear for you, which compelled me to say it. Oh darling, for my sake do not think of past or future. I will remedy both, with God's help; but I cannot see precisely how or when I know it will come. I have got no money yet, except \$50 with which I had to pay back the money I had used. I have now a paper I can negotiate received, last night, and I expect some money tonight. It was promised me last night but did not come. Let us have a Happy New Year.

Steen has just come in and informed me that Daisy Bretter died last night of diphtheria. I had not heard that she was sick. Thank God my dear, we are spared and in health - It does not seem to me

admirable for Lottie to go to school
now. I am fearfully afraid of
the effects of climate on our tender
flower. God bless her. I am afraid
she will grow entirely away from
me. I dreamed last night of see-
ing you both and it seemed as if
she had so changed since I saw
her that I could hardly make
out that she was the lass who
used to smile on the green

we' the light looks warm ^{her brown} over
her joy in her deep blue ^{eyes}
Give her all the kisses you can spare.
You see Darling I have made up
my mind that we will be happy
— despite surroundings, and
whether the future is dark or clear.
Perhaps when we see each other
everything will appear as plain
that we will laugh at our present
so fresh depression. I feel sure's

death, almost bonyard, I am
so sure that the future will be
a glad one.

I forgot to tell you that it
is stinging cold here. Thermom-
eter at about 10° above zero
only —

I wish I could have been to
see you at your New Year's
reception, if I could have been
~~with~~ invisible. Poor dear Lottie, I am
so sorry for her holiday disap-
pointments and when Santa Claus
comes along on his way back I
will surely make him set the
matter right with her.

I am going over to the Semis-
bury this evening. I have from
Miss Hull's call for
three months and have not made
it yet — Did I write you that

The Dike's have gone - buy and
baggage to Durham. Thought
they had compromised them-
selves too much here by con-
sulting with Radicals - from
whom, by the way, they got all
their trade -

I don't believe there is any
more news only a little thing
I am at work & on for Solie
which I will send as soon as
done.

Yours ever & hopefully,

Richard Henry