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PAID

N.Y.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862  
Kingville

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2018

Wednesday Eve.

Jan. 23-1862

And so, Lou, you think you ought to have the poem, which prevented your getting a letter last Sunday, do you? Well, have you any idea, that my sense of justice will prompt me to render it to you? If you have, I would advise you to dismiss it speedily, for it is my settled conviction, that you will not be blessed with a glimpse of that, — ~~xxx~~ until your eyes are afflicted with a vision of one, who considers himself, "Yours most devotedly". In the first place, it is a poem of about 800 lines or more, — forty pages and more. — and you know, I would not copy all that, for the sake of any woman, this side of Helen of Troy at least. — (Give my likeness a blessing, if that last sentence displeases you.) You say I do not come to you with anything I write, as I need to do. Of course I do not. I am

older by several months, you know, and with age have increased in will, wisdom if you choose to term it so, — at least prudence and good manners. The first, sons taught me in this respect, I mean — by Angie. You know, I delivered a lecture at Loinesville, on a time, and had it very fairly written out. You know too, that, being besieged by certain young ladies, for possession of said manuscript, to avoid what might seem a boorish rudeness, I gave it into Angie's hands, knowing that she could say nay to them, more gracefully than I could, fully supposing that she would. You know the result. I cannot think of it now without muttering "darned fool." Some how it has galled me wonderfully, for a small thing. I would give the last cent in my meagre skin, now, to be reliably informed that those young ladies were accidentally drowned, within

an hour after leaving Loinesville that day, and the manuscript thereby irrecoverably lost. Now, for the lesson. I took a solemn oath then, that I would never trust a manuscript, that I cared more than three straws about, in the hands of a woman unless it was in regard to something that most intimately concerned her, personally. And so, my George, I would scold if you dare! I'm far enough off, and nearly deaf at that. Who cares? Besides that, I have marked it as an innumerable calamity, that whenever I yield to my besetting sin (good nature, and a most inconsiderate desire to oblige those whom I love) and give away manuscripts, <sup>to</sup> anything of the feminine gender, I am sure to lose it and wish the thing safe back in my portfolio, again. But then, if it were not for this embargo on manuscripts, I don't think I should give it

may move to you. For why? Suppose  
I mounted some of your brilliant  
efforts, how in the world would I  
get them, do you suppose? Do you  
recall the programme or shall I  
refresh your memory. First - three days  
of steady copying, and then have to look  
at them. I don't be smothering now, I can't hear  
and you don't think me one.

Nellie has come around and  
~~has~~ <sup>concluded</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>think</sup> that she guesses she loves  
Lois, or at least, can love him. She  
careless, graceless creature she ought to  
lose him, just for her thoughtlessness  
and stupidity. I used to think, that  
our engagement was tolerably firm  
my but it is not to be grinned at by  
the side of Nellie's and Lois'. Well, I  
am most heartily glad, that these two  
unaccountables have at length come to an  
understanding. I have been on nettles  
for the past two years last, with the pro-  
wardness of the two, and the oppression  
the other they would finally, not get together  
in the station as they will & me.

Good Night

Albion

mature imperfect one at that - but a child  
of four or five years at least. The birth being  
as I observed, premature, Mrs G - is in an ex-  
ceedingly precarious condition. - I went up  
and heard Gibson's classes recite yesterday that  
he might feel at his duty to leave the at such a  
time, as he probably would have preferred  
other circumstances.

Darling - You wish to know  
if you had best go to Gainesville  
as a teacher next year. I really  
don't know what to say to you about  
the matter. If you can get a good  
salary I suppose you had better do  
it. I am really sorry that any  
such necessity exists. I had hoped  
that there might be no occasion for  
you to spend another year away from  
me, for I know you would rather be  
with me even though your labors were  
more severe than if you were away.

Some how it has seemed that some  
way would discover itself, to make it  
prudent for us to be married next Au-  
tumn. At present however there is probably  
no reasonable prospect that this hope will  
be fulfilled. For myself, I shall proba-  
bly teach somewhere next year. Perhaps



now Kingsville. Mr. Barrett has  
offered me \$3.50. or \$400. for four or five  
hours teaching. If I can do no ~~more~~ <sup>better</sup>  
I shall accept his offer. I would be  
willing to take charge of a school my-  
self in which case you could be with  
me. but I am not in just the best  
situation to procure such a position  
and do not know that I can do it.  
again if I stay here I can continue  
my legal studies and be ready for  
admission to the bar at the close of  
the year. If I took the entire charge  
of a school I might not be able to give  
so much attention to this ulterior ob-  
ject. On the other hand if we could be to-  
gether it would probably be more profit-  
able to both. I feel most deeply the need  
of your presence to strengthen and up-  
hold me. I know that I should be  
stronger and better now if you were  
my wife. There is that in my  
nature which it needs your in-

fluence to check, and that, I  
hope, which your influence  
would awaken and incite. The  
fact is my disposition is growing  
no better very fast, and I don't know  
but it would be for your interest to try  
and amend it pretty soon. You must  
exercise your discretion about that mat-  
ter Emma and do as you think best.  
If I supposed, that we could live  
comfortably on \$400. per year, with  
nothing to start on — and that  
it would be entirely prudent — I  
don't know but I might be induced  
to think it would be best for us to —

But perhaps, what's the use of specula-  
ting. I have no right to indulge as  
bright hopes as that now. Do as you  
think best. — I guess it is for our in-  
terest for you to go.

Saturday morn

It seems that I have been  
a day behind hand in my count

and that these two preceding scraps should have been dated Thursday & Friday instead of Wednesday and Thursday.

It seems quite unaccountable, to me, that I should have made a mistake in this respect, but perhaps you have heard of such a thing before. This is something quite new for me I think, writing three or four days in succession to you. I hardly know what I am coming to. — I had a letter from Gyppe last night. She said she was "half sick and the greater half lazy." I guess she must be mistaken as to the "greater half" however for I never knew laziness to affect a letter disparagingly, and I am sure this was the poorest letter I ever received from her, though it was evident she tried to make it just as good as possible. She was out of school with another terrible cold like that she had last winter. She must be careful about those colds as one shall lose one cheerful spirit more from the earth by their agency.

— Mrs. Gibson gave birth yesterday to a beautiful boy which died in a few hours. I saw it after it was dead laid out on a pillow and certainly think it one of the most perfect forms I ever beheld. It did not seem a babe — a pre-





in that ought to go. Now tell me exactly  
what do you think would better do under  
the circumstances? I am sure in a year or two  
and our out-ride at all. I shall probably be  
ready - for the way they are going from West Falls  
also I'd of my I remember. It seems therefore  
as if I ought to command a good salary at  
something. And if you think it prudent I  
don't know but I will close the contract with  
Barrett and make calculations to take a wife some  
time next Autumn. I can talk out just as  
sensible as you can. You have the circum-  
stances and can judge of matters just as well  
as I. If you are busy urgent or going  
on the other it will probably be as you say.  
Now isn't I a pretty good boy after all?  
I wish I could stop thinking of the mat-  
ter but it troubles me so that I cannot rest.  
I am fast getting on my nerves as I was last  
night over it. I suppose I have written too  
hard the past week, as I have read fifty  
pages of Bent every day.  
I wish I could see you and talk  
with you instead of having to write. It  
seems as if I could make things plain  
and more satisfactory to you if you  
were at my side instead of this sheet  
of paper being before me. You know  
I am, but if we should be married then  
we must begin very modestly  
and right here at home too.

Now the question is could we  
stand this? If anything should go wrong  
would we wish we had not married or  
should we patiently and hopefully bear it  
all, trusting that the all-wise Lord would  
arrange out our future pathing as it has  
led us in the Past. Do you feel that  
the time for commencing our life work  
will then have come? Consider the matter  
carefully and prayerfully and let me  
know your opinion at once.  
It is perhaps more than prob-  
able that I shall graduate at Rochester  
next July but not yet certain. If I  
do I shall feel more independent and  
self reliant than now and more willing  
to accept the venture in either case.  
You had perhaps better ask Angie her  
opinion about the matter as she may feel  
offended if you do not.  
It is getting dark and I must  
stop. I guess you will think this let-  
ter large enough in all conscience.  
Your Abner