

Manly Feb 2 1887
Sun

My dear wife:

I am writing to go out to breakfast and will begin my letter so as to have it ready for the mail. I only wrote letters yesterday - a lot of them that had to be written, Shaffer, Nichols and a lot of folks - I found I must go at it or the pile would get to big to be dealt with. Sooner, I was nearly tired to death when night came: so I went up to the museum and came home and played whist with Whitish and Ed Birch - the latter my partner and decidedly the best one to keep a player awake I ever saw being not only the worst player but the most successful all one the world ever saw. After it was over Whitish and I had our bit of lunch and a pleasant chat. He is certainly a most pleasant man. I think I like him better every year.

It is snowing fast and there is now a good depth of snow. There was no letter from you yesterday and the trains were late. Probably your arrival is delayed somewhere in the hills of Pennsylvania. I thought I had better get what recommendation I was bound to do, off my hands before I knew Blaine was to be in the Cabinet for sure. I guess he is going there, however. Though there is something I cannot understand about it. If he is to go in why has he not been summoned for consultation instead of Allison? Is Harrison ashamed or afraid of his Premier. I can't believe he has been such a fool as to advertise for a first-class coach yet. When the paper comes I may have to give up but till it is authoritatively affirmed

As to Wanamaker, it is very open
will be a disappointment. He certainly will if he is
given the Post Office Department. While this is a great
business its head does none of its work; its business
character depends entirely on its subordinates - the most
out P.M. G's. The Postmaster General himself has only to direct
its general outlines and decide political questions -
make appointments, &c. He must give at least two
hours a day to seeing the public - general personal cases -
and be open to congressmen too on those hours more.
Now Wanamaker will have, first of all things, to run his own
business: then give four hours a day to interviews; sign his
name probably a thousand times - certainly five hundred
daily and will unquestionably think he must tear
up everything and run one end of the government. No
great business entrepreneur can make a good political
lieutenant. Besides, it is more than probable that he
would want to use the fact in his advertising and
if he should the administration would get ridiculed
to death. Mr. Wanamaker is a great salesman - a
mighty shopkeeper and a good Presbyterian - but he
will be no advantage to a cabinet.

Well, I hope all will be well. I am going to write
to Clayton; prepare your contract with him; get up the lit-
eration for the Western campaign and write on my negro
problem today. Am glad indeed to hear that Katie is so well
and doing so nicely. Kiss her about 1000 times for me. This
awful headache here in the morning when I get up - nobody to
dutter with. Paid the Brighton and Museum assessments yes -
today. There is another of the latter due March 1st - Good bye.
Yours
T. W. Tompkins