

Frankfurt

May 4th 1859

My dear Daughter:

Your Auntie would not let me read your letter when it came nor your Mamma's either. She just opened the envelope very small and said she would read me all that it was necessary for me to hear. So she did not read any of yours and not much of Mamma's. As a consequence of this tyrannical treatment I did not see your letter until this morning. It is perfectly outrageous, but what can one do? She insists that being responsible for my well being, she has a right to control my actions. So I have to submit; and really she is a very kindly tyrant.

The picture came last night. It is very lovely and I have hung it — where do you suppose? In the very most appropriate place for a young lady's face to be — just in front of the mirror in the cabinet in the

parlor! It is the very cutest place
you ever saw. The mirror is a little
larger than the frame and the
edge of white reflector above it
with the shading shelf above gives
an exquisite elegance to it which
would be hard to get elsewhere.

I am very glad you and your
mamma thought of giving me for
my birthday gift such a beautiful
presentment of my sweet daughter -
Dorchen, I have never got over
wondering, you know, that I
am your father or rather that
you are my daughter. I have al-
ways been intensely anxious for
your happiness but I think the
proprietary instinct which is so

strong with many parents must
be very weak with me. I am
anxious for you because I love
you so, and especially because you
are your mamma's daughter
and I wish her to be just as
happy as the awful fact of a con-
fusing earthly existence will
permit me to be whose angelic
visions have been visible to the
naked eye for a quarter of a cen-
tury or more. It is perhaps, a con-
siderable thing, but I have never taken
to myself any credit for your
existence but have always re-
garded you as your mamma's
property - my love for her shading
off into you, your interests, devel-
opment, prospects, &c. &c. In that
crowd of late years, when you

comes to have an individuality
unmistakably your own, it seems to
rather bother me to know what to
do with you. It seems almost like
cheating your name to speak of
you as mine and I should not at
all be surprised should I catch
myself introducing the pretty young
lady in the picture as "my wife's
daughter." I do not think I have
loved you any the less but rather
all the more for this phase of
my thought, just as I think more
highly of myself as her husband
than in any other point of view.
I am glad to know how you looked
on that eventful March 4th but
one does not say "I looked as
good as any one else," but "as well
as, &c. One has good looks and is
good looking but when look assumes
the verbal character, good as a

Poverty made her take to religion
in order to find a place where she
could stand on a level with others -
and as not have her pride hurt by
comparison: Ambition made her a
missionary - the desire to do and
be something that others were not.
It was her only chance to excel, to
become in a sense famous, and
having no husband she could
not lose herself in his success
nor build on the results of his
achievement. Had she been a rich
man's wife she would have been
one of the most noted social
leaders in the country and
the most active and exacting
mother in the land, because
she would have given her

life
to make her children the very
cream of all the earth's life.
As for her husband — well, he
would have needed to be a
very good man. She would have
expected him to carry on a big
business as a matter of course; observe
all the demands of society most
scrupulously; run a church on
Sunday or a Sabbath school
at least, and attend from four
to six meetings a week of its asso-
ciating societies, and when he
died in early middle life to
have given in order of amiti-
ly to her widow's needs that
would have made her nota-
ble as a rich, charitable and

devoted mother in Israel all
the rest of her life.

And you do not admire
your papa's "former taste", her
cause he did not take this
elegant, accomplished, ambitious
paragon of the American i-
deal, but married your
Mamma instead? Poor
Mamma! Give her my
love and tell her this letter
must do for both country.

Yours affectionately

William D. Sawyer

modifier, changes its significance.
"Good looking" means attractive; but
when one "looks good" it means
that they seem kindly and amiable.
The homeliest and ~~the~~ most ill-
dressed woman on earth
may look good, but only the
fair and becomingly dressed
one both, can be good looking.

The hat has not yet arrived.
The studio idea is very pretty but having
an east window would help you to a
worth light I don't well see.

- So Miss Corvill does not meet
your approval? I can guess not:
yet do you know that if she had
been your papa's wife or the wife of any
considerate and ~~respect~~ successful man
she would have been one of the
most ambitious and worldly of
women, an exacting mother and
a devotee to fashion and society.

I wish I could draw. I would
send you a very comical picture.
Millie has come in and laid down
on the lounge under the clock
where she has gone to sleep with
her nose in her hand! It is
too comical! I never saw such
a thing before. I suppose the room
is a little chilly and her nose
was cold. - She has wakened at
my laughing and says the nose was
not cold but she wanted to shade
her eyes. Mrs. Cooper was buried yes -
Tuesday. I felt very bad, there were so
few at the funeral. Have been
down in the orchard for a walk
this evening. Love to Lottie -
yours

Albin.

Don't bother me with questions,
nor try to cheer me. You can't do it,
and are sure to make more trouble
than you save me. I will do the best
I can and that is all I can do.

I enclose a letter in which
I have written directions for copy-
ing. I may want a copy for an-
other purpose — at any rate that
is the way I want it done.

I think I shall go up to King's
ville again this week or next.
The matter is likely to make a good
deal of trouble — like everything
else. I hope the exhibition will
prove all that you anticipate.

Lodie's picture was a great sur-
prise and a perfect delight. I am so
glad you had it taken. It will be a
priceless heirloom and could not
have been better. I am very yours
and very fond of it.