

Wyoming, Pa. June 2nd 1870

My dearest Ellie.

I wish you were going to get this letter to-day, but even if it is a day or two late you will know I thought of you on your birth-day, and am sending, at this minute, a thousand and loving wishes for its perfect happiness and many returns. Dear girl! I just long to see you. I can't say a tenth or a hundredth

of what I want to say if I must
write it! But I do thank you for
the splendid letter which went
to Paris and got back to my own
on my wedding-day! It seemed as
if it was written on purpose for the
occasion, and I enjoyed every word.
We all were greatly interested in
the picture of the twins, and the
unanimous verdict of the family
was - well, I am sure you would
be gratified with it, any way. They
are lovely. How we should enjoy it
if they could come and make us a
long visit. I do want your and Mary's
^{and my} daughters to be to each other what
their mothers were. I am sure
they would be thoroughly congenial.
They have such similar tastes, &
so many common interests. Let us
keep it in view and seize the first
opportunity which offers. And how
I wish I could go to see you in your
sweet home in Oberlin! I know it
must be a delightful place, Ellie, if
anything outside your own home
were needed to make a visit a pleasure.

I am cut off this summer
from a great many things
because my doctor has dis-
covered what I have long
suspected - a valvular
heart-trouble, with some en-
largement of the heart, and
he orders the greatest possi-
ble rest and quiet for me.
He says he has told me plainly
the whole situation, so that I
may realize what is at stake,
and take all possible care.
Of course there is no secret
about this, but still "the
least said the soonest mended"
was a pretty good old saying.

June 25th - It is too bad my
letter has been left unfinish-
ed for two days! I wanted
to say so many things, but
to-day I feel too dull to
~~wrote~~ write. Have you heard, I
wonder, of Melanie's sudden
departure for Europe? A
week ago she did not think
of going this summer, and
now she is, I suppose, half
way across the ocean. All
her friends are so surpris-
ed, and I don't believe
she herself has recovered
from her own astonishment yet.

She has always wanted to go, but never could get off. This time, however, some of her intimate friends were going, and at the last moment she decided to accompany them. She has been something of an invalid for some time with a stomach trouble and I think the trip will do her a world of good. At any rate I hope to see Tom look younger and brighter pretty soon, for I was shocked at his worn appearance. When I met him in New York. He takes things hard, you know, poor fellow. It is possible that you heard how terribly ill Henry (Louis son) was more than a year ago, with scarlet fever, and I think that was terribly hard for his father too. Henry lived, altho it was a very close chance, and he is now a splendid fellow, 18 yrs. old, has just taken the Princeton exams. & expects to enter college in Sep. How short the time seems since we all attended the commencement when his father graduated! But as a matter of fact it is twenty-eight years.

I received a lovely letter from
your mother a week ago, and
mean to write her tomorrow.
I want to see her very much.
I am very glad she seems
so well, altho' I know she is
not very strong.

I know how busy you are
dear Ellie; but I do hope
some time I can have an
other letter from you, or, better
still, a visit. If you come East
you will be sure to come here,
will not you? And do try and
take what care you can of your
self! "The life is more than meat
& the body than raiment" you know
with hearts ^{from} love to you and
the dear children, I am your affectionate