

them very soon, My time is so fully taken up since my success came
that I cannot do much but take charge of the house keeping & muel
the babies - house keeping in Turkey is vastly unlike house keeping in America.

Const. Constantinople.

Dec 13th 1879

My dearest little Mother,

I wish you a very happy birthday, even though you will not know till some-
where near your next birthday that I am thinking
about you today, still when you do receive this letter
you will know that on Dec 13th 1879 I spent most of
my day in tender thoughts of my dear Mrs Srauston.
In fact - I tell you in confidence - I love Mrs
Chas Srauston better than any other person on
earth.

Today my troubles begin - William is now un-
packing a box of books so that we can have a history
of England, on one condition ^{we are to study it} - viz - that I will read
loud.

Dec 13th - I have just been trying by myself to
read loud - I can't do it!

Dec 14th - This letter does not seem to get on very fast -
however I hope to be able to send it today even tho'
I have kept over the paper. Economy forbids my
taking a new sheet.

This morning I want most of all
to thank you for the apron I received yesterday -
only that the Daube is frozen over I would have

With you a very
affectionate
Father - My
Dear Mother
Ever your loving
son
Wm. Srauston

received it the day before my birthday - My dear
little Mother - if you had sent one or form, I am
sure I could not have been more pleased - I
look at this apron & think of your dear little
fingers having made it & think that you were
thinking of me when you made it - It certainly is
very complimentary that you should have remembered
my birthday long enough before the time to make
& send it six thousand miles in time for the day -
William has sent you such a lengthy letter today that I
feel there is really nothing left for me to say -
I am unfortunate in being the unhappy maiden
to have a boil on my back - It is not a very bad
one however. How poor Lulu must have suffered -
I feel reproached every time I think how un-
sympathetic I was with Lulu & dear we were in such a
hurry & such confusion the last two or three weeks
we were home - were we not? How did you ever
get the house in order? You must have found a good
many of my things around that I intended to bring -
as for instance - my cotton flannel dressing sack
that was partly made - The sack to my gaudy
blue silk dress - a black dash - The light cucumber
like Mary Coopers dress - These things I have not
been able to find in Ellis or my trunk - but I
want them all - I think it would be perfectly easy

I have ever see much more to say but I thank William is ready to go so I must
such a quantity in such a little time - The advantage is it makes one grow stout -
over - This part - a big advantage is it makes one grow stout -
William has been so much more to say but I thank William is ready to go so I must

to send them - & no danger - but I would not
send all of them in one package -

It is a horrid
raining day - in fact it rains here most all the time,
& then the streets are perfectly horrid to walk in,
The mud is the worst mud I ever saw - It is about
as bad as tar from coal cars - & no lack of
it - Coal cars makes one think I have not seen
rail way cars for two months - The only place
we go is up & down the Bosphorus - & of course we
go on steamers - The steamer I have become so
accustomed to that I feel as much at home on them
as I'd feel at home riding in Boston's New market,
When first I came I thought they were the most
disgusting - dirty & disagreeable places I had ever
seen - & now I sit me down among the Turks
with perfect contentment - I have even taken a
nap ^{on the steamer} when I have been very tired - It is to me
perfectly wonderful how one can become accustomed
so soon to such wretched things - Alas! Alas! I
have not taught the Turks to sit properly, but I
now sit as they do - which is my favorite way -
modesty however sometimes forbids
I forgot to tell you
the thing I miss most of all - my Bible - I feel quite
lost without it. If you think it could be sent

without being spoiled I would like very much to have
it. I can't bear to think of being nine more months
without a Bible of my own - I most sincerely
wish you - or some one at home would send my
little pocket dictionary - It is some where around
the house & I want it ten times a day - I only wish
I could not have to wait six weeks for it.

I feel
very much reproached to think I am so ungrateful
for the letters you all write from home - I really
think you are splendid about writing, but some-
times I don't get a letter for two or three mails
& then I get so awfully homesick. I feel as if
I should go wild - Then instead of behaving
like a lady about it I go & write home letters
growling - growling - growling! I am really
quite ashamed of myself - Do forgive me & I
will not do so any more - because I really have
no business to act in such a manner. Just here
Ellie says "Are you writing home"? Tell Mother
she has no idea how I have treasured her letters
since I have been sick. - Last night she said
she dreamed about the folks at home all night -
a natural consequence of having so many ^{home letters} read
to her from home in the evening - I had a letter
from Jennie - Emily Bell - & Julia Shepherd - ^{last evening}

really cannot tell who I write to or rather who my correspondents are
for I write to every one that writes to me - almost - I was so glad
to get the letter from the Massachusetts Club & hope to answer soon