

KENT

Long Branch, Mar. 11.

My dear Ellie.

I have been so overwhelmed with sewing &c ever since receiving your letter, that, altho' I have thought of you very often I have had no time to write. Poor girl! what a time you did have! I had to laugh at your funny description of all your notes, altho' I knew the reality was anything but laughable. Mary, grand woman, always seems to be just where she is needed, does it she! I can imagine what a comfort she must have been in all your troubles. But, at the same time, it was disappointing not to be able to enjoy her visit. I was greatly

disappointed, too, for it was such
a delightful plan! Scott was
going to leave me with you
two girls for a day or two after
Sunday, and wouldn't we
have enjoyed it! Well, it
was like many other things in
his life, a pleasant dream, and
now we will continue to "live in
hopes" at any rate.

I do hope you are all well long
before this time, and that you will
have no more sickness this winter.

As I mentioned I am busy
sewing. I don't want to leave my
poor garments too badly off for
clothes, and the time is growing
so short now, and I have such
a variety of work to do before I
go I feel quite burdened. I
want to have a "swell" tea party,
for one thing - make lots of
calls, go to spend a day at

Lakewood with the Dashiells,
get the house all thoroughly cleaned
and in order, and go home
on the 25th of this month to spend
the last two weeks with mamma,
except three or four days just
before we sail which I expect to
pass here. All the children, except
dear old Tom, will be with mamma.
Tom is to stay here to complete the
school year, and then he will
join the others. He will board
with a nice motherly woman who
has a son in the same school with
Tom, so I do not think he will be
very lonely, but it makes me
sad to think of him all alone.

Scott and I have just returned
from the Houghtons where we took
tea. We had a charming visit
and delightful drive home in
the moonlight. I know you will
remember something about it for

for the check and
Wm. your
Friday night

you were at the cottage, just
drove over the same road.

By the way, I hope Mary told you
what I said about your propos-
-al to take care of some of my
children, so I won't repeat, but will
just say don't give yourself any
uneasiness about it, dear. I only
wish I could do something to help
you.

I am too tired to write any
more, and it is bed time for
us, altho' I suppose William
would say it was just time to
get to work, "going on," (as the
children say) eleven o'clock!

Good night and a great
deal of love to you, kindest
regards to William, and kisses