

New York, May 31, 1874.

Dear Wife:

Two letters from you, one from Fanny, and one from Frank, were last night put into my hands at the same time. I should have received them earlier, if I had come to the city; but the heat was so overpowering (94 in the shade) that I remained in the Park, pitying those who had to expose themselves, especially those who were engaged in decorating the soldiers' graves. Thanks to you all. Every home incident is of interest to me. The purchase of the back lot is not an unpleasant surprise, for I am confident it will prove a good investment; not only because it will secure for us a right of way, but also furnish an excellent building lot whenever wanted, thus making the whole estate proportionally valuable. I-

am only surprised that the land could be bought to that extent in that direction. True, 75 cents a square foot seems a large price in comparison with that asked for it by Mr. Thwing when we first went to Rockledge; but everything in the matter of real estate has changed since then. This purchase, however, does not protect us on the south side of our house, where we are fearing that a stable or box-house may be placed; but of this there may be no real danger. I do not wish William should incur any responsibility, pecuniarily, for this purchase; for I should have sanctioned it had I been at home, as I do now though absent.

I am a little surprised that the Rev. Mr. Vibbert should have been so importunate in asking me to make engagements for him to lecture on temperance in England; for though I have no reason to doubt his ability or interest in the

cause, or his worthiness of character, such a liberty is not warranted on his part with such a limited acquaintance. Besides, I could not attempt to do what he asks, even for an intimate personal friend, as I know nothing as to the manner in which lecturing is conducted on the other side of the Atlantic. Frank did a very sensible thing in referring Mr. V. to Gen. Abel Dow.

I would like to oblige Joseph May by filling his pulpit on a particular Sunday; but I am afraid that I shall not have time to prepare a written discourse in season, and so shall probably write to him to be excused.

I gave Wendell his shawl strap, and have written to Miss Brown at Philadelphia, and to Miss Cox at Longwood. I expect to go to Philadelphia next Saturday forenoon.

I am still thinking of stopping over night at New Haven, on my return home, with reference to a carriage for you. If a satisfactory one can be found or readily made, ~~for~~ I have no doubt that Mr. Benson will insist on paying the whole or a large part of the expense. Yet I should never think of asking him to do anything about it, of course. He advises the buying of a horse as well as of a carriage.

Yesterday I did ~~not~~ nothing but read a little and lounge a good deal, it was so intensely hot. In the evening, with Mr. and Mrs. McKim, and Lucy, (Wendell did not reach home till nearly 11 o'clock,) I took tea with their neighbor and my old friend Green, Andrew Jackson Davis and his wife being also of the company. The house is beautifully located, and has a magnificent prospect from the piazza, even as far as New York. The moon

was shining gloriously, and everything more an Eden-like aspect. We had a very social time, and found it difficult to say good-night.

I am glad you have had a ride, and that you were delivered of all embarrassment by getting into the carriage in Bowe's yard, instead of on the street. Whenever our right of way is opened, you will be delivered of all anxiety on that score.

I did not mean to have Miss Brown's additional flowers taken from the box till she came; but if they are properly attached to the others, it is all right.

I wrote in full to you about Miss Dow day before yesterday, and expected an answer from you to-day; but it is of no consequence, as your other letters are sufficiently specific as to the time Harry and Fanny are to leave

for Northampton. I think of arranging with Miss Dow for her to leave for Rockledge on Monday, June 12th, arriving that evening by the Shore Line at 9 o'clock; thus giving Fanny a full week (and that to me seems amply sufficient) to instruct her in regard to our household details. But if you want her earlier, let me know, and I will apprise her of the fact. She really needs some little time to get her things in readiness, as she has been sewing for other people instead of making up her own dresses; but she will doubtless conform to our wishes as to the time of her coming.

I am writing this at Oliver's desk at Mrs. Savin's. I came here to take lunch with him, and then to take a drive this afternoon in Dr. Mann's carriage through the Central Park; but a thunder-storm

- has come on, and it is now raining hard, and there is no prospect of fair weather until another day.

The rain is everywhere so much needed that its coming is a matter of rejoicing and not of disappointment to us. Possibly we may take another afternoon for the Park.

This evening I am going to the Academy of Design to see the pictures on exhibition. I shall scarcely make any calls in this city for lack of time and inclination.

Mary Ann Johnson is already at Longwood.

As this is Anniversary Week in Boston, it is not unlikely that you may have some callers.

I will attend to Mr. Roper's bequest when I return. Though not large, it will come opportunely.

Lloyd readily responds in the affirmative whenever I ask him if he desires to visit Rockledge again. He wants to see Helen and Harold, and aunt Fanny, and grandmam Garrison, and I see no reason why he should not accompany his father, who is coming to us the last week in June. I shall suggest it to Wendell and Lucy. The boots I brought with me for him are much too long, and much too small around the ankle to button. I shall bring them back, Lucy preferring kid to leather, as his feet are very tender, and he is troubled with a corn on one of them.

With love to Harry and Fanny and their precious little ones, to William and Ellie, and theirs, and to the Benjamin of our flock, I remain your own
W. L. G.

P.S. Let the cellar doors be opened every fair day. What of the cat and kittens?