

Lealand Cottage
Black Gang Chine
Isle of Wight
Aug 29th / 55

Wednesday

My dear Lily.

I am staying in the most retired peaceful little place imaginable. My friend Mrs. Shapter has taken a cottage here for a few months & I am passing a fortnight with her. We are perched upon a rock six hundred feet high with the sea dashing below – bold high cliffs on every side & the wide broad ocean in front. We lead a thorough country life – out doors all the time & it is really a treat after smoky deserted London. Uncle & Mr Appleton came to fetch me last Saturday but I rebelled & remain until next Saturday. I delivered your affectionate messages to Uncle & he was duly impressed & I am sure would have much to say in reply was he aware that I was writing. I am very very sorry you were obliged to abandon your trip abroad but you still have it in anticipation. The Corcoran's are in London a week or two ago & Louly seems a very sensible nice child & Mr. C very happy.

The Queen's visit to Paris has been the grand event of this century & seems to have created a perfect furore in France. I should like to have seen the fetes in her honor. She goes direct from France to Scotland.

We have made all our arrangements to sail in the Atlantic on the 6th of October & if nothing unforeseen occurs we leave on that day. I will of course see you on my way through Phil. I have made many pleasant acquaintances & friends here & actually will have many regrets in leaving – for the last eighteen months have passed very happily – but I shall greatly rejoice to be again among my dear friends at home. No one has yet been appointed to succeed my dear Uncle which is very provoking as it may cause some inconvenience. We are near Carisbrooke[,] the Castle so famous in the life of the unfortunate Charles – today we are to visit it. The whole island is one beautiful garden & so is all England!

I fear from the accounts Mrs. Plitts health has not been good lately. She always writes affectionately of you & dear Mrs. Lathrop. I was astonished to hear of Mrs. F Brown's adventures – I suppose Katie comes out this winter. I have had nothing of interest to communicate but thought I would scribble you a line to announce our decision about returning - & have contrived to send you many stupid lines which you must lovingly pardon & with much love to Mrs. Lathrop & the all members of your good family & kindest regards to Mr. Macalester believe me with much love dear Lily

Yours very affectionately

H. Lane

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