

Wheatland
Thursday

My dear Lodie,

I send you so many messages that it is almost like writing to you every day. Just after I wrote you on Monday, yours of Friday arrived. Where it has been wandering I know not. Perhaps it took a peep at Altoona before getting here but I could see nothing in its appearance to indicate so long a journey. You arranged the work admirably. When the bibs are done if you and Mr. Johnston conclude they are all right you might have Baby 4 more made – making in all ½ a dozen. Give the material to John to take to the sisters. You have done wonders in the way of house cleaning & I suppose by this time you are quite through. I hope Mrs. [sic] Johnston gave you some assistance by seeing Mrs. Sturgis herself about the parlour carpets – if not, I am sure they have been well attended to. I do not think they need do more than ordinary weekly cleaning in the parlours until the glasses are put up. I want Margaret however to take all the covers off the furniture & give it a good brushing & airing & cleaning. This tell her should be done thoroughly the first of every month, & as much often as she can. When well cleaned she can cover the tables, screen, etc. The covers are either in the lowest drawer of bureau next to Mr. J.'s room, or in 3rd story linen closet. She will find there also covers for all the chairs, sofa, etc. in the different rooms on 2nd & 3rd story. Let her brush & clean the things well, & put the covers on them. Inquire if all the garrets have been thoroughly cleaned – windows washed & all the window [sic] on stairs leading to John's room, & the window on landing leading to 3rd story. Have these all done, & the linen closet & Mr. J.'s hat closet next to it cleaned & I think you are done. I am glad you were about when store room was done. I do not think any of the other closets need keep you if you want to go out. The woolen things from my closet might remain out a little while & if I do not get back they can be put on top of Mr. J.'s things in trunk. The blankets that are not in use should be well shaken & put in the cedar chest with turpentine. There was one in Mary's room to be sent to the wash. Perhaps Margaret forgot it. When she has nothing else to do give her my pink wrapper to rip up entirely. Make Peter clean every closet in his pantry – up & down, high & low, & the lower ones where Eliza has her closets. Make him remove everything & put all the handsome china & glass back in the same places & lock the closets giving you the keys. Tell him to keep in the buffet what glass he requires for use. You sent me in trunk everything I can think of that I want. I have asked Mr. J. to bring some other little things which he will tell you of. Tell him to bring also some more tomatoes if he can get them as fresh & nice as these. Tell him it would do him good to see how poor dear Uncle enjoys them. Of course he cannot eat much at a time – 7 or 8 would supply him longer perhaps than they would keep fresh. Nothing that is given has been as grateful & I hope he will not tire of them as he has done of everything else. He might also bring 1 box of strawberries – nothing else in the way of eating that I can think of unless it is a loaf of bread. Rosanna's bread however is very sweet & good now.

I am sorry your dress did not fit but suppose it can be made do so. Did you like it otherwise – trimming & all? Dear little Baby I cannot allow myself to think much about being separated from him & only trust that the good Lord will watch



over him & keep him well. I had a good cry over him this morning. Tell Marmy if she has any little preparation to make before leaving home she had better do it - for whilst I still hope & believe Uncle may recover so as to avoid the necessity of bringing Baby on now - still something might happen that he would have to come & she better be ready. On Sunday & Monday I thought I would get home this week - but I do not think Uncle so well (though better now than he was on Tuesday). The Dr. says however that he is doing well. Your father left this morning to our great troubles & thought he would see about sending us up a physician to consult with Dr. C. We are expecting Mr. Baker today. I cannot tell you how I long to see "my beau" which I hope to do tomorrow or Saturday. I do not like him to leave you - but still I know you will spare him for a few days. Do not get downhearted dear Lodie - this state of affairs is very trying for us all, but we must bear it all cheerfully for dear Uncle's sake. What you are doing is for his sake, mine, Mr. J.'s & dear Baby's & therefore I know you will not be dull or downhearted. Uncle seems to take such comfort in my being here that all say I could not think of leaving until he gets very much better. He seems deeply interested in the Baby - inquires for him all the time & yesterday really laughed when I told him how Baby washed his fingers in the finger bowl. He never says anything about his coming however & I know it would disturb him greatly - he is so sensitive to noises & then the difficulty of getting things properly done here, with so much sickness too, is great, so that the child is infinitely better off where he is & I trust he may only stay well - as the greatest comfort to us all. What does it all mean about Graham Bowdoin? Look out or you will have Maggie down upon you - for I rather think they think or wish him bespoken for Kate P. I think you owe Mrs. Kerr a visit - indeed I know you do - so you might take the body & give her my love & thanks. You are a [?] up about accounts as in everything else. Does Mr. J. deliver all my messages? Scold him if he does not. Netzie tells me of ever so many pretty songs that you have not sung for me & if we live to get together again I want to hear them all.

I am so glad to hear such good accounts of Mary. I think she is devoted to & most careful of the little darling. I wish I could look in upon you all now & in doing so leave the dear man here in health & strength. It is raining again today - to settle the dust I suppose. Sunshine would help Uncle greatly - but there is nothing in the atmosphere to give him strength. There was a white body with tucks in the wash that I want you to take, it will do for you to wear under your blk sack, if nothing else. Please send me lots of writing paper - also my little plaid watch stand from my dressing table, a card almanac from the shelves where the



books are in my secretary. I do not think I will get a chance to write to Mr. J. today, but let him read this & tell him I love & want to see him. Things look very gloomy here at present – not that I think dear Uncle is worse or that there is more cause for anxiety – but a lingering illness, particularly a lingering convalescence is always trying. We must all pray that it will all come right, & that speedily.

Tell Mr. J. to bring money enough with him to leave me some. I have plenty for the present but might want more. Kiss my little darling & do not let him forget me. Netzie sends her love – she wrote you yesterday. Love to all at Franklin & Monument Sts. & with lots to yourself & Mr. Johnston, believe me, ever & always

Yours affectionately,
Harriet

Nothing from James Henry yet.

