

Wheatland [1868]  
Saturday morning

My dear Lodie,

I hope Mr. Johnston will be here this evening & knowing that you will be most anxious to hear about the new Drs. opinion of Uncle, I write this morning whilst sitting by Uncle. When your father left on Thursday, he was not certain whether he would send up any one, & if he did who it would be. We heard nothing from him, so yesterday morning, after Uncle had passed a miserable night, I telegraphed to Mr. Macalester (whom your father was to see on the subject) to know when the Dr. would be up. I thought it most important that there should be no further advice & I think it has relieved & brightened Uncle, though when he heard Dr. Ducosta was to be here, he did not seem to like it at all. We would all have so much preferred Dr. Smith, particularly Uncle & myself, but the difficulties of reaching here from Baltimore are so great that it was thought best to get someone from Phila. Dr. Ducosta agrees with Dr. Carpenter that there is no longer any organic disease but says there is great muscular & nervous prostration & that he “does not think Uncle will pull through this attack without assistance.” The great difficulty is to get Uncle to take medicine of any kind. He will sometimes swallow it but he worries over it to such a degree, that I know what he has taken has done him more harm than good. He thinks himself, if he is let alone, without medicine, that he will get well, but if he has to take it he will die in four or five days. Strange to say, Dr. D. said the next four days would be very important for him. We must all pray for him. After all [,] Drs. can do but little & all depends upon nature how much strength she [nature] has left - & upon the mercy of God.

James Henry came last night in the train that took off Mr. Baker - & tonight we hope to have my dear husband. I am constantly thankful to hear such good news of my dear little pet. Think of his walking across the floor himself!! God bless him, & keep us all in safety these dark trying days. Mr. J. tells me he has lost one of the cards from my pretty card case in parlour. Tell Marmy she must hunt it up. She allowed him to take one up stairs, which was all wrong & took it away. I think; I am sure I put it back in the card case. I should be truly sorry to have one gone. Do you remember when Mr. J. bought me that case at Oxford before we were married? Netzie sat up last night with Uncle & is now sleeping. It will be my turn tonight, but true to my old follies I cannot sleep in the day time – even though I am up all night – still it is some rest to lie down.

Were you invited, & did you go to – [Gaick’s?]? I hope Miss Rutherford came to dinner? I am delighted that Mr. J. has so good a horse. I think “Polly Pluck” would be a capital name – much better than Queen Bess. I am glad the men were fixing mantle pieces, & hall. Tell Peter that I hope he will have the Hall shining like his silver when I get home. I think everything was done very nicely about the carpets. If the lining was well cleaned, I think it had better go in the carpet room too. Did Mrs. Sturgis object to that?

You must have been delighted to hear a “good sermon” from Dr. Mahan. Tell him that “a bird who can sing must be made to sing,” & let this be for his future benefit. Thanks for the things by James Henry. Get Baby’s shoes (or anything) whenever he wants them. I had a great trouble to get any to fit him & finally picked those up in



Howard St. where you see lots of little shoes in the windows made up. There are several of these stores as you go toward Lexington. I should love to see him in his N. Y. suit, & wish Mr. J. would bring it up today for me to look at, but carrying might spoil it. There were two or three new blue top knots in Baby's boxes, & about but whether Marmy can find them I do not know – they are easy to find in any store. Please have his blue coat & cape well brushed etc. & folded nicely in the box in which it belongs & put in cedar chest – also his winter hat, feather, gloves, etc. Put a little camphor in both boxes, & newspaper layered there; perhaps you will find a top knot in the box with his winter hat. James Henry has gone to Columbia to get another nurse. Thomas has been very faithful, but seems worn out although he does nothing but certain little things that Netzie & I cannot do & that Uncle will not let any woman do.

I think you have had more good weather than we have had here. There has been but one pleasant day this week, & that ended with rain & there has been nothing but clouds & rain & east wind ever since. All this is a great drawback to dear Uncle's recovery. I will direct this to the office in the hope that you will get it by Patrick tomorrow (Sunday) morning. I wrote to Mr. J. yesterday & Netzie wrote to you. You have got everything nicely done about the house – perhaps this experience may be of benefit to – Mr. Cassatt. Netzie sends lots of love & says “bear bravely up, that we (you & she), will meet someday.” & I say the same thing about you & myself. There is no chance of my getting home with Mr. J. Dear Uncle takes the greatest comfort in my being here, & I, could not leave until he is better, which alas! I fear, greatly fear, will not be soon. Buck brought me excellent accounts of you & Baby, & the way you are both looking. Do Emily & Bessie come to see you often? & is everyone good & kind as they ought to be, to you? I hope so, Kiss my darling many times for me & with love to all at Monument & Franklin Sts. – believe me, always, dear Lodie.

Yours affectionately,  
Harriet

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