

Tuesday 23 July 1882

My dear wife,

I hope that long before this reaches you my letter & cards have begun to arrive, for I see by your letter of 20th received yesterday here, that you had not yet gotten anything I had sent you. This is my second letter & I have sent you a postal every day when I did not write a letter.

I took Willie & went over in a little steamer to Bolton church this morning. The church was crowded but all strange faces except for Jack Thumb, his father & Mr. Meade. I only had a chance to speak to Jack. That spiteful old man for some fancied reason has taken such a dislike for me that it seems to please him to do himself any injury if in doing so he can thwart me but I really expected it & so am not much surprised. I enclose you his letter. I wrote him in reply that I feared he would only loose [sic] the sale or any sale by his actions but that he much so as he pleases. If it were not that I am on such kindly terms with all the family I should have written him a pretty sharp letter as he has laid himself open to it by his stupid indictment. But he is a miserable sour old man & not worth while bothering over. I shall execute the lease for my half if they want it & advise them to buy his half & sell to me. & then I can lease the whole, if I still think it advisable.

Willie is very well & happy & is on the run all day – he is the only child & the guests seem much amused at his life and enjoyment & are very kind to him. His passion is to fish & I have to go out on the dock with my umbrella & look after him as I never let him go there alone. He has caught a couple of sun fish & if they had been whales could not have pleased him more. He is very good & obedient & a nice little companion. Today he spilled some huckleberry pie on his Sunday pants & I had to scold him. I made him take them off & I washed the spots out so I think there is no harm done. I think had you better send him some bibs by mail as the napkins here are too small to protect him properly. I go up with him every evening about 9.15 & see that he goes to bed all right & I sit & read until he is asleep. He is learning to row pretty well tho' he is sometimes lazy but as he gets used to it will do better & by the time he returns will be very strong and sure brown. I like the hotel very well the landlord is very obliging & our bread, hot & cold are first rate, the mutton is good as all mountain mutton is, but the beef is excerable [sic] & I have forsworn its use. There are several very nice elderly ladies & a Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler from

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SI who seem nice – she is I think an artist – there are 3 or 4 young men & 2 young ladies pleasant but plain. I was struck to today at church by the number of homely looking people. I suppose it just happens as on Broadway some days nearly all are ugly and then again almost the reverse.

Will's hair is very long & I must try to have it cut. The Lake is swooning with small steamers & new boarding houses or hotels, mostly of the hideous square white style – otherwise I see no change. I am sorry to have to confess that we are much troubled by the mosquitoes in the evening & I had one in my room last night – I am hoping they will disappear & if the [sic] do not I shall have to try some other place on the Lake unless I hear it is the same everywhere. If so it is a new thing & bodes badly for the future prosperity of the Lake. I trust may be only temporary. I am very sorry indeed to have to admit it. What a curse they are to any place.

I am delighted to hear such good accounts of my dear boys at home & trust they many soon all be well. Give my love with kisses to dear [Jessie?] & all the children. I hope Mrs. Hawley may be right about the cathedral & other buildings & that new life may be infused into GC.

We have not yet had weather warm enough for swimming & as there were no bath tubs, [?] legs are a sight to behold so I hope we may soon make a beginning as it is so much safer for a boy who is about the water. I cannot understand why it is that it takes 2 days for a letter from GC to reach here. We get the papers from NY on the same day at 5 PM here. Your letter of evening of 20th came Saturday 22 at 5 PM but I suppose you posted it on morning of 21 which would make it not so bad. I hope you may find the new nurse a second Bridget & we must regard it a good omen – I shall be anxious to hear of the new cook. Tell Ive to write me at once if he



wants a single or double room at Pearl Point – if Palmer is to write him. I brought over the [Cauve?] yesterday & so have both boats now. I am glad to hear that the birds are alive & well cared for as I feel quite attached to them after so long looking after them. Ought not the canary to have some cuttle fish. [sic] I am sorry to hear there is trouble with the news at Ringston. I know of a good Bermuda colored man in NY that could like to go for \$20 & do the same work if Miss Bleeker wanted him – he was a hotel servant when I was in Bermuda. His cousin a very respectable colored man keeps the news stand on cor of Wall & Broadway & can communicate with him. I send you the RR ticket book.

I enclose also a letter from Millie to Jamie. What news in there from Miss Taylor? How does the yard look? I hope Mary will yet come back to us as Cook.

With great love

Your affectionate husband

JBH

