

26 & Hare
Friday

My dearest Loulie,

Your ever welcome letter I received yesterday morning after my return from the Exhibition where I had spent most of the [words missing]. As you say I was [word obscured] very tame affairs [word missing] & seemed like a ghost of the great affair of last year – in fact it only amounts to about what our annual Exhibition of the American Institute is & even inferior to that in novelty – it cannot [?] of a huge advertisement of what we can see in the shop windows any day in Broadway & by the forced comparison you make at every step with the Centennial it suffers – stile [sic] if it will pay which I do not believe it will – it may be better than nothing for those especially who did not see the C. I found are [?] good present mainly to see Hayes & Grant & not one in a hundred could see them – I did not nor did I make any effort to see them. [word missing] plans have been greatly changed -- I do not [word missing] see Alice or Miss Stokes, a friend from [words missing] -- around at our house – a [?] one – the day after I got here – she was expected in April but only [around ?] as I have stated – so I relieved Alice by telling her I would come down some other time – they all took tea here night before last. Poor Alice is a terrible wreck distressing to see tho' she says she is well now. I like both her husband & Jessie very much. Mr. [Grary ?] is a plau [sic] ~~sensible good fellow~~ – well educated & intelligent & very sweet tempered. Jessie has been very fortunate & seems to make him an excellent wife – proving that flirts sometimes turn out excellent wives. We were invited to be at Alice[‘s] on Saturday evening but I have determined to go to Uncle Edward on Saturday evening & stay till Monday & then turn my very willing step [words missing]. You my dear wife and the children seem to value my own stile [sic] more after seeing other people. If you were with me I should enjoy this pleasant hospital, very much, but I miss you all the time. I have many visits to old friends since my arrival & will tell you all about them when I get back. We go out to Lodie[‘s] splendid place today, at 11 and will return this afternoon. I think Mr. Cassatt must be spending, from all I hear, at least 25,000 a year -- & I fear we will have a crash someday, which I shall be sorry for Lodie’s sake. I hope there is no truth in the gossip – I will tell you what it is when I see you. It looks as if Delia was all right with her liver after all & I am glad to hear [words missing] had my news from our [?] [words missing] I hope so – but time will soon tell [word missing] [accommodate ?] if she is not coming [word missing]. Give my best to Aunt Sidney & kisses to the dear children & believe me your very loving husband.

Buck Henry

Jessie is now at market or would send her love I am sure. You may look for me by the 5 boat on Monday – or 6 at the latest.

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