

Bolton Lake George
Sept. 8th 1858

My own sweet Maimie

I send you a good morning kiss & hope you are as bright & sparkling as this time last week, take another warm kiss to you dear self & then will go on to talk a little common place this morning. To you though I fear I do a great deal of that at all times. n'est-ce pas, chère Maimie?

Ever since I have been up here & contrary to the usual order of affairs we have had a strong South wind blowing & consequently the weather has been mild even a little warmish -- today more so than any one since I have been here. The only merit this wind has is derived from the thought that it blows from the direction of Annapolis, but alas even this thought diluted by the long distance it has to come before I can breathe it in this high latitude two in three days South wind succeeded by an equal number of North wind. While blowing up from the Canadas & Great Lakes is cold & bracing Providence permitting sweet Mary, I shall remain here till Wednesday next (so you must not write that day) & then leave en route to see my pet & return home, I will remain one day with Mr. Scharff at Newark & will probably arrive at Annapolis on Friday evening, or Saturday if I can make connexion [sic] with the cars in time. Poor Scharff. I had a letter from him a day or two ago, he has the blues & I think he has reason for he cannot get married in October as he had hoped & on the contrary his Fannie has as I think I told you gave out on a visit of three months to Chicago. I think however his mind is better satisfied from the fact that her health is not very good & he thinks that the trip will prove or I sincerely hope it will beneficial to her.

I scarcely think you will be able to recognize me when I return.

Maimie for I am so shockingly burnt & have such a healthy coat of tan in my face & hands for I make it a principle whenever I leave home on such a trip to bring this back as evidence of my having fulfilled my purpose. I threw away gloves & take it à la saivege [as a savage] you would laugh to see me in my blue flannel sailors shirt & other "fixings" in accordance I had such a funny gossip letter from Miss Lane last night -- it posted me up in all the news since my illustrious departure from Washington. I think I told you I here have one of my old college mates at Princeton here with me -- a Mr. Brewster of New York. We have had a good time together & regret much that he had to leave me yesterday to return home. I miss him much as he was very companionable & up here one appreciates company of any sort. We used to row sail & fish together & now I shall have to do it alone for the rest of my time. He has promised to meet me & mais n'unposte [glue?] -- God willing next September. And now dearest Maimie this whole letter has been about selfish me & I must turn to a more agreeable subject you don't know how happy it makes me that I have with me your dear counterfeit to look at and kiss when far away from your beloved self. Your sweet eyes seem to beam lovingly upon me from the

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cold glass. Tho' it does do you so little justice, Dearest Maimie, you do not know with what sweet pleasure I look forward to the future, our future under this smile & blessing of our Heavenly Father who directs all things by his own good pleasure! How willingly I shall tear myself away from the vanities of heart & soul killing-pleasures of the gay life I am obliged to lead in Washington. With a competence an honorable profession in which I can rise perhaps to wealth & distinction and with my own darling how happy I shall be, it does seem so pleasant to me to plan & think of those things. I sometimes tremble to think of the dissipating effect, dissipating to the heart & chilling to religion of the gay life my position obliges me to lead. These delicate sensibilities in matters of conscience & religion which I once experienced so vividly are I feel daily sapped, undermined & blunted, & it cannot be otherwise to any one -- & perhaps dearest Mary under a loving Providence you are the holy instrument which is to lead me quietly away from these sad influences & that together we will walk humbly & lovingly together under the cross of our beloved Savior, & I often feel that this must be the case, else why would God have thrown me with you who are so well adapted to be the gentle instrument in his hands for this end. You & I both humbly believe that Providence directs all things. Your affairs & my affairs – We repudiate the demoralizing declines of Chance which either argues the absence of an all directing Providence in the neglect by this Devine Ruler both of which we know to be false – Therefore darling, feeling that God has directed as both in this matter we have so near at heart, I have a pleasant feeling of security that all will be well & I look with an almost holy joy to our future. Will you not join me dearest in this & contemplate the future with equal & sympathetic pleasure.

Since you must ride on horse back I want so much to see you in your habit for I think it must be very becoming, especially with the flush of healthy exercise on you cheek. If I can get to Annapolis on Saturday I want to join you on your ride, tho' you will laugh at me for being such a poor horseman – horses are not my hobby but boats are. By the by what a peculiarly appropriate name, for your equestrian escort Mr. Rideout – quite equal Dr. Physic.

Give my best love to your Mother & all the family & remember me as your ever devoted & loving

JH

