

142 Broadway
22 July 1859

My own sweet one!

Your nice long dear letter reached me this morning & afforded me very much pleasure on account of its very practical turn. I had intended to take a nice little place on Staten Island but my friends here have raised such a howl here over it & say it will be so injurious to my advance in business alledging [sic] as a reason that I ought to be with the New Yorkers as much as possible & go about among them so as to identify myself with them & attract business, that before your dear letter came I was a good deal discouraged about going to the Island & now that your letter comes to the point you have a right to be consulted in this matter as your comfort is so much involved in it, that I now abandon the idea. The only difficulty on the other side is this – if one lives among the New Yorkers one must do as the New Yorkers do, & I must live in a certain style to outward appearances in order to keep abuy & derive the benefit from living among them. So that I must deduct from my means of living a larger proportion & add it to my rent, which will have to be about \$650 a year which deducted from \$2000 will leave as the only sure amount we have for household & personal expenses -- My office will as it has already done at the very most will pay its own expenses & may by the end of the year clear us a couple of hundred dollars tho' the only safe plan is to make my calculations on my own certain income -Now my dearest now do you think you will be able to get along on about \$100 dollars a month or a trifle over, for all household expenses -- our rent being already paid? Our friend Scharff gets along on considerably less & that is an encouragement. I think it right that you should join me in thinking over these things as in you and your management so much will depend if we go to New York. On Staten Island where our rent would only have been \$350 it would have been easier- but at N.Y. we must live more expensively -- we can't help it. Talk this over with your good Mother. In a few years I hope we won't have to calculate so closely if I am even moderately successful in my business.

I am compelled to close I will write you a long letter tomorrow.

Your own darling
JBH

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