

Philad^a Aug^t 3^d / 50

My Dear Henry –

Your exceedingly interesting epistle came duly to hand & I should have answered it, ere this, had my health permitted. I have been ill, very ill, since I wrote to you but am now regaining my former health

I congratulate you, my dear Jim, upon your success & hope the same success may attend your steps throughout your whole course. How I envy you, what would I not give to be able to enter the sophomore, I would not care even if it were the Freshman Class_ but no such luck for Steve Duval, he is doomed to be a business man so there is no use “crying” submit I must – I heard of your success before you advised me of it – I should have written to you – but did not know of your whereabouts.

You are a fine fellow – to come to the City, spend couple months, & then clear off without even letting one know you have honored the city the city [sic]; if not me, with your company. Business will not permit my absenting myself, consequently I must content my self the best possible way here in this confounded “hole” (city)

You say you suppose I am so much changed that you would not recognize me were you to meet me in the street – if, I have changed any it’s for the worse – I’m not so fleshy, as I but have grown considerably since I left Monsieur B’s Institution. As to being “handsomer” it’s quite the contrary the ladies seem to think I grow uglier every day –

Young as I am I am tired of the world & only wish I could retire to some unfrequented spot, there to brood in silence over my many, (don’t start), love scrapes -- I swear constancy to a dozen girls & hate them all – mind Jim – this is strictly confidential, I know of one who eclipses every female I ever ~~saw~~ beheld – she is something – you would suppose supernatural “she is lovely, she is divine”, “none know her but to love her, none name her but to praise.” When I first beheld her I was transfixed. I gazed in silent admiration & as you may suppose I felt particularly awkward when I became aware that she had observed me -- more anon --

Mr. Budd is now at Cape May enjoying himself in his own quiet way – have not seen him in some time_

Monsieur Mactau is now, I presume, upon the broad ocean he left this city about 3 weeks ago for France – but intends to return soon – he gave private lessons here & or sometime previous to his departure & I had the honor to see one of his pupils he is a man I respect very much & I only wish I had one half the substance contained in his “very funny.” (as a lady remarked) cranium I expect to go to Martin[‘]s in winter if nothing happens.

The dance you mention strikes me as being something new I have not heard of it – Excuse me Jim but time bids me be brief. So adieu Excuse scrawl & write soon – immediately, if convenient – Affect^{ly} yours

Steve

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