

Chester July 19<sup>th</sup> 1850

Dear James

I received your short but very acceptable epistle from Lancaster some time since, and in obedience to your request answer is sooner than I did your former one.

You are too mean (if I may use the word) not to have called to see me when in the city and I am right-provoked at you to think you could not take 5 minutes to call on a friend. I ought not to write you but then I know what anguish of mind you are in. I know how many restless nights you pass because you cannot hear from Miss Al...n, and my better nature overcoming my insulated feelings.

To take the Bull or rather the Cow by the horns at once Miss D. is very well as pretty as usual as interesting & I believe is as true to the "Lancaster Boy" as she was last Christmas when he came down here to see her. I had the pleasure of seeing her last evening and for your dear sake was pleased beyond all measure to see the blushing "Rose" had survived with all its beauty the chilly blasts of last December yet me thought there was something sad behind the gay tint of red which adorned the rose and I traced it to the mourning for a "Thorn" which had been torn from her in the middle of winter by a cruel master & it feared the thorn. Should you see the thorn please bring or send it here as soon as possible as the species of plant (you as a good botanical experimenter in them know) fade very quickly under affliction, then let me appeal to you Alas! I cannot command language to express the depth of my appeal I would wish to make, so fill up my sentence for yourself with all that eloquence you alone are capable of commanding.

You mentioned in your letter something about Harry's going to California – it is too true he has gone and there has not been a more noble fellow gone out than he – he has left many friends who mourn his absence and none more truly than I do. It was hard for him to go but he felt as if he could make money as well as any one else and ambition fired his breast – and enable him to overcome the less manly tenderness for home and made him launch forth his frail bark on the turbulent ocean of the world with hope and cheer and courage to nerve him in every storm.

Next Spring I expect to follow him, he has written for me to study hard the last 6 months I now have to go to school and then he will write for me to come out to him. I am just crazy to go and would start tomorrow if I could. Sam Edwards has gone to Norfolk to join the Sloop of War Saratoga to go to the East Indies and now I am the only one left of the young men to do anything & I am home as much as is possible. I have vacation until the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September.

All are well – "Sis" is at Cape May.

-Excuse writing and spelling

To Mr. James B. Henry

Polea Club

No 1

Excuse the composition & tear it up  
as some one might see it.

Your Affectionate

F. E. Kerlin

Polea Club

No 1

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LancasterHistory