

Stapleton July 10th

My dearest husband,

Your two welcome letters came today. The one Mr. Purdy brought, I got about half past twelve and an hour later the other came, which was quite a surprise to me.

I took a ride this afternoon and as soon as I got home I had a visit from Mrs. Satterlee so I have had to leave my letter later than I intended.

I hardly know how to answer your questions about Lake George. Everything seems so unsettled yet that I dont [sic] think it would do to engage rooms but I will tell you what I think about and this evening I will talk it over with Pa and give you his opinion. I know he thinks I will have to get a wet nurse. In that case I don't think I could go aside from the expense. You know their wages are twenty five dollars a month and if that was no object I wouldnt [sic] like to go to far with a stranger, less her milk might not agree with the baby for we could not have her a great while before we would have to start then. I dont [sic] know that I could get one who would be willing to undertake the care of all three children for you know Willy and Jamie must be looked after more at a hotel than at home. On the other hand if I do not get a nurse, I am afraid I will not have enough nourishment for the baby by that time to enable him to get along without a good deal of feeding and of course I should have to attend to that myself as I would be afraid to trust it to any one while he is so little. He could not be out and around as we would want the other children to be. Delia would have to be with them and I would have to stay with him, the other day in speaking of it Pa said he thought the confinement and fatigue I would have with the baby would do me more harm than the change would good. About my desire to go, I have so many things to influence me, that it is hard to decide. When I get your letters and read how pleasant it is, what lovely weather you are having and all that. I wish myself there, then I miss you ever so much, and long to be with you but still I am glad you are at Bolton and enjoying yourself. On the whole I think I would rather not bind myself to go by taking rooms. If I had had plenty of milk at first so that the question of a wet nurse had not arisen. I should have got ready and things would have seemed much easier, as it is I have made no preparations, for I did not want to get what if I staid [sic] at home? I would not need, and going with a wet nurse seemed out of the question, on account of the great additional expense. About the two hotels, if we should go, I am perfectly willing to let you make the choice as you are on the spot. The only thing that would lead me to rather prefer the Lake House, is that it is so much more accessible which in case of sickness, we might find a relief.

Wednesday morning. I asked Pa last evening what he thought of my going & he said he did'nt [sic]t think I had better undertake such a journey so soon except there was a necessity for it which he does not think there is while the Island is as healthy as it has been. I wish you were here to talk it over & help me decide. It seems to me best not to engage rooms as there is so much uncertainty, but when you come down if I am strong enough to go and the children seem to require the change and you think it best, don't you believe we could get in somewhere. I hate to give it up at once for I dont [sic]want to be away from you for so long. I dont [sic]want to get a wet nurse as long as there is a possibility of my being able to nurse the baby myself, but I dont [sic] think it will do to go on feeding him as much as I have to now.



Jamie is very well. I hoped to have sent you his picture today but I will certainly have it by the next time I write. I send you one of Willy's.

I had a visit from Dr. Eccleston a few days ago, he wished to be remembered to you and said he missed you from church very much. I asked him if he was'nt [sic] going up to the Lake this Summer, but he said times were too hard. He was quite surprised to hear I had a young baby and so many boys, but he told me that Mrs. Courtinay, wife of the clergyman, had just had her fourth pair of twins in succession, all living and only one girl among the eight.

Pa saw in the Herald yesterday that the [Kearsaiye] had been ordered home. I wonder if it is true.

I hope you will keep well now that you are so much better, but I am afraid you hav'nt [sic] devised much benefit from the exercise yet. I am afraid this is a dreadfully mixed up letter, but I was so tired yesterday afternoon that I just wrote down what came in my head without waiting to see if it was very clearly expressed & this morning I have to hurry to get it off by the early mail. Goodbye with love to Dody.

Ever your loving wife
Louisa

You mus'nt [sic] think I am not well for I think I am getting on very nicely though Pa says I dont [sic] look strong as I might.

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