

Garden City Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> 1883

My dear Willie

I have received a letter from Cousin William telling me of your proposition to buy a place in the country & asking me to write to you on the subject as he does not think your doing so will be a wise thing.

Although you may consider it interference on my part, I cannot refrain from telling you what I think of it. Aside from any money question I think it will be a very lonely life for you entirely out of the reach of your Dartmouth relatives perhaps even that you would not feel at first this often a time I think you would and in case of sickness you would feel yourself very much cut off from your friends. In Dartmouth even if you do not see them often, you know they are near, where you can call upon them if you wish. I do not see how you can live in such a place with your income reduced as it will be by the investment of \$4000 then if you should wish to dispose of the place you may have to wait years before being able to do so, as I suppose there is not much demand for property then and in the mean time your money invested will not be paying any interest. As to the profitableness of farming, I have seen so much in our own family for me to have much faith in it, and I think I have heard you express the same opinion. Of course a working man can make it pay when a gentleman cannot he can get along with much less hired labor & his wife can do all the indoor work, while the living expenses of such people are much less than those differently brought up. Then too, people will generally work better and more economically for themselves than for other people. You would have to have a housekeeper and at least two men to attempt to raise anything and you will find the keep of so many quite an item to say nothing of wages. You will be more fortunate than most people if from the first you have competent, thrifty honest people about you, and you will have to calculate upon some loss from that source.

You must attribute this letter to my sisterly interest in you. I cannot but feel that you will make a great mistake if you make the purchase and feeling as I do think it would not be kind in me not to give you my opinion before it is too late. It is a step much easier taken than retraced as it is always easier to buy than to sell real estate. You have a comfortable income flow and it seems to me you will be happier and more comfortable in the end by having it safely invested where it will yield you a certain income, something that you can depend upon, than by risking any of it, in the hope of increasing the income. I think all who are interested in you will take this view of it, and I have great consideration for the business experience and wisdom Cousin William. Another thing which I don't think you can have given dire consideration is the fact of what your life would be there, miles away from any one you know and surrounded only by hired people, and possibly uncongenial neighbors. As I wrote you a long letter last night, I have no news to tell you the children are all getting over their colds nicely.

From affectionate sister  
Louisa A. Henry

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