

[Letterhead of United States Hotel]

Saratoga Springs, N. Y. Sept 2, 1881

My dear Mary – Your letter has been sent to me here, where we have been for two weeks. I am truly sorry to hear that cousin Charley continues to suffer, & trust the Dr[‘]s prediction may be correct & trust now “he will be better than ever.” We are very much disappointed that cousin Charley cannot go abroad this autumn – but think you should not let such a chance pass. We want you to go as our guest – as our own daughter, & Harry’s sister! Surely there any number to attend well to Cousin Charley, & he will not need you & we cannot but hope that his health will become so robust that he will only rejoice in your enjoyment. Harry does not improve as we would like – but he is better in the last few days. His appetite left him entirely, & we were really at our wits ends – but it seems to be getting a little better. He has not touched meat & very little milk for two weeks. We think a little of going to Sharon for a week before our return, We are all most anxious to get back home. If Harry is able to sail Oct 26th we have so little time. I must go to Baltimore for a few days, & so must Mr. Johnston & we could both leave him and go together. I do not know when we will be at [W T ?], but think it best for you to send your letter there, as our movements are now so uncertain. Don’t let anything prevent you from going to Europe with us. I am sure Cousin Charley will agree to it & Cousin Sarah too. We will try to take the best of care of you in every way. Just ask them to send you to us whilst we are in Europe except in writing to you & loving you they need give themselves no concern about you & I think you will be happy & enjoy yourself. It is raining today & we are all dull. Mr. Johnston is certainly better since we came here – all we want is to see our little darling grow stronger more rapidly. Love from us all to you and believe we are always

affectionately

H. L. J.

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