

[1866]

Portland, Me. Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear Nellie

Yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand and I comply with your request to answer it immediately.

You have submitted to me some very important propositions which I fear would require somewhat more reflection upon my part than I have been able to bring to bear in twenty-four hours, to decide upon. I made note of the very generous offer to me in Ham's business interests.

I fear that he has rather overestimated my qualifications for a newspaper man and that were I to accept the proposal the success which has so abundantly crowned his efforts would fail me; but supposing that there were no fears upon that score there are yet many other

things to think of. Should I conclude to go to Nevada it would very likely be for a permanent stay. This would at once involve the relinquishment of all plans that I have so far made for the future. both as to business and interests of a private nature.

To be more plain - it is quite likely I may sometime want a helpmeet - if I have seen any person whom I should prefer for that station, would I not have to leave her in this section of the country and give her up or else go it blind and marry her before I went? - both courses would involve serious considerations.

Did I leave her and still entertain thoughts of a future union, wouldn't I be in about Harry's situation as he now stands? - If I married it would be a grave matter

whether I could support her on the single prospect of my future interests in the Appeal. You know I haven't much property of my own - in fact I fear I should not be able to satisfy Mighel upon the consideration necessary to become a partner. I may not quite understand his proposition - it is about this perhaps - he is willing upon my coming out there to admit me as half partner with him or one-third partner in the whole Establishment - he omits to say whether I should be required to make ready payments for my share or not. I couldn't pay anything down, but should be in debt at least a thousand dollars. This would have to be paid sometime - what could I do it with? - the profits in the press are \$300 - net per month or \$100. for each partner - or 1200

a year - out of this I must support myself (if single, and a wife too if married) and at the same time to something toward liquidating the debt - I have no idea what it costs to ~~live~~ live out there, but presume it would be higher than here - You see the prospects are not very encouraging -

But as I said in the first place I haven't ~~time~~ had sufficient time to look at all the points pro and con, nor made any calculations how I might arrange my matters here - I have some interest in the oil Co. - by which I expect to make a fortune of course - we are just now trying to get up a new company here to go down into the bowels of the earth for "oil" - we shall all be rich

if we succeed - then there could  
be no reason for me to go west -  
tho' I don't make any certain cal-  
culations upon this source of wealth  
and am ready to do something  
for a moderate income providing it  
is to my taste - the law will suit  
me very well but it takes a long  
time to study - I have no aversion  
to an editorial life and honestly  
think it might suit my taste after  
experience. Such an offer as Harry  
makes, if made here, I should accept  
without hesitation and so the whole  
question is about going west to  
live - I am extremely grateful  
to Harry for this generous offer and  
wish you would suitably express my  
gratitude to him -

Supposing I went it would be some  
time next May? - before that time

I may come to the conclusion to accept  
the proposition if still left open  
and more fully explained -

Supposing I cannot go, what will  
you do? I suggested to Byron that  
most always families were going to  
California and even acquaintances  
and perhaps you would go with  
such a family as well as with me.  
Should such an opportunity occur  
next May, had you not better go  
than to wait another year?

Please it is for you alone to decide  
whether you want to wait or not.

Should you decide to wait unless  
I went too, then I will think of  
the matter more fully - but if  
you concluded to go anyway the  
coming season I should be more  
strongly inclined than in the other  
case to try to accompany you -

I cannot give any promises whatever  
do not make your decision upon my

actions - I do not like saying  
just now that I go -

Am glad you had a good "speech" at  
Lewiston - hope you won't feel any  
ill effects - Mary Ann was in the office  
last eve - she is scolding about your  
silence - We are all well -

Went to a Candy party last eve -  
at Miss Chase's - had plenty of  
candy and 'lasses - very sweet.

My regards to all hands and  
love to Aunt Sarah -

Thine Overly  
Dedicated

to the conclu

4th of 5th

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting on lined paper, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]*

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Wash