

San Francisco Sept 13<sup>th</sup> / 65

Dear Nellie:

I take back all I said in my letter of day before yesterday about your neglect. Accept my most elaborate apologies. Your kind letter of August 11<sup>th</sup> came to hand this morning. On Monday I received mother's letter, yesterday I received one from a friend in Washington and this morning yours came. They were all brought by the same steamer; and I account for this difference in their time of arrival upon the hypothesis that at the San Francisco distributing

office, they make up the  
mails for ~~each~~ letters as  
come to hand and send  
them off as fast as they  
can - so as to get rid  
of the immense quantities  
of postal matter in the  
speediest way possible.

I assure you that  
the receipt and removal  
of this good billet has  
cheered me wonderfully,  
I must acknowledge  
to a great feeling of  
disappointment when the  
other letters came and  
yours did not.

I am delighted at  
your approval of my  
"Proem". I cannot say  
that I feel very sure  
of having my name  
"Just along side" of any

of the "great names". But  
my friends seemed pleased  
with my rather commonplace  
effort and so I felt - not  
exactly "proud" of myself,  
as you kindly tell me  
you are of me - but a  
sense of quiet pleasure  
at not having made an  
absolute failure. I am  
opaid I shall hardly read  
Longfellow's high eulge, -  
this season.

I laughed heartily when  
I read your account of  
Mary Louise falling in love  
with Wake Bryarly's name.  
For only last week, Wake,  
who is an old acquaintance,  
invited me to be present  
at his "true wedding" - the  
teuth anniversary of his  
wedding day! I could

Not attend, for he lives  
in Virginia City which is  
sixteen miles away, and I  
was very busy. Tell Mollie  
that Wake, although bearing  
a rather Comenian name,  
is by no means of a Com-  
enian nature - "On the  
contrary, quite the reverse" - he  
forgot his sentimentality forty  
years ago!

What a stupid fellow I  
am not to have thought when  
I wrote to you on Sunday  
last ~~to come here~~ that it was  
your 21<sup>st</sup> birth day and to  
congratulate you accordingly. I  
hope you have received my  
"peace offering" in commemoration of  
this important event. You shall  
"have a guardian," notwith-  
standing, you are "free" if I have  
anything to say in the matter.  
And I hope I may be able to  
verify what I declare and  
hope before the next anniversary

of your birth. Have I  
not good reason to hope  
so, Nellie?

Confound that Spider  
which robbed me of your  
own and Mary's pictures.  
I shall declare war  
against every spider that  
I see, from this time  
on. My own picture  
with the "Whiters" would  
have been sent before  
this, but for the fact  
that our best photograph  
Artist has gone away.  
When he comes back, I  
will sit or stand for  
either a head or a full  
length. Which do you  
prefer?

As I have already

fully expressed myself  
~~and~~ upon the subject, you  
know how bitterly I felt  
the disappointment at not  
getting my accustomed letter  
from you in the expected  
time. Therefore am I  
wicked enough to entertain  
a wee bit of exultation  
at your expressions of im-  
patience at not receiving  
a letter from me when  
mother's and Mary's came.  
But I cannot account for  
the interruption unless I  
failed to mark my envelope  
"by steamer". I think I made  
that omission once and  
told Luc to make the  
~~necessary~~ explanations.

Speaking of Luc, why don't  
she write! She owes me  
two letters, at least.

I will obey you and  
write with increased  
regularity to mother. Indeed  
I believe I have only missed  
one mail since I left  
Norway.

I am glad I have so  
good a "record" as may  
be plead my cause. Don't  
forget to give her my  
love.

I am afraid the warm  
weather has not dealt  
kindly with you - so  
comparatively thin are you  
because. Don't get sick  
darling.

My prayers! half  
past eleven o'clock in the  
forenoon, and not ~~one~~ one  
line of "Copy" yet. I must  
stop this long wretched letter  
and go to work "enlightening

the Public."

I am delighted that you  
have proved yourself capable  
of contentment in a monotonous  
habit of life; for one of these  
days I shall ~~test~~ <sup>have</sup> to test  
your stoicism in that direction;  
for Cassin becomes very  
dull at times. However the  
Society here - in "our set" - is  
very pleasant; and you can  
find many ~~pleasant~~ <sup>agreeable</sup> associates  
while I am at the office.  
How does that sound?

God bless you well  
and keep you in health and  
happiness. Be certain that  
nothing short of an earthquake  
or unassailable accident shall  
ever deprive me of the pleasure  
of writing regularly or cause  
me to be disappointed in the  
receipt of letters.

Love to all. Ever thine  
Affectionately, Henry R. Hughes

By Steamer.



Sept 13  
1865

Miss Nellie Pennell

Norway Village

Maine.

Carson Sept 13th/65

Dear Nellie:

I take back all  
I said in my letter of day  
before yesterday about  
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most elaborate apologies.  
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which robbed me of your  
own and Mary's pictures.  
I shall declare soon  
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I see, from this time  
on. My own picture  
with the "whiskers" should  
have been sent before  
this, but for the fact  
that our best photograph  
artist has gone away.  
When he comes back, I  
will sit or stand for  
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length. Which do you  
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As I have already

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[page 7]

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How does that sound?

God bless you Nellie  
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Love to all. Ever thine  
affectionately

Henry R. Mighels

[envelope]

By Steamer.

[Postmark:] faint

Miss Nellie Verrill  
Norway Village  
Maine.