

Patterson Dec. 11th 1866

Sunday eve. 10 o'clock.

My Dear -

Bulwer says "dear"

is a very equivocal term of endearment. -
do you think so?

Well - I've been down east, had a
nice time, and got back so far.
Didn't stay so long as I expected
to because Byron had business which
required his attention sooner. We were
there two and a half days and three
nights. Hattie sends kind greetings
to you, wants very much to see you
and thinks she should like you.

I did not tell her I had made you
a new year's gift, fearing you might not

accept it in fact I do feel a
little ^{anxious} to know what you think
of my confusion.

Did you eat a big dinner
Thanksgiving day? I did, and
that I must tell you a toast which
was proposed and drunk on that
occasion. Mr Robinson is a very
temperate, religious man, but he
thinks there is no harm in home
made current wine so it was
put upon his table. I declined
taking any at first but allowed
myself to be persuaded to sip a
little in acknowledgment of the
toast, and proposed, "to absent friends",
Byron then - no, "was Wash" proposed
your health and Byron added
"May the miles which now part
you be but one night before another
Thanksgiving day!" - Of course I

blushed enough for both of us
and believe I lost my voice
about that time. Is it, or rather,
was it wrong for me to take wine
when I do not wish you to?

I will surely never do it when
you are with me, but it would
be no cross to refuse for I do
not particularly like it and only
take it because I dislike to be
teased. We went to a Bond concert
in the evening. The next night
we were invited to tea at Mr
Joe Smith's, a newly married couple
who seem happy as need be.

Oh! Henry, I do wish I was
pretty, for your sake. It never
occurred to me to care before, but
now I would give any thing to be
beautiful, - Say - can you love me

along with my homely face
and "daisy" figure? Won't you
get tired of it and wish you had
found somebody more pleasing to the
eye? - Indeed I should not much
blame you if you did, for I am
vexed every time I see my reflection,
that nature couldn't have been
more lavish with her charms.

Wicked? - Then I'll ask to be forgiven.

I went to Church this morning,
heard a fine sermon and a splendid
anthem from a ^{salvaged}* choir.

I believe good music does me
as much good, as good preaching.

My next letter will probably be
written from Norway, as I intend
to go back the last of this week.

There is no especial programme
made out for me - shall probably
go "bobbing" around."

* Is there such a word?

Have been down to Mary James
this evening, John Davis was there
and came home with me. I think
you told me you didn't care if I
received attention from the young men!

I will allow you to escort
the girls - just a little, but you
must not flirt because that is very
wicked, and you know you have
engaged to become a good boy under
my teaching. See that you do your
instructor honor.

Well - every body has been
in bed sometime and I suppose
I ought to be there too, but I
can't get hate to go and leave you!

Hattie told me that they
would be married in June, but
you must consider that family.

Matters are for you alone, as don't
mention them ⁱⁿ your letters
home. I've an idea, but before
I tell it to you I want to know
about when I may expect you.

Tired of my asking that question?
Well I'll try and wait patiently
till you answer it.

I am hoping I may have a
letter from you tomorrow so I will
leave a little space to tell you
if I get it. This is the last
sheet of monsieur Lumbard's in my
possession. It's too bad it is gone
but the largest portion has been
returned to you, because there
where it was given over.

God bless and keep my boy.

Good night.

Tuesday morning.

The letter didn't
come and I'm ^{now} ~~half~~ disconsolate.
Don't you know it's very naughty of you
not to let me have a letter as
often as I wish? Do be more generous
in that respect.

Last evening I went to a
Promenade concert given by the St. Nicholas
with Bayon and one of our cousins.

Danced a few times and passed
a pleasant evening.

Tomorrow there is a dancing school.
I would be a welcome party to which
I am especially invited. It is a
revival of the "hot bed" parties I used
to attend, and they are right jolly
affairs. Will you would let me
introduce you within the circle.

Your friend Gilson is one of the
active members. I anticipate
the pleasure of playing euchre
until midnight with an antiquated
~~old~~ widower who always seizes
me the moment I enter the room.
In fact so marked is his devotion
that I used to be the subject of
many jokes in regard to my old
admirer. He is a gay, old gray
haired sinner, and caused his first
wife many jealous fears. If I
didn't dislike him so much I could
have some fun flirting with him.

How this sheet has filled up
with nonsense, but you must endure
it for I love to write to you every
idle thought. Mary L., Byron, and
Wash, desire the transmission of their
kindly regards - I'm not going to tell you how
much stronger words they used.

Write often - Ever lovingly
John -

Per Steamer.

Dec. 12, 1865



Major Harry R. Hays

Carson City
Nevada.

H

Portland Me Dec 10th 1865
Sunday eve. 10 O'clock.

My Dear --

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and thinks she should like you!

I did not tell her I had made you
a new years gift, fearing you might not

[page 2]

accept it:-- fact I do feel a
little anxious to know what you think
of my confession.

Did you eat a big dinner
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Oh! I must tell you a toast which
was proposed and drunk on that
occasion. Mr Robinson is a very
temperate, religious man, but he
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My next letter will probably be
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[written on margin when paper turned sideways]

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[page 5]

Have been down to Mary Gosse's
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and came home with me. I think

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I will allow you to escort
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Write often --
Ever lovingly

Nellie --

[envelope]

Per Steamer.

[postmark: PORTL[AND] DEC 12 '65]

[stamp removed]

Major Harry R. Mighels
Carson City
Nevada.

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