the word of the state of the sold of the s very very glad I was made by the receift of your splendid long letter of the 19th alt. gter worrying to much of your long vilence! But I'll Jogine you as you down to home good reasons. In delighed at your decision to write every week for I cont here too many of your preions letter? You have doubtless received ere there one of my quatter in which I declared a armilar resolution quer warn't it. That we should both make up our minds on that point so nearly together . must be mutual affinity!

I am overfight at your duceen and I drays thought The very hoppiest do not know how to express my congratulations dage of a womens life must be during properly. That you have goined such her engagement, but our will have to be good noble friends in proof of your worth during) the "honey more" went they ! - because and as such is almost invaluable to one, you will be so noughty as to stay onoy not that I doubt it for a moment, but of There, - I wonder if to unmarderly, because I am so delly as to went those to speak so frontly of these things! who have been requisites prejudiced against. The fact is Harry & don't know how my on their error your reputation is much to act. the position is so novel, homing dearer to me now then my our, and the never before been under the influence honors you gain please me more those of of le grande passion". Thoulence is one of my meatenesses, so dear, you will forgine they were bestowed upon my other living person. I long, yet dred, to must those my seeming formardness won't you! kind friends you have told me about . Lay you will be that I am home ogain; here you no fear that they may think or to the only place I can call by that Smeet nome. The come last monday. you have chosen unwisely? I wish I did home beauty a talent that there is only my, all the friends seemed glad to see one and most surely & oran glad to get plain self to give you and a heart bringled of love and trust, and a will to do my utmost to make your life happy and I've spent the week in a very your home pleasant. large manner going almost every day I wish we night mut once in a and evening to the Office with Lue, while before - before you come for me! Last evening we called at augustain

Found her in beg car me expected to and "aunt Lydia", the mure, brought out for our inspection a ting bady boy with his little purple fists knocking at some invisible hosgoblins, and his rosy face presting in the blankets: a smort body its called, has dock the expron, I think it's not normed yetis only a few days old. "Jury" is any comfortable. What do you think of all that? The fletser of some on Jalling fastthat fact added to the one that my head acher very bodly, given the reason for my Eleging at home from Church, and nothing loath man of to have two such good reasons for spending my time with you, but of you were here in the Body I would not talk to much, I would have you hold my head ord charm oney this ugly, pain. There cold days and the whole ending Inow longe back the days of last winter very freshly. When I wolk have with

Lue from the Office, astering to the voice of King France in the "regions below; con hordly persuale Thyself that so many long menter have parsed ance I wolked through the same deserted steele, listening to a voice which feld the awatest tale one ever heard in this left; thinking all The white twas to good to be true, not daring to trust myself or you, longing to be hoppy get feaful till time should prom us both. It has done that and I am hoppy, very hoppy today, without one thought of duced or doubt sout the feture of our Hany I've told due and Byron that I on the some as engaged. If course not quite until you accept your new year gift, but I have not much fear that you will respectfully decline: To other who joke me on the awyest

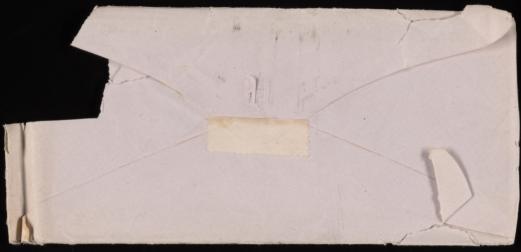
There was nothing here which I I say "mail till you are a sing, on my first finger, that mee he wished to day for them to I concluded a dure dign! The ring you gene me to tell them what you dent Them I have never taken of but the block and the next time I go to Fbonds on it firbids my petting it on try something resept and mee. the Jenger, tworld deem to me on end Doer the "seem good in your sight? omen. This I want or much to tell go Add and The one here spending a sicret, but Lue non't let me. Christman. They bend kind segards. I hepe you will secein the lettle fin Flora is not in good health. The had of ony hair which I sent in my last the deptheria some time ago and it has orceles letter, and that it may please your left her very servell. add thinks he would like my bueble for his cobmet, Lue has purchased a very hordrown says it is the richest quarty be one sow. auit with the present you sent her. L'ne been finishing Our mutual but we shall not have dresser of he Friend " and pronounce it first rate, don't you! for & decided to keep mine until next Do you remember of calling me Pleasent Riderhard, and of my retalisting by calling spring when I shall need it more. you fielde Eugene Maybun", Well Itink Harry I thonk you very hurch includ for your thoughtfelver of the lettle gile my choice of a nicknown waent to bad. for a couldn't but like him a lettle all ord you generous get to them. you are almost too god to me ord mine the time and ofter he reformed I was and I fear I shall never be able to quite in love with him, but you must at me be "Lizzie" instood of "Pleasant". pepay you for all your knodness.

my dear bey, your explanation in your letter of the 27th well. was perfectly sotrepoetory. I had cased to wary sout it for & knew you would explain it all right. and indeed home felt were vory a ever arked gor for an explonation, you must Jorgine me Harry for I renote upon the impulse of the moment without stoffing to reason on the matter, and without thinking how very hearther & max to doubt you. Whotever I may read or hear in the getwee, I will never allow ongrely to emagine for one moment that you have done verong in ony wery, waller you bid me believe it. The little peper with "Henry I brighels Editor, har arrived. I'm grand d'et a big lot of finde get into my head orden & sow it, - not finde for myself out for some one who almost belongs to me, I am glad to congratulate you with my whole of heart, and my proper shole be for you success and hoppiness.

any time when you feel so disposed goe can tell your (or "our", mother of our "intentions toward one another". I fear she will not be pleased with your choice, of though she seems to like one. I don't know why but I never ful that I get very near her heart, she is wrapped in such a lady like reserve, as different from ony impulsive open heatedness that I don't know how to get around or over the larier. Lue sogs she is more formation with one then with most people. I know she is good and true, but I am glad har don it more demonstrative, is that roughty! do gon stell smoke cigari I thought it doubtful if left that hobit so quietely, but I won't scold on of you don't smoke all the time. you don't know how gled I am that you have stopped chaving!

the smeet Christ day show come again. hele it's getting dock and I believe I'll leave the vert of their sheet There has fassed my Christmas - outweetly. to tell you how passes the Christman Where my thoughts have been roaming, you day and of I have my purents. may imagine by compaison with your own, for mosty I hope I don't think of you glenn then you do of me. Ch! sout my presents. Well I had - let me This has been a der first in order a mee honelbeholing with a butterfly in the corner from Byron, & pretty delicerous, or the roads in better condition for alk scary from may love. \$26:00 from the sleighing. Every body was out with wiver other bays, and from Luc a yoke for a nightdren all stomfood with on elaborate the mentine of her family out, you mother faller to be ombioidered. The days her Sogiet included, the come for me and me took is to keep me out of allowers, and twick surely have the decired effect if tis ever Med, my young buther, come in the morning finished. I'me made top my mind to and me were are invited to take the af- the here it done by the time you come, so Smeths, which we said ovel ofterward farad I cen show you have nimble my fingers a very pleasant evening in family conversation are. There we such a heap of work to at I velock come home with the Luc and be done between now and spring! the attle girle, working slowly through the moonlight, tolking quetty as me on a dozen thirth for Byron. There a no work I dislike so much as making

Chrite, but I can opposed to be any sacrificing for so good a bother as he is. Theel my bay, I hope you have will pass many our heffy days and know - you did not wish me a meny Christmes in your last ? no apology is needed I am sure it slepped your mind twee so long before the term. The giels. Emma and Hottie, were perfectly delighted with your geft and Jul sicher than they ever did before. They nished me to return this thanks and love - you der you've "non I tried to have them write a note to you Lod blev end keep you.



Norway Maine Sunday Dec 24th 1865

Dear Harry --

Shall I tell you how very very glad I was made by the receipt of your splendid long letter of the 19th ult. after worrying so much at your long silence! But I'll forgive you as you seem to have good reasons. I'm delighted at your decision to write every week for for I can't have too many of your precious letters. You have doubtless received ere this one of my epistles in which I declared a similar resolution -- queer wasn't it, that we should both make up our minds on that point so nearly together? -- Must be mutual affinity!

[written at top of page turned sideways; continued from/see page 12]]

[page 2]

I am overjoyed at your success and do not know how to express my congratulations properly. That you have gained such good noble friends is proof of your worth and as such is almost invaluable to me. not that I doubt it for a moment, but because I am so silly as to want those who have been unjustly prejudiced against you to see their error. Your reputation is much dearer to me now than my own, and the honors you gain please me more than if they were bestowed upon any other living person. I long, yet dread, to meet those kind friends you have told me about. -- Say have you no fears that they may think you have chosen unwisely? I wish I did have beauty or talent, but there is only my plain self to give you and a heart brimful of love and trust, and a will to do my utmost to make your life happy and your home pleasant.

I wish we might meet once in a while before -- before you come for me!

[page 3]

I always thought the very happiest days of a womans life must be during her engagement, but ours will have to be during the "honey moon" won't they? -- because you will be so naughty as to stay away off there. -- I wonder if it's unmaidenly to speak so frankly of these things!

The fact is Harry I don't know how to act, -- the position is so novel, having never before been under the influence of "le grande passion". Frankness is one of my weaknesses, so dear, you will forgive my seeming forwardness won't you?

You will see that I am "home again", or to the only place I can call by that sweet name. We came last Monday. All the friends seemed glad to see me and most surely I was glad to get back.

I've spent the week in a very lazy manner -- going almost every day and evening to the Office with Lue.

Last evening we called at Augusta's

## [page 4]

Found her in bed (as we expected to) and "Aunt Lydia", the nurse, brought out for our inspection a tiny baby boy with his little purple fists knocking at some invisible hobgoblins, and his rosy face nestling in the blankets.

A smart baby it's called, has dark blue eyes and looks very like Johnny the stepson, I think it's not named yet -- is only a few days old. "Gussy" is very comfortable. What do you think of all that?

The flakes of snow are falling fast -that fact added to the one that my head
aches very badly, gives the reason for my
staying at home from Church, and nothing
loath was I to have two such good reasons
for spending my time with you, but if you
were here in the body I would not talk
so much, I would have you hold my head
and charm away this ugly, pain.

These cold days and the white creaking snow brings back the days of last winter very freshly. When I walk home with Lue from the Office, listening to the voice of King Croseus in the "regions below", looking at the bright stars above, I can hardly persuade myself that so many long months have passed since I walked through the same deserted streets, listening to a voice which told the sweetest tale one ever heard in this life; thinking all the while 'twas too good to be true, not daring to trust myself or you, longing to be happy yet fearful 'till time should prove us both. It has done that and I am happy, very happy today, without one thought of dread or doubt about the future of our lives.

Harry I've told Lue and Byron that I am the same as engaged. Of course not quite until you accept your New Years gift, but I have not much fear that you will "respectfully decline".

To others who joke me on the subject

## [page 6]

I say "wait till you see a ring on my first finger, that will be a sure sign." The ring you gave me I have never taken off, but the black bands on it forbid my putting it on the finger, 'twould seem to me an evil omen. -- Oh! I want so much to tell you a secret but Lue won't let me.

I hope you will receive the little pin of my hair which I sent in my last weeks letter, and that it may please your fancy.

Lue has purchased a very handsome suit with the present you sent her, but we shall not have dresses alike for I decided to keep mine until next spring when I shall need it more.

Harry I thank you very much indeed for your thoughtfulness of the little girls and your generous gift to them. You are almost too good to me and mine and I fear I shall never be able to repay you for all your kindness.

## [page 7]

There was nothing here which I wished to buy for them so I concluded to tell them what you sent them and the next time I go to P\_\_ buy something useful and nice.

Does this "seem good in your sight"?

Add and Flo are here spending Christmas. They send kind regards. Flora is not in good health. She had the diptheria some time ago and it has left her very unwell. Add thinks he would like my buckle for his cabinet, says it is the richest quartz he ever saw.

I've been finishing "Our mutual Friend" and pronounce it first rate, don't you?

Do you remember of calling me "Pleasant Riderhood," And of my retaliating by calling you fickle "Eugene Wrayburn". Well I think my choice of a "nickname" wasn't so bad, for I couldn't but like him a little all the time and after he reformed I was quite in love with him, but you must let me be "Lizzie" instead of "Pleasant".

## [page 8]

My dear boy, your explanation in your letter of the 27th ult. was perfectly satisfactory. I had ceased to worry about it for I knew you would explain it all right, and indeed have felt very sorry I ever asked you for an explanation. You must forgive me Harry for I wrote upon the impulse of the moment without stopping to reason on the matter, and without thinking how very heartless I was to doubt you. Whatever I may read or hear in the future, I will never allow myself to imagine for one moment that you have done wrong in any way, unless you bid me believe it.

The little paper with "Henry R Mighels" Editor, has arrived. I'm afraid I let a big lot of pride get into my head when I saw it. -- not pride for myself but for some one who almost belongs

to me. I am glad to congratulate you with my whole heart, and my prayers shall be for your success and happiness.

[page 9]

9.

Any time when you feel so disposed you can tell your (or "our") mother of our "intentions toward one another". I fear she will not be pleased with your choice, although she seems to like me. I don't know why but I never feel that I get very near her heart, she is wrapped in such a lady like reserve, so different from my impulsive open-heartedness that I don't know how to get around or over the barrier. Lue says she is more familiar with me than with most people.

I know she is good and true, but I am glad her son is more demonstrative, -- is that naughty?

So you still smoke cigars? I thought it doubtful if you left that habit as quickly, but I won't scold any if you don't smoke all the time. You don't know how glad I am that you have stopped chewing!

[page 10]

Well it's getting dark and I believe I'll leave the rest of this sheet to tell you how passes the Christmas day and if I have any presents.

Monday evening 25th

This has been a perfect day. The sunshine couldn't have been more cheerful or the air more delicious, or the roads in better condition for sleighing. Every body was out with wives, sweethearts, or friends. After taking all the members of her family out, your mother included, Lue came for me and we took a short ride in the afternoon.

Add, my young brother, came in the morning and we were all invited to take tea at the Smiths, which we did and afterward passed

a very pleasant evening in family conversation. At 9 O'clock came home with Lue and the little girls, walking slowly through the moonlight, talking quietly as we wondered where we two should be when

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the sweet Christ day shall come again.

Thus has passed my Christmas. -- outwardly. Where my thoughts have been roaming, you may imagine by comparison with your own, for really I hope I don't think of you oftener than you do of me.

Oh! -- about my presents. -- Well I had -- let me see first in order, a nice handkerchief with a butterfly in the corner from Byron, a pretty silk scarf from Mary Gosse. \$26.00 from the other boys, and from Lue a yoke for a nightdress all stamped with an elaborate pattern to be embroidered. She says her object is to keep me out of idleness, and 'twill surely have the desired effect if 'tis ever finished. I've made up my mind to have it done by the time you come, so I can show you how nimble my fingers are. There is such a heap of work to be done between now and spring!

This very day I have got the cloth for a dozen shirts for Byron. There is no work I dislike so much as making

[page 12]

shirts, but I can afford to be self sacrificing for so good a brother as he is.

Well my boy, I hope you have passed the day merrily and that you will pass many more happy days and years in this goodly land. Do you know -- you did not wish me a "Merry Christmas in your last? -- no apology is needed -- I am sure it slipped your mind 'twas so long before the time.

The girls, Emma and Hattie, were perfectly delighted with your gift and feel richer than they ever did before. They wished me to return thier thanks and love -- you see you've "won

thier hearts right merrily". I tried to have them write a note to you but they felt too bashful.

I must close. Good night and may God bless and keep you.

Ever lovingly

Nellie --

[continued on page 1]:

I did not suppose you would tell "Lance" what I said about him, but if it pleased him I don't know as I can.

This paper which I enclose will explain itself. I received it only a few days ago.

I hope I may not have but 26 letters from you instead of the 6-2 you promise, but you must keep your promise and write as often as once a week.

N. L. V.

[envelope]

Per Steamer.

[postmark: NORWAY [DE]C 27]

[stamp removed]

Major Harry R. Mighels Carson City Nevada

[back of envelope]

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