Mondag en Jen 22 mg 1866 My Dear Bery. Here are let on see, one, two, thru, Jour of your good lettere unanswered, Those dated Dec 24th and "Christmes" come last Istenday, whole there written the 16th and 18th ded not get blog until today. I presume The delay was at New York. Im very gled for were pleased with your Big New years gift, orly I made it a new years, mas because & Thought it would arine don't that time, on also gled that it made your Christonal frass more menely,

your note to your, or our, mother went to a seat in the Back made my heart deat fast every of the worm so I should not time I thought of it, and frightened on her fore, but I confeer to me to such a slegue that I deter. hoving keft on eye on her monements after reding it slowly, she sprined & seliver it as soon as parable. Its over, and I have had took her hardbuckief out, shed a The greling over since of horning fere quiet lear, whether of source, bun and gone and done it. or foy, I am unable to say, and Shore & describe The scene! ofter accouning huself the come will, in order to carry out my to me with a smile, pursual my determination I keft it in my hard and hisred one, and mentpocket all the time, and gerterday back to her out without a word. Sternoon yter Church I war in often a little she soid, I asked The college, I Gradually one often him if your correspondence meant ong thing serious". - "I'm graid enother the family left the rooms there is too much difference in tell only your mother, the lettle boys (who were busy of flay, and a your age chillie - don't you think gul with a red face and jumping as, I replied "I never thought as heart were left. Then I very I never reolized that there was one as coolly dure faith you letter, look much defference I shall grow old from It your note and harded it farter then he . She laid, "If it to hos hi- with the work - "a doesn't trouble you It ought not who for you', She opened it and I to dicturbe me get a much at wer

a bette desperent. It seems rether propair's some one opened The door, The conversation droffed and has not been renewed since, because I'm not seen her. It is the last thing that will trouble me - your age, I should herer think of its being on obsticle. In fact I would rather you were forten years older, than one day Goinger. you deer de Jellow i Don't love me too hard - that is enough to think I have on Joulto, because I really have a guet many, and I gear I shall Ite tother go and very you, but you must always remember that under all my manghtimen there is a wealth of love, & faithfulners, which you will hordly dereour unless some ill befolk you, - which theorem grant may mener hoppen! and, you too, remember the solemn

how me spent in the city of the dead , so many months ago! Horn, how could you then have loved me one bit often ale my betefrener that summer? What imp passessed me I know not, bu or since, to make myself diagneable, ashormed of it that night? I strick a storted for home that night feeling as thoroughly vered with, and wshermed onse of honing been varaged, could have wished, I never "conjured this before and probably showed not now, but you here a right to one every thought, and now you know why every thing that faired at that time is no stornfiel upon my mind, Home you forgeren me all the pain I

council you? If not please do and I promise to do all I can to stone. Till you exerce one a lette orhile? - you know you can be at work on the Cocale for tomorrows before med & promised In to take my work and Burn over a few momente - god bye dia and I have just left the Cury household of The Ingjor, They are all sening industriously to get Eliza ready Luc looked as of the night home been crying and surned very quet. They are a family who are much attached to each other and consequently ful goeing the void which mill be mode when she goes with her dear

lette trio. Ly is Jule of portings.

It will be impossible for me & do furtice to your letters, out site oftenft to reply to see The questions and of my words should own cold you must lay it to my backfulness. you see din not writing within ought to the fut you must home become according to my enable etyle of charagraphy en ther so I shall out bother about apploque. Do I feel like daging "ho" in vien of your pourty? mast emphotically I onswer no to that question. L' connot censider you "poor" orken you have health, latent, and a will to make the most of them, and to win your place in the world. I should much some heartale & many a nich mon, because that would not be on equal exchange. & con gine you love for love, and Sterefore me one 'equore', since neether

Jan 22- 1866 passesser on Soundance of the worlde goods. I believe en being economical ind slav in being generals The latter trait & always admired in your character, but from your our showing, you have never proched the Jonner. It is truly to be regulated that you wasted so many of your days, but me won't think of it only as an incentive to be to the only as an incentive to better act in the con soy we with quite on 'air. If you like as well to find the ement Things in one letters, as & do in your twill be see right of & do "let my heart efects rather freely. Hory lay please don't consider you self egotitical other you till me wer The bette office that are short you you know, or ought to that nothings. meand become uninteresting to me. Indeed I want to know all sout you doug life as that I can quety adapt myself to it. - Is that allich!

Am glad you made so many feather haffy by remembering them at Christmas time, and also that me Johnson was so thoughtful of you, I had a nopkin ming last year from Live, - wonder of They will be mater? I guerr me con manage to get up a match between them, Hope the forty and Boll passed pleasantly. Bid you excent any lady? I'm not a but jedou of huife Beetly, but allow one to to make present to your ledies, you can not object to my receiving slight attentions from gentlemen here. Especially when you remember that I never received a present from one young mon, except the one in going to many: - my eyer one so heavy! - Kin one good night, and lee go to bed, eary a bette progen for you and There go to cleep and dream of you ydon.

you generous to a fault, and knew That your disposition was to make mean to at so many house pass before every one hoffy around you. I have no Jear that are shall "hoard or surplus funds" and consequently you mir get a longer because I on almost as free heasted as you, and only hope we shall not live Thonk you for making on a regular beyond our oneone. The con only trust in subscribes". I have received the little paper Providence and do the Best me know how. quite regularly, and querty enough, wondered Thank you Hong for making me why your hard writing looked as different that promise to by and not onear any more. on the wropper. I may too stipled to think I know if you try you will not, and ong one else could have written ong nome, I should feel that my tage had not seen Wonder of Henry thinks it a fretty name! quite in vain, if I could help you some a certain other Henry once arrived me if was. When I dollower my porticular change yourself from that sin, which always seemed in my looke de home a picture token to me so debaring. for you, or if it hoppen to feel leke. I mean to send you this letter of it some day when I came up town. I hoverit Bywar. I don't know as he would think one in my passession. It just the Thing, but if you were here I am glad you experienced so much I should amely let you read it, as what estisfection in receiving Luce acknowledgment is the difference? he won't say any thing y your gift. you need not blame yourself to him about it. for thoughttenen in the part, because your nead it, and then listen to a relations and priends have one considered, few comments from me.

you will see that he taken The boothery bourty to advise one considerably. he know I sholl take it good notweedy: The first of it needs no remarks, exceft that, if wash will go I promise to go with fram, though I should very much rother home you come on if you feel that it will be right to do so. about Henry Rust. Harry dear, of you care one particle, because I have received some attention from him, tell me so and every thing of the out- whole cease, I have no wish to do wrong, and had not thought I was , & I believe I have told you I all the place I have been with him and I tell you now that he has never colled ofon one, or shown one more attention this winter than for year part. I don't core what the gassife say - in fact had nother they talked that way then here them know the truth. I do not intend to make a point of telling every one that I am engaged, nor do I meen to dany it is asked directly all my Jonily know it, except the little

13. we decide, when me shall many and when they will stay. I cont ear what In her told Henry · Rust. I have never said ong thing to him on the subject except in a joking oray. You know I like to go to ace sorts is social getherings, and I have felt That I had nother home his execut than eng other when you were away. Then I on with Lue so much that it would be nearly impossible to avoid him, ond would look almost frudish if I refused to accompany him & a donce a a eksting expedition. However, you have only to tell one orhet you wish, and I shall be glad to do just as you say in all things. The forty repred to man ony Locted murings - writ that a good Joke? Em not too sensition to home a good laugh over it.

my female prende, Las porticulory. tolerably 'nest"; but is you ear deford at any time to think other. were, you can tell me, and once telling will probably be evough. That is all I have to vay sout his letter & believe. Flore is still her , and is improving as much as could be expected, I notice that other she full sole to wake it is upon some very ting garmente, which she is inclined who the door spend anddonly. Hottie R. and may I ose tother. I had ever promised to med with you well not and always and kind gratings to you. Nothin thinks she wants very much to see you, and I wish she night. you must keep your lette Statuette to put on the "whol-not" which Statute will be in our forlow. By the may, one me going to keep house very down ofte "The ceremony", or orait until you

"one richer? you know it takes quite a file of money to famish a house in these days, but I am agreedle to any plan about that. If me hip house will it be admirable for one to carry table and but liver ? you der I am very metter of feet in my questioner. I should ack my quentity Speech such impost, of I could see you on how, One can say as much more with a longue there with a few. It just occur to me, that it was a little impedent of you, to ask me to must you in Son Francisco, before should you some day come for me. have it not ? The longer I think of it, The more on I impressed by your importanence. pty! I believe if I hadn't alredy mode that promise I'd keep you waiting for it some months longer, by way of funishment. Don't you think you deserve et .

I called at Diguitar Senday. The and Waner are heffy and proved of Then youngster, but between you and I he is any thing but a pretty body. above said to teare one, that if you knew how I was going on, you mould tell out and come home mighty quick." I told him I wished you know then, if twowed have that affect. This is the longest letter & ever bothered any body with, and Lee Cake pely on you and etch. Be a good boy end live up to all your good resolutions, and my Evel blen you my dearest find. Ever lovingly

The Mansion

Monday eve. Jan 22nd 1866

My Dear Harry --

Here are, let me see, one, two, three, four of your good letters unanswered, Those dated "Dec 27th and "Christmas" came last Saturday while those written the 16th and 17th did not get along until today. I presume the delay was at New York.

I'm very glad you were pleased with your big New Years gift. Why I made it a New Years, was because I thought it would arrive about that time, am also glad that it made your Christmas pass more merrily.

[page 2]

your note to your, or our, Mother made my heart beat fast every time I thought of it, and frightened me to such a degree that I determined to deliver it as soon as possible. It's over, and I have had the feeling ever since of having "been and gone and done it."

Shall I describe the scene?
Well, in order to carry out my
determination I kept it in my
pocket all the time, and yesterday
afternoon after Church I was in
the cottage. Gradually one after
another the family left the room
till only your mother, the little
boys (who were busy at play) and a
girl with a red face and jumping
heart were left. Then I very
coolly drew forth your letter, took
from it your note and handed it
to Mrs M. -- with the remark -- "a
note for you". She opened it and I

[page 3]

went to a seat in the back of the room so I should not see her face, but I confess to having kept an eye on her movements.

After reading it slowly, she took her handkerchief out, shed a few quiet tears, whether of sorrow, or joy, I am unable to say, and after recovering herself she came to me with a smile, pressed my hand and kissed me, and went back to her seat without a word.

After a little she said, "I asked him if your correspondence meant any thing serious". -- "I'm afraid there is too much difference in your ages Nellie -- don't you think so"? I replied -- "I never thought so -- I never realized that there was so much difference -- I shall grow old faster than he". She said, "If it doesn't trouble you it ought not to disturb me -- yet I wish it were

[page 4]

a little different. It seems rather unfair" -- some one opened the door, the conversation dropped and has not been renewed since, because I've not seen her.

It is the last thing that will trouble me -- your age. I should never think of its being an obstacle. In fact I would rather you were fourteen years older, than one day younger.

You dear old fellow; Don't love me too hard; that is enought to think I have no faults, because I really have a great many, and I fear I shall often bother you and vex you, but you must always remember that under all my naughtiness there is a wealth of love and faithfulness, which you will hardly discover unless some ill befall you, -- which Heaven grant may never happen!

And, you too, remember the solemn

[page 5]

hour we spent in the "city of the dead", so many months ago!

Harry, how could you then have loved me one bit after all my hatefulness that summer? What imp possessed me I know not, but certainly I never tried so hard before, or since, to make myself disagreeable, and, do you know, you made me ashamed of it that night? I think I started for home that night feeling so thoroughly vexed with, and ashamed of, Nell Verrill, as even you, with the sense of having been wronged, could have wished. I never "confessed" this before and probably should not now, but you have a right to my every thought, and now you know why every thing that passed at that time is so stamped upon my mind. Have you forgiven me all the pain I

[page 6]

caused you? If not please do, and I promise to do all I can to atone.

Will you excuse me a little while? -- You know you can be at work on the locals for tomorrows Appeal, and I promised Lue to take my work and run over a few moments -- good bye dear --

Well, it's nearly 10 O'clock and I have just left the busy household of the Major. They are all sewing industriously to get Eliza ready for her departure next Friday.

Lue looked as if she might have been crying and seemed very quiet.

They are a family who are much attached to each other and consequently feel keenly the void which will be made when she goes with her dear little trio. Life is full of partings.

It will be impossible for me to do justice to your letters, but I'll attempt to reply to all the questions and if my words should seem cold you must lay it to my bashfulness.

You see I'm not writing within "gunshot" of the place where lives ought to be, but you must have become accostomed to my erratic style of chirography on this so I shall not bother about appologies.

Do I feel like saying "No" in view of your "poverty"? Most emphatically I answer no to that question.

I cannot consider you "poor" when you have health, talent and a will to make the most of them, and to win your place in the world.

I should much sooner hesitate to marry a rich man, because that would not be an equal exchange.

I can give you love for love, and therefore we are "square", since neither

[page 8]

possesses an abundance of "this worlds goods". I believe in being economical and also in being generous.

The latter trait I always admired in your character, but from your own showing, you have never practiced the former. It is truly to be regretted that you wasted so many of your days, but we won't think of it only as an incentive to better acts in the future. -- You will notice that I can say "we" with quite an 'air'.

If you like as well to find the sweet things in my letters as I do in yours, 'twill be all right, if I do "let my heart speak" rather freely.

Harry boy, please don't consider yourself egotistical when you tell me all the little affairs that are about you -- you know, or ought to, that nothing; which concerns you, can by any possible means become uninteresting to me.

Indeed I want to know all about your daily life so that I can quietly adapt myself to it, -- is that selfish!

[page 9]

9.

Am glad you made so many people happy by remembering them at Christmas time, and also that Mrs Johnson was so thoughtful of you. I had a napkin ring last year from Lue, -- wonder if they will be mates? I guess we can manage to get up a match between them. Hope the party and ball passed pleasantly. Did you escort any lady? I'm not a bit jealous of Miss Beatty, but allow me to remark sir, that if you feel at liberty to make presents to young ladies, you cannot object to my receiving slight attention from gentlemen here. Especially when you remember that I never received a present from any young man, except "the one I'm going to marry". -- My eyes are so heavy! -- Kiss me good night and I'll go to bed, say a little prayer for you and then go to sleep and dream of you -- if I can.

[page 10]

Wednesday morning
I really did not
mean to let so many hours pass before
finishing this, but some way they have,
and consequently you will get a longer
letter than I proposed to write.

Thank you for making me a "regular subscriber". I have received the little paper quite regularly, and queerly enough, wondered why your hand writing looked so different on the wrappers. I am too stupid to think any one else could have written my name.

Wonder if "Henry" thinks it s pretty name! A certain other Henry once assured me it was. When I discover any particular change in my looks I'll have a picture taken for you, or if I happen to feel like it some day when I am up town. I haven't one in my possession.

I am glad you experienced so much satisfaction in receiving Lues acknowledgment of your gift. You need not blame yourself for thoughtlessness in the past, because your relatives and friends have ever considered

[page 11]

you generous to a fault, and knew that your disposition was to make every one happy around you. I have no fear that we shall "hoard as surplus funds" because I am almost as free hearted as you, and only hope we shall not live beyond our means. We can only trust in Providence and do the best we know how.

Thank you Harry for making me that promise to "try and not swear any more". I know if you try you will not, and I should feel that my life had not been quite in vain, if I could help you save yourself from that sin, which always seemed to me so debasing.

I mean to send you this letter of Byrons. I don't know as he would think it just the thing, but if you were here I should surely let you read it, so what is the difference? -- We won't say any thing to him about it.

Now read it, and then listen to a few comments from me.

[page 12]

You will see that he takes the brotherly liberty to advise me considerably. -- he knows I shall take it good naturedly.

The first of it needs no remarks except that if Wash will go I promise to go with him, though I should very much rather have you come or if you feel that it will be right to do so.

About Henry Rust, Harry dear,

if you care one particle, because I have received some attention from him, tell me so, and every thing of the sort shall cease, I have no wish to do wrong, and had not thought I was, I believe I have told you of all the places I have been with him and I tell you more that he has never called upon me, or shown me more attention this winter than for years past.

I don't care what the gossips say -- in fact had rather they talked that way than have them know the truth.

I do not intend to make a point of telling every one that I am engaged, nor do I mean to deny it if asked directly. All my family know it, except the little

[page 13]

13.

girls, whom I shall tell as soon as we decide, when we shall marry and where they will stay.

I can't say what Lue has told Henry Rust. I have never said any thing to him on the subject except in a joking way. You know I like to go to all sorts of social gatherings, and I have felt that I had rather have his escort than any other when you were away. Then I am with Lue so much that it would be nearly impossible to avoid him, and would look almost prudish if I refused to accompany him to a dance or a skating expedition. However, you have only to tell me what you wish, and I shall be glad to do just as you say in all things.

The party refered to was my "Lacteal musings" -- isn't that a good joke? I'm not too sensitive to have a good laugh over it.

[page 14]

My female friends, Lue particularly, give me the credit of being tolerably "neat", but if you are disposed at any time to think other-

wise, you can tell me, and once telling will probably be enough.

That is all I have to say about his letter I believe.

Flora is still here, and is improving as much as could be expected. I notice that when she felt able to work it is upon some very tiny garments, which she is inclined to tuck into her work basket very innocently when the door opens suddenly.

Hattie R__ and May G__ are both well now and always send kind gratitude to you. Hattie thinks she wants very much to see you, and I wish she might.

You must keep your little Statuette to put on the "whatnot" which will be in our parlor. By the way, are we going to keep house very soon after "the ceremony", or wait until you

[page 15]

"are richer"? You know it takes quite a pile of money to furnish a house in these days, but I am agreeable to any plan about that.

If we keep house will it be advisable for me to carry table and bed linen?

You see I am very matter of fact in my questions. I should ask my quantity of just such import, if I could see you an hour. One can say so much more with a tongue than with a pen.

It just occurs to me, that it was a little impudent of you, to ask me to meet you in San Francisco, before I had even promised to wed with you should you some day come for me. Was it not? The longer I think of it, the more was I impressed by your impertinence. Why! I believe if I hadn't already made that promise, I'd keep you waiting for it some months longer, by way of punishment. Don't you think you deserve it?

I called at Augusta's Sunday. She and Abner are happy and proud of their youngster, but between you and I, he is any thing but a pretty baby.

Abner said, to tease me, that "if you knew how I was going on, you would sell out and come home mighty quick."

I told him I wished you knew then, if 'twould have that effect.

This is the longest letter I ever bothered any body with, and I'll take pity on you and stop.

Be a good boy and live up to all your good resolutions, and may God bless you my dearest friend.

Ever lovingly

Nellie --