

Casson Feb 18th 1866

Dear Nellie:

I got your letter containing Byron's Photograph yesterday. I thank you, and I shall renew that expression of obligation whenever you send me the promised pictures of Mary Anne and Mattie Robinson. Whenever you can make it convenient to do so, please have some new pictures taken of your own face and send me one. I don't intend to be called a beggar without some cause, and I shall keep dangling away at you and Luc until you comply with my demands for family portraits.

So you have been "flirting"

with my black Eyed
Cousin. Well, I suppose I
shall have to submit to
it since there seems to be
a prospect of his being im-
proved in "grace" and in
a knowledge of the art
Leipsichian Thrush.

Seriously, do just as you
please Nellie, and let the
gossips and busy-bodies talk
as much as they please. I do
know you better than to dis-
trust your motives and
am delighted that my Cousin
has displayed the gallantry
and good taste to be so
polite toward you. My
principal regret is that
I am unable to be where
I can accompany you in
your pleasant excursions.

I am delighted that
you have so good a friend

and adviser in Mrs Smith.
Please present that most
Excellent Lady with my
compliments and assure her
of my sense of obligation
for the good opinion she
has been pleased to express
with regard to me. I trust
I may always merit her
entire approbation.

You ask me "would
you wish me to go alone?"
I will answer "No," and for
this reason: The voyage
would be an entirely novel
one to you, and there is
a possibility that you
would be beset with
inconveniences and perhaps
dangers and illness - and
moreover, in my opinion,
no lady should travel
so far alone, unless the
reason for her doing so is

inevitable and unavoidable.

Further: I am apprehensive
-ive that the Cholera will
prevail as an epidemic, next
Summer, and if it does,
I shall insist upon your
remaining in Maine, where it
has never yet appeared, and
where I trust it never will
go.

I am very firm in the
faith that my business,
which is increasing gradually,
will warrant me in making
Wash such an offer, within
the next six months, as will
induce him to come to
Newada; and then you
and Hattie and Emma can
pack your trunks and come
with him. You will perceive
that the problem which I

Am. Trying to solve is this:
 How to get to you or have
 you to come to me in
 the shortest possible time
 compatible with prudence
 (in a business point of view)
 and with propriety and
 convenience, so far as we
 both are concerned. I
 feel certain that the whole
 question will be fully and
 satisfactorily solved before
 the snows fall next winter.
 I could not, if I would,
 lose sight of the fact, that
 it is my duty to be
 sure that you and yours
 shall be provided with all
 the comforts of a good home
 before I ask you to make
 the venture of coming to
 this wild country. In my
 own somewhat courtful life

I have learned the folly
of trusting to luck; and
the ups and downs of
dear bought experience have
taught me a wholesome
dread of poverty for myself.

How much more should
I dread imposing that painful
condition upon you, whom
I love better than myself.

But I should be doing
myself injustice if I were
to envy the idea that
I am now pinched by
poverty. On the contrary,
I am making a good
living and could support
a wife; but I am very
confident that a few
more months' hard work
and a reasonable exercise
of economy will put me
in a condition to live
more in attendance with

my own tastes and to offer
you a more agreeable
home and one such as
you are entitled to as
the mistress of my house.

These sober philosophizings
look cold and calculating—
but it seems to me
that I had better look
at them now than to
avoid their consideration
for the vague sweet-scent
of a novel hero's air
castles.

Perhaps I am over-
cautious now that I
must think for somebody
else's comfort besides my
own; but the fact is, I
have been so reckless of
my own fortunes, that I am
constrained to look very
carefully to those of my
wife that is to be. She must

Have as share in the bitter
experiences which are a
part of my history.

I am almost sorry you
sent that wretched picture
of mine to Hattie. I am
afraid she will get the
impression that I am not
in the habit of washing my
face. I will send you some
better ones before a great
while.

I send you a note of the
National Bank of Nevada which
you may admire as a curiosity
until you find an opportunit-
y to visit it. I expect that
Dolph Young will get a part
of it for candy for you and
the Post Winkies.

Good night darling. God bless
you and yours. Lots of love to
all the Merrill family, not forgetting
Sweethearts and Wives. Love me
ever so much and believe me to be
wholly yours Affectionately Harry.

Carson Daily Appeal.

ROBINSON & MIGHELS.

NEW YORK CITY
FEB 18 1866

By Steamer.

Miss Nellie Verrill

Norway Village

Maine.

Carson Feb 18th 1866

Dear Nellie:

I got your letter containing Byron's photograph yesterday. I thank you, and I shall renew this Expression of obligation whenever you send me the promised pictures of Mary Gosse and Hattie Robinson. Whenever you can make it convenient to do so, please have some new pictures taken of your own face and send one me. I don't intend to be called a beggar without some cause, and I shall keep dinging away at you and Lue until you comply with my demands for family portraits.

So you have been "flirting"

[page 2]

with my black Eyed cousin. Well, I suppose I shall have to submit to it since there seems to be a prospect of his being improved in "grace" and in a knowledge of the art Terpsichorean thereby.

Seriously do just as you please Nellie, and let the gossips and busy-bodies talk as much as they please. I do know you better than to distrust your motives and am delighted that my cousin has displayed the gallantry and good taste to be so polite toward you. My principal regret is that I am unable to be where I can accompany you in your pleasant excursions.

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ever so much, and believe me to be
wholly yours affectionately

Harry.

[envelope]

Carson Daily Appeal.
ROBINSON & MIGHELS.

[postmark: CARSON CITY NEV 16]

[stamp removed]

By Steamer.

Miss Nellie Verrill
Norway Village
Maine.