

Easthampton, Sept 28

My darling Mimi,

My mind wanders restlessly over the past to the time when I last saw you.

If the time could be again passed over and if I could once more hear you wish that I had not gone, I think that very likely I might acquiesce. I don't know

that I would be sorry for having come East, provided that I knew you all to be progressing happily and well. But it seems as if it were a kind of a ruthless proceeding to have so recklessly disrupted all the ties which bound us so closely together. I suppose that if I had something to do I should not have time to let such thoughts



barrass me. But the prospect for doing anything seems very poor. I have written to Albert but his answer is exceedingly discouraging.

He can tell me of nothing; says that there are 20 teachers to one scholar in Brooklyn and that the press is crowded with writers of all kinds.

The Pacific coast is evidently the best place to make money. Nothing like learning wisdom by experience.

In fact if I should conclude to go home, I don't know as I should hardly regret having come here since I have learned so much of the world, which I could have known in no other way. I should eagerly scan the air for my lost dollars, and might curse the day in which I was tempted to wander. I should have thought of coming home a crazy idea when I left home. Yet for a good many reasons, it seems



the page.  
This letter is so long that I have to send it in two envelopes.

peculiar in his style. I fear that his habits are not quite what ~~at~~ they should be. I guess he drinks something stronger than lager or ale, but I don't like to see a person ever go as far as that, <sup>even</sup>. Taking him all through, he is a most interesting fellow. Grand Rapids is a place of about 25 or 30 thousand, a busy and substantial city.

None of these eastern towns, though, unless I except Chicago, show the presence of wealth as fully as does Portland. Even with its small population, I think Portland has finer residences than any town I have yet been in, except San F. <sup>or Oakland</sup> and Chicago.

Kal. has a greater higher average, perhaps, than Portland, but more equal to Reed's, Ladd's and Tailing's.

I have dissipated to a fearful rate here in G. R. Monday night

Henry and I rambled around town, until near eleven o'clock, and had just reached home, when a fire broke out, and we posted down the street to witness the display. The crowd of excited people, the glare of the flames against the buildings on the hill in <sup>the</sup> rear of the town, and the strange contrast in the 'black threatening clouds, the shouts, and what not, made a very interesting display. It did not amount to much, however. Yesterday we went out to Reed's Lake, four miles from here. We spent the time most delightfully, rowing over the glassy surface of the lake. It is a beautiful little sheet of water one mile in width and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in length.

It is circled around by oaks and beeches, and when the full moon rose over the tree-tops, I was completely entranced. There were a number of parties on the lake and the splash of the oars, mingling with the songs and laughter, chimed most



sweetly with <sup>the</sup> moonlight. At  
We fell in with a crowd of  
young folks with whom Henry was  
acquainted. We did not start home  
untill near midnight, and I guess  
it was one o'clock before we were  
asleep. I thought that some of our  
crowds were pretty wild, but I  
believe these Michigan boys and girls  
can get away with us complity.  
Altogether, we passed a most enjoy-  
able night.

To day I received a  
letter from the Dean of medical Faculty  
at Ann Arbor, in answer to some  
inquiries I asked him. He rather  
advised me to go to the University <sup>this year</sup>, if  
I could do it, rather than read.

But as I find nothing to do, I  
don't see that I can do it.

On many accounts, it will be best  
for me to study in Ann Arbor. It is  
so much cheaper than any other, the  
whole tuition for the three years amount-

of my part or interest. I am enjoying myself greatly.  
The same card won't more and tell me everything.

ing to but about \$100., and is deficient  
less full than the New York and Phil. schools  
only in the hospital practice, that I  
very strongly think that, even if I should  
spend the winter in Mass., I may return  
and study here. <sup>at least had little to go</sup> I could then work  
in the hospital department of some large  
New York school, for a year and consider  
myself fixed. If I were certain that  
father would sell the land in Iowa, I  
would go to Ann Arbor and trust to  
60 or 70 dollars from that to carry me  
through the present year.

As it is, I it is probably, <sup>best</sup> that I go  
East, unless I find something here to do.

I plan now to go East, if I go, about  
a week or so from to-day.

If father sells the land, it is to be understood  
that enough to take him East next year is  
to take precedence of everything else. I have  
not yet received Mary's journal, of which Horace  
makes mention. Father's letter containing Payson's

and Uncle Lawrence's letters received. W. L. L.



still that it may be well. I should feel something like the prodigal son to ~~ever~~ go poking back home. If it were not for the fact that next year is the centennial year, and that ~~you~~ may all possibly come here I should ~~not~~ hesitate.

As it is I should feel so cheap to go back and thus stay in Oregon while all the rest of you were coming here, as to rather spoil the feast.

I don't know whether you would admit me to the house or not in case I should come; you might be so greatly disgusted on account of my folly. It is dreadfully dull here on Uncle L's farm. There is some considerable going on, however, in the village. Dr. Lord has been giving a course of lectures on distinguished historical characters. I have attended two, without, however getting very



vastly absorbed. I have not yet been  
on Mt. Tom. We were planning  
to go yesterday in time <sup>to</sup> witness  
the annular eclipse, but lo, when we  
waked it was raining. The weather  
has been, in the main, delightful since  
my advent here. It very much  
resembles our fall weather though  
more rainy. The fields are all of  
a vivid green. The trees are  
now beginning to assume their  
robes of crimson and amber and  
yellow. The display is very beautiful.

I wonder if father remembers the  
little gorge at the north side of the  
pasture, leading down toward the  
brook. There <sup>are</sup> several very beautiful  
places of such description in this  
vicinity. Farewell and write  
more. I have received no letter  
for some days.  
Your loving brother - W. H. W.