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Miss M. Carey Thomas

The Observatory

Biggs Hall

Paun.





Holland House

12 m, Mech. 11th / 193

Dearest Minnie,

Your letter came early this
 morn'g just as my bill came in, and you
 may be very sure that the letter was
 read before any attention was paid to the
 breakfast - And now my registered parcel
 has come & been unpacked & my birthday
 present is safely tucked away under
 my pillow after being christened by me -
 How did you ever happen to think of such a
 thing? I think it was a very clever idea
 and you know that I ^{only} use it often, but
 that I am associate it with you, and the
 smell is such a fresh, pungent, wholesome
 one that you need not mind - & evidently
 do not mind the association - I wish I
 could thank you in the way I should like for it &
 for the tea & for the so much more - your
 constant loving thought of me & for me -

I agree with you full that the feeling of your
 Trustees, all belonging to an older generation
 is not to be wondered at, and I suppose

(2)

The absolute injustice & meanness of
their proposed evulsion of the difficulty
is not to be wondered at either, as it is
entirely consistent with the role they have
been named to consider. The true & only
proper measure would be the uncon-
planned bearers of Mrs's burdens as
well as of their own - not of uncon-
planning, but grateful - I wonder
whether Dr. Shroats will have manli-
ness & sense of justice enough to
refuse - If he does not, you certainly
will have to, my darling; and for
all you have told me, it looks as if
business on your part & tact would
win the day - I am glad Marnie
is reconciled to your doing this if
need be, for I am sure it will be the
only right thing to do, & that hard as
the outcome might be for her if you
did not conquer - What I am afraid
of is that there will not be so clear
defined a choice, but that compromise

(3)


a series of compromises, & half way measures
will be suggested that may obscure the
main issues and make it difficult always
to see clearly and I am so afraid it will
make you ill again - One thing you must
do however - but I will wait until after
I have seen Dr. C. to tell you what this
one thing is - as you can get no letter to
me now; I have plenty of time -

9.30 P.M. - I have been so tired & headachy
this day to go on with my letter ^{and} ~~but~~ have
instead finished 'Vestry of the Basins', wh.
I have been reading at intervals all day,
with appreciation of Wm its humour &
pathos, and glanced over the day's
paper - and ~~was~~ done with ^{besides} but think or
rather dream - and now I am going to
get ready for the night, and stopping to tell
you that Dr. C. reported to-day that he
found a very marked improvement in
this last specimen - and that she sees no
objection to a plan for the Easter holidays -
I wonder whether I shall have my letter
to you now or not? Goodnight -

①

Sunday 2. 45 P. M.

Just as I opened my portfolio at 12 o'clk.
Dr. C. came & I was hurried afterwards to do
anything but lie still till lunch time, not even
reading. You remember that last spring at
Munans I slipped on those beautiful purple
steps leading to the choir by the name of Miss
Pickers at Munans & hurt the hip of my back,
and that it was troublesome for a long time.
This half sitting up in bed so much has started
it up again & it has been so painful these
past few days that Dr. C. said the wife
like to examine it. She got it very sensitive
and says not to let Dr. W. put there, but to
begin with the electricity to - narrow, to
try that for it & if it does not get better in a
few days, to try an ice bag in an ice bag for
an hr. a day. It is most trying because
no position is comfortable. The cause
report that she had had no nurse & saw
no prospect of any. I do not like this one
like her so little in fact that my wife
is decided not to wash her to do the job
than to do them. They have promised
send her anything who may come in from
Bellevue by Wed. ^{week} but at present have not
a single one discharged, and there is not
one of those whom the nurse's prayer school
free. It is not worth while to make a

change unless I can get someone really good
a woman of some refinement & education
pleasant & have ² ~~about~~ ^{if possible}
one who could  read aloud -
I have not happened to know a really
attractive & desirable one, have you, in
your experience of the Phil. ones,
even if you had, she wd prob. be engaged -
This does not mean that I want you to
start out to look for me, for this is the
last thing I want
of a definite woman ^{who is what I want} - whether it is
possible to get her - and I shd be very
much displeas'd if you attempted
any hunt or enquiries ^{remember I wd say this} - ^{very good ones}
^{perhaps} however, if ~~he~~ no find me turn
up within a day or two ask Dr. Holmes
to send me to me - what shd you
think of this? He wd take pains about
it and wd be likely to know of the kind
who wd suit for a "rest cure." - You see it
requires a wholly different order of nursing
and those who are used to ^{ordinarily} ^{medical & surgical} cases, do not understand
it, and finding there is very little to do, are
either fussy & officious or else forget or
do not see how to do that little -
how to go back to the one thing that you must
do - it is to tell go on telling me fully about
not only yourself, but about the position of

⑥ The Presidency matter from day to day -
You promised that you would, you remember,
and I agree with you that a promise is
a promise, and I have asked Dr. C.
whether you could write me just about
Lusina's matters - not my business
I said except in so far as I was very
much interested, and that there were
some important things for which I was very
anxious to know the daily progress,
and she said you might - Yesterday
when I asked her she laughed & asked
whether I did not yr. description was well
trusted & said she would think about it
and let me know, & to-day she said yes,
as I say, and really seemed to think
it would be better for me to be kept in my
bed than to worry - So, my darling, you
must do it, because I should
worry dreadfully if you attempted to
carry out your plan of telling me nothing
while I am in bed, the rest - cure
you would be doing me more harm than
any thing else you could do, & I would
do some

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I wd - This is not being unappreciative of
the excellent suggestion (for which, however
you seem to doubt your capacity), but I must
hesitate at any rate - You see I am going
to assert the privileges of an invalid
and claim a great deal -

And now - here I was interrupted by Julia de
T.'s appearance with the women who had
been lunching here, but who simply said how
do you do & got some flowers & were carried off
then by Dr. White, whose outburst lasted a
long time to-day. This was followed by a cup
of yr. tea & now I can go on about Easter -
I asked Dr. C. yest. whether she liked an interruption
during the Easter holidays - wd be bad -
She said of with a pleasure? I said of
pleasure, that I did not know at all certainly
but that it was possible that you wd be
able to either come here for a few days during
them or go away with me somewhere here for
a few days, and that the latter wd be
wt be better for you - She said she wd
then wd be no objection to the plan,
I ^{that it wd not do me good} presumed it wd not mean that we
shd have a great deal of business to
discuss & decide upon, this I reassured
her about - So I will it over & see what
you think - If the choice wd be between

⑧ yr. spending 3 days with me & going away
with Maunie for 6, I wd rather have
you for with her, for I think there is
nothing that wd do you as much good
as a week's complete change & rest.
This is not easy to say, but it is true, and
I do not want to do or be the means of
yr. doing anything more to keep you from
getting well; and great as the delight
of being with you 2 weeks comes wd
be, I wd not do it willingly, but gladly wait.
Please see whether it is not possible for you
to arrange to do this - by going to Atlantic City
day & really rest & live in the open air -
I think the no. of the Sud room was 223, but
am not sure - but if you ask him & show
his books see wh. were the two rooms
occupied by us for the 11th - 13th he can
have no difficulty in telling wh. room
it was - Now however you ought to
give him as long a notice as possible -
It was the 3rd Mon. yr. hunt. Do go this
week if you possibly can even if it is only
for Sat. & Sunday; for wonderful as is the
way in wh. you keep up, you are still
not strong or you would not feel tired so
often - Please tell me whether you back
still aches much & whether there has

been any return at all of the heart trouble.

I was so glad to hear this ring of yr. staying in bed yesterday & being without visitors & of your being almost up by date with yr. letters as well as mine! Thanks very much at't the latter - It hasn't been procrastination, but simply because of all the reasons yr. know.

I am so sorry you may so much trouble in answer my question at't Sch. acct. Yr. p. hrs. are so precious & I hoped you wd't have any time left but not want. If or what yr. remembered. - It is very ~~well~~ satisfactory in result, however - Do not bother over those acct's these weeks when yr. have so much else to do - I am delighted at't Dr. Elsie Howe - Is she back n. 26th or did yr. ask her or will yr. ask her to stay in order to prepare - I suppose yr. have not yet heard p. Dr. Chapman at't Miss Wallin? She seems to very much superior to Miss Jackson that I hope the report will be good & I sh'd think that wd' be a very great advantage p. Dr. Howe to stay with her our assistant who had some of Dr. Lillard's traditions & very unscientific ways - Do yr. not think there is some force in this?

(10)

And now abt yr scolding - I am very
sorry, as sorry as yr can be, about Mr. Seaman,
but it certainly was hard wth presence
when they had not been away this yr
since they came home fr. Europe as I
remember - She stays out until Wednesday
But she told me yest, that Alice wd perhaps
arrive to-morrow, so I wrote her this morn^g
as yr see & got her ans. - I shd of course
have preferred not giving M. my New York
address had it not been that I shd have
been hr' anxious - It is impossible for
me not always to be a little anxious
abt H. and to be unwill'g to put my
self out of the reach of instant com-
munication, unless it were absolutely
necessary - So please do not scold me &
think me obstinate & unwill'g to take
good advice -

I don't quite see why Dr. C. wishes to keep
me here in N.Y. rather than have me go
somewhere, but she may watch me
more closely than she seems to - You
have a most unreasonnable sense
of dis' satisfactⁿ, in ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~circumstances~~ ^{circumstances}
of this sort, that very little is

being done for you & that none might
 be, but I suppose it is thought of
 unreasonable & that nothing but rest will
 accomplish the end - I told you did
 I not that she now talks of the desir-
 ability of my going down here after
 this & not going home before the latter
 party of April? - It looks as if I sh^d get
 here only just in time for the dinner I prom-
 ised to give John & his friends on the 24th
 April. - You see I am not in a very con-
 cealed frame of mind - also unreasonably
 I suppose, I feel rather aggrieved that she
 sh^d not have been sure that she sh^d get me a
 good nurse, but very likely one whom she
 did not think admirable I will dislike, or after
 all it prob. doesn't matter -

It is pleasant to hear that Miss Humph
 wants to stay with me - The next time you
 talk to her suggest some time devoted to
 spelling, as she makes a good many
 mistakes & makes the same ones over -
 I enclose a note about the cheque for which
 will please you - Of course if any of your
 private comes, you can see & kindly send
 it on, & when my acct's come at the
 end of the month, you can keep them

(12) In me or send them on as you like if
I am still here - If any "found" things
shd come fr. Grace, send them on, but
it is not likely -

But this is not a "rest cure" letter and
I must stop - I finished the letter
documenting before last, & I shd
see why it shd have reminded you - We
must talk abt it - I shall expect the
Merbury in summer - To-day I have
read nothing but me or how back habits
either being tried or with by in my quiet
hours - Tell me as soon as you can what
you decide about Easter, & after - and
remember you are to keep your promise.

It is too bad that Dr. Wood's illness
shd come now to add to all the other com-
plications & burdens - And now for God's
sake I shd like to send you some of my notes &
letters that came yesterday home, but they are
no longer sweet - I said in my directions
they shd be sent here & I wd leave directions
abt them if I were not here - Will you
take a Sunday kiss in my name and keep
it before me back with interest?

9 p.m.

Truly yours

Franklin