

East Norwalk Conn.

Nov. 13th 1889.

My dear Lady Dawson.

I can not tell you what feelings filled my heart on reading your most unexpected letter which came a few days ago.

To find that one so far away - so removed by time & distance, should have remembered me in these days of that loneliness which follows the departure of those with whose loving presence I had been filled - to find that your sympathy was not indulged in silence & unexpressed

as is so often the case -
We say - I feel sorry for
such & such a one - but we
fail, as generally, to give to
the afflicted any proof of
that entrance into their grief
& the emotion thus unacted
upon dies a natural death.

My precious Daughter with
her family have now been
a week on the Ocean & in
my heart I feel glad the
season of her discomfort
is nearly closed. The "Adu-
atic" is not an ambitious
individual & the voyage will
not be fashionably short.

I went down with the family
to the steamer to see them
off - there were others beside

Nelley who were sorry to leave
our shores & who will only
be too happy to return.

And here let me say how
thankful I am that your
dear Daughter, if she must
marry (as all girls seem ^{feel} to) ^{to}
is to be so closely connected
with Nelley. Knowing-as we
thought we did, Mr Hope's
preferences several years ago
we wished the union might
take place, for Nelley's sake -
as she was so much pleased
with Era & felt that she would
have in her a sister. Such
I hope they may be to each other.

The thought of our Children's
taking their experience into their
own hands, after all our efforts
to make life pleasant to them

is not altogether a pleasing one. We feel as if they were not competent to decide on what shall make them happy & would gladly screen them from all life's trials. But such is not the purpose of God. We are tried, & they must be, or their lives will not be rounded out - sorrow as well as joy must come into the experience of us all - so only can we be fitted for the life beyond. All these words are vain to check the swellings of the heart or dry the tears which Nature sheds. & I must not weary you with this theme.

You ask me to visit you & renew our old intercourse which was so full of interest & benefit to me. Nothing would afford me more satisfaction than to meet

2
you & Sir William & your
dear Eva. I did enjoy
your society so much,
but had long since con-
sidered our intercourse
as ended & only a pleasant
memory. If the weather
does not improve, it would
hardly be best for me to
undertake a journey to the
North - but should there
be a change for the better,
& nothing occur in the mean
time to prevent it, I think I
will accept your kind invita-
tion & make you a little
visit. I am going to New York

this week & while there
will talk over the journey
to Montreal with my
Nephew who has made
several in connection
with a building his firm
has recently erected there.
If he thinks I can go com-
fortably at this season of
the year, I will write to
you from the City saying
when you may expect me.
It may be any day after
the 18th.

"The secret of Guidance"
here - in this case, will prove
helpful to me.

I can not close without alluding to your "paraphrase" so aptly fitted to my own as well as your needs. I thank you for writing out what God put into your heart to say. It is so needful to keep ever in mind, in our sorrows - our blessings.

In my grief at parting with my dear ones, I have tried to check my feelings by thinking what a blessing it was that she was permitted to come & be with me once more! The children too are so fascinating. I wish you could see them & I hope you may before they are much

older. A Telegram on
Friday last, informed me
of the advent of a Daughter
to my son. So I am the
possessor of three grand-
daughters! Girls have been
such a rarity for so many
years in my own family
that these are more than
welcome.

I hope soon to
see you & look forward to
much comfort in our intercourse
& pray for a blessing upon it.

With warmest regards to his
William & Eva & my loving
thanks for all your letters
expressed, yours with love
J. S. Keyser