



This session pass without again be-  
 coming entangled with College affairs—  
 but I see that he has resolved to return  
 in time to get himself informed of how  
 matters stand, & to take part in the closing  
 duties. I regret this because hitherto he has  
 shown no disposition to talk much about  
 the College, & has more mourned about his ab-  
 sence from duties, but has made himself  
 happy in the accomplishment of so much writing  
 down without distraction, & I have thought  
 that if he could be slipped into the summer  
 calm no better break could be made to disengage  
 him from finally giving it up. Or if strength  
 sufficient should be regained, to seem  
 to make it desirable for him to continue  
 the Principalship, that it could be decided much  
 more advantageously, towards the close of the  
 summer, with his mind free for choice about

to carry out special schemes. He ~~is~~, as it were,  
stands outside of himself & his former work  
& views his circumstances & the situation with  
all Calmness of judgement. On the other hand,  
were he to take hold in April, it ~~is not~~ how  
far he is able to bear the strain. I am quite  
sure that, as he is now, he ~~will~~ not be able for  
a week of his ordinary past work. As he is here ~~and~~  
<sup>and</sup> he is sufficiently & pleasantly tired but a hard  
piece of writing or a little too much exercise  
tells at once & induces him to go early to bed.  
A month or two more however of this  
peaceful life may add to his strength, & one  
may think & speak of this again later on. But  
I fear he will make some promise, or  
pledge, that he will feel bound to keep. He  
keeps up a steady correspondence with John  
who does not seem to me to tell him much,  
but rather to write of these things in wh. he  
feels in need of advice or means to be able  
to quote papa's opinion. As return to my side

of necessities that may fall upon me, if you  
 to return. I went in this connection to the  
 care of a Cook that Mrs Pinby mentioned. A  
 woman, not very young, who had been inclined,  
 from Christian motives, to take the place of Cook  
 to the Sheltering Home. Where they found her a judi-  
 cious market-maker, good Cook & lay claim. but  
 the price thing was soon worn out. Mrs. S. knows  
 only this much - nothing of her former capabilities. She  
 gave me the impression, that as she had to look for  
 a Cook precisely, who this woman's skill, it not be hard  
 to pass her on to another. but I rather may have  
 found one before Mrs. S. returns & she not, with  
 all the new thoughts travelling gives, perhaps to miss her.  
 While I wd not wish to partake Mrs. S., or get  
 chalice her of the pleasure - if pleasure it is -  
 to look after this woman on any account  
 I think her too valuable to lose for useless civility.  
 & I was going to ask, if it comes in your way,  
 if you wd find her name & whereabouts  
 as she wd suit Mrs Carpenter if not fit for higher  
 cooking; but I will not say more as things

With no ~~arrangements~~ <sup>arrangements</sup> as ahead & uncertain. but  
 for yourself or Mr C. it be valuable to know  
 & keep such a person in view.

We have not heard again fr: Mrs Keyes  
 wh: gives uncertainty to our plans. but  
 at present we propose to have this place  
 next Wed: Sept-<sup>10<sup>th</sup></sup> for Palatka, another health  
 resort on the St Johns River, only an hour  
 by rail fr here. We try there till Monday & thence  
 return by boat to Jacksonville, which wd be  
 the point fr: which we wd start to Miller,  
 shd we go there, or <sup>North</sup> to Augusta via Savannah.  
 Palatka is the starting place for the trip up  
 the St Johns River, of wh: Mrs Kurlap spoke  
 where alligators & snakes abound. & thus  
 sail the mt. as mt. not take according to our  
 humor. but we wd be absent fr: Palatka,  
 I think, only about 24 hours, in a small steamer  
 these provide sleeping accommodations. We have  
 here a very pleasant time here - we have crossed

the ferry to Anersstatis Island <sup>every time</sup> & spend two  
 hours there, each time, walking on the beach  
 & as gathering shells - looking at the breakers  
 of the great Atlantic & hearing the purest of sea  
 air - papa has also been haunting Curiosity  
 shops. & picking out a variety of things for  
 the Museum. Amongst these the skin of an  
 eight foot long, rattlesnake, also the skull  
 of one with good example of its fangs -  
 I have so far become infected as to invest  
 in two male stuffed alligators, wh: I in-  
 tend to give to Bernard Jan: & Victor, but  
 here, as elsewhere, it is difficult to find any  
 new Curiosity as plaything for Children. I think  
 you must get ready for me an order for  
clothing wh: I cd attend to, if spared to return  
 to N. Y. I am quite serious. One of our excursions  
 has been to two orange groves. One of these,  
 owned by by a most interesting, quaint old  
 man, now 80, his name is Williams - he is a bachelor  
 also: Confidentially he told us he had 13. yers of

7  
marriage. Originally he had been a nursery  
man & retains his enthusiasm for new plants. He  
has in addition to his own cultivated trees &  
shrubs from Australia & other parts of the world not  
only beautified his place but has added to his  
income. He bought the ground 25 years ago & has  
made a wise choice as it is an old Indian  
camping ground, with rich soil. He has  
30 acres of land & 800 acacia trees, averaging about  
15 years old - ~~some~~ he never puts into the market  
but picks & keeps them as orchard, & has no difficulty  
in disposing of his crop of about 1000 boxes at \$3.50  
per box. Besides his orchard he has 2 or 3 acres in  
vegetables like hills to the hotel. On this property he  
has a large double wooden house & barn. It  
is lately newly fenced - from the front gate to the  
house there is an avenue, of a double row on  
each side, of fine well grown palmettos. It runs  
1500 feet along a street on the upper side & it is bounded  
by the sea on the lower side. Do you ask why go  
into such minute details - simply for Bernard's  
delight, for this nice old man of 80 years wishes

to sell the whole Concern I will give it to  
 a trustworthly purchaser for 50,000 dollars! I told  
 him I had asked all these particulars because  
 I had a son in-law who wanted to become  
 proprietor of an orange grove. When he said  
 with much emotion "send him on to me!"  
 "send him on" I will make terms if he will  
 offer me at all a reasonable price" & then he  
 added, "I wd have died 20 years ago but for this  
 farm, & any where I am a little deaf I am as well  
 as ever. I think if you set about this specula-  
 tion right you can buy his farm, get him to  
 live with you, & help you to manage, &  
 finally to leave you the purchase money & all  
 the money he has made by his oranges. He has  
 no near relatives than nephews & nieces, & he  
 knows only a few of these, & none of them are in  
 circumstances that allow of their leaving their  
 families to come & live with him, & as I have  
 already told you he is a very nice kindly old  
 bachelor knowing all the botanical names of his

9

trees & plants. Bernard cannot fail to see  
the benefits of this suggestion & at once close  
with Mr. Williams eyes.

Last night, as we were passing through  
the hall I was stopped, by a rather good  
looking lady (say of thirty five), who addressed  
me by name. I seemed surprised I did not  
recollect her as she was Miss Gible Cousin of  
Miss Oakney & hence a Cousin of Charlie Gible. She  
is now Mrs. Ramsey & lives in Minneapolis. She  
introduced us to her husband who is a rather  
pleasant & gentlemanly looking fellow. She is  
somewhat of the style of Mrs. Wilson (Mary  
Anderson) so we had no lack of talk & she  
questioned me about my Minnesota people  
& also told me that she was sister to Mrs. French,  
whose husband is Mr. Wood's Assistant. You  
I daresay know who she is. I do not.

The program has been written at odd scraps  
of time & I shudder hearing any reputation in  
writing I would much send it, but it is kinder  
to send disjointed scribbles than not to write

& it is quite delightful enough to be enjoying  
 so much leisure for pleasure while you  
 & others I love, are toiling & mailing in  
 ceaseless labours. Besides suffering from such  
 an extremely cold winter. I have no letter  
 for you to acknowledge - but when I wrote  
 last I was sorry to have forgotten to ask if your  
 call was gone - I do hope that it has long ago.  
 Oh how you will enjoy this delightful climate.  
 Since Christmas it has been too cold to sit  
 on galleries or at open windows but yesterday  
 & today we have begun again to be able to do so  
 a very little more heat but I think make this  
 place relaxing - I feel sure it will have the effect  
 on me. Thank you for "Mach: Delphine". I  
 have managed to read it & the things give  
 life to the story around. Paper is working  
 hard at his autobiography - I fear his style is  
 too matter of fact running on many lines of his  
 life & we have been urging him to more incidents