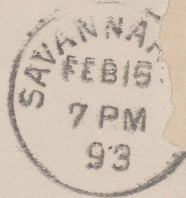


The De Soto...  
...Savannah, Ga.

WATSON & POWERS...

1893 -

Lady D,



American parts - 2 girls at their table  
lined out to be "demi-monde"

About retirement - Willing etc - dreadful writing in last part of letter

Mrs Harrington,  
Wallace Place,  
Upper University St.,  
Montreal,  
Canada,

MT  
FEB  
93

MON  
T

NY  
FEB 17 93  
9 30 PM

San Marco. St. Augustine. Florida

Feb. 14. 1893.

dearest Anna

It seems to my self a long  
time since I have written to you, & your  
last letter to me is dated Feb. 2. I have two  
excuses one that papa has carried on  
a fusillade of notes with you or Bernard  
& thus I have taken you kind & very welcome  
advice not to burden myself with writing,  
for really it has interfered with both rest  
& pleasure. having written considerably over  
seventy letters since I left home, I somehow hate  
life, which ought to be one of leisure, is not  
or has not proved it any in my case to be altogether  
do & if one goes into the drawing of evenings there  
is an end to all reading & things many  
additional interruptions during the day



thro' little talks &c he was much startled  
 by the news of the break-up at Mr. McCarroll's  
 home. I had not had an inkling of Anna's  
 of Anna's preference for any one & doubtless the  
 step of which you tell me was preceded by much  
 unpleasantness. I am truly & deeply sorry. It will  
 open the way more than ever for Mr. W. to being  
 pressed upon. as I have rather to go on  
 spending upon useless things. I have at various  
 times been trying to persuade your father  
 to undo the impression that he is the stop-  
 gap against improvement in the Arts Soc:  
 but he holds to the old lines that he never  
 has by word or deed done so. that he cannot  
 accept where has never been offered &c &c  
 & besides the subject always excites his anger.  
 & I feel that my influence in this matter is  
 negligible. I still think he ought not to look for-  
 ward to taking up College duties again. As  
 to our return he now speaks openly of his

intention to do so a week or so before Commu-  
 tion. It is most difficult for me to advise  
 as to what course will be best. I think for the  
 present a little more patient waiting. We  
 have had sometimes about ten days of un-  
 settled weather, then of these continuous heavy  
 rain, fogs & very sudden changes of temperature -  
 which papa though he brought a return of  
 a feeling of oppression in his chest - such  
 weather certainly affects his spirits & every  
 thing becomes gloomy so that one is not  
 sure what has a solid basis of truth & what  
 is mostly imaginary. The past few days has  
 restored things to their natural proportions  
 & he seems well, eating, sleeping, writing,  
 & walking as before. We have definitely decided  
 to return to Savannah & have made all our  
 arrangements to leave by a nine o'clock A.M.  
 train <sup>from</sup> ~~at~~ I do hope papa will not stay  
 there long as I am strongly impressed with



the idea that a drier climate than either  
 this or Savannah wd. be more favourable,  
 Augusta wd. I think probably will be one  
 well worthy place. Well, I fear, have fewer  
 attractions than this. Hence the view from our  
 window above has given peculiar pleasure. Mr  
 Keyser who had proposed to join us here & take  
 us on to Milton has again been delayed, about  
 a property wh. has been taken up: has by some  
 public body & wh. now she sees a probability  
 of being able to reclaim, so she <sup>very</sup> now leaving  
 that out of our plans altho' it is just possible  
 that she mt. come to Savannah & there  
 is a better railway fr. Savannah to Milton  
 than fr. Jacksonville, by wh. we abt. here  
 gave her the start fr. here. You ask  
 especially for me - I am very well & have  
 a sense of rest & peace of body that is most  
 delightful. I have had one or two attacks  
 brought on. I fancy by too much walking



Just I don't think my power of walking has  
 increased, nor did I expect this in this relax-  
 ing climate. While they passed off without  
 any ill effects I have only left the lesson to be  
 more careful. I have been amused by the  
 result of my endeavours to follow your advice  
 to mix more with the people with whom we  
 are thrown. I think I have told you before  
 of two ladies who sit at our table here. Fully  
 up to the style of N. Y. fashionables, of whom we  
 have seen as they cry their costumes three times  
 a day, & these are of the most fashionable, rich,  
 & varied kinds. One is very fair skin, & has a  
 lovely pearly hue on her cheeks & about thirty.  
 The other short, stout, very piquant & pretty - dark  
 with a rich natural colour & a little older. They  
 seemed so very green - so out of harmony  
 with us & our things too blue for a week I could  
 not find a word to say to them - it seemed  
 impossible to do it, at last paper got quite  
 used with me & I bowed to my self that if  
 I died in the attempt I wd speak. The ice broken



I found them quite pleasant & the fair  
 are rather hookish & ready to discuss authors,  
 so that we became rather friendly, still I found  
 myself uneasy & thought they were too much in  
 company with men & married women, wh  
 they professed to be for <sup>each and separate</sup> wh: ~~they~~ rebuked  
 me, but Mrs Ramsey (Miss Gibb), with whom  
 we became quite intimate, called me aside  
 the night before she left & in a most solemn  
 way told me that these two were demi-moules  
 & that the ladies around were astonished  
 at ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> friendliness with them. She hoped I  
 wd. pardon her - but she thought she ought  
 to tell me &c. This has been rather embarrassing  
 but I have made no decided break only been quiet  
 in manner & avoided all personalities. The fair  
 one who calls herself Mrs Sergeant, I feel particularly  
 sorry for she is fit for so much a better life. I  
 have written a letter to her wh: I propose to leave  
 at the office before I go tomorrow morn. perhaps it  
 may sometime lead her to wish for higher things



7

When extraordinary histories are not get  
partial knowledge of if one were frank I had  
a little bit. Mrs. Ramsey spoke to every body  
~~that~~ her husband had  
reference as certain news  
was the continuation, as for her I  
got many scraps of information  
most of them of a very sad kind.  
At this time of place I went to return to  
Mrs. Seymour & Mrs. Rice to say there. I had  
never been in company with two more  
dearly liked women - nothing lower or abject  
able. in speech or manner, I was on the  
pizza with them, their manner was quite  
them most girls show.

Wed. In the cars on our way to Savannah  
the letter "W" indicates where I began  
using the stylo. It is a lovely & warm day. I get  
off most comfortably.  
In regard to Miss Mackinnon. I shall be sure  
much pleased to have her company at Ashville



I still more if Mrs. Mackay accompanied  
her. as a party of four will be the better. It  
seems to my forehand to plan (but it will  
pass so quickly) - what we can promise now  
is to keep you informed of our movements  
& perhaps we do good as the Miss W. & S. also  
Mrs. Church. Miss C will enjoy the Augustin  
It is arranged for very nearness of plea-  
sure. I was very sorry to hear that Eric  
is in a rather unsatisfactory state & it will  
seem the best for him to get an open air  
vacation, yet it seems strange that George  
should return to the hard-chaired life of an explorer.  
Don't look further - dear Anne - to the loss of  
children in their youth as one of the causes  
of trials. It takes two very earnest & stern parents to  
bring up a satisfactory family. but to have failed  
is bitterness indeed. I have got wisdom at the  
school of the trial! both for myself & for my chil-  
dren. The crushing blow to Mr. & Mrs. Small's ambition  
added to poor R.'s return to a white chapeau des-  
pair & was one of the fiercest blows on which  
one will like, & the accepted, altho accepted as



as nothing more than "reaping what one  
has sown" & <sup>the</sup> ~~is~~ able to look upon the  
discipline as mild & merciful ~~but~~ the thing  
comes thro' the dim of the future being hearted  
on the children. Got a hope to attain ~~to~~ ~~the~~  
the will to everything except spiritual death  
in them.

Do you know that Sybil Wilson has  
collected & catalogued Ethnological papers of  
her father, & probably also unpublished ones,  
& issued them in a volume over her own  
name. We have only seen a notice, not  
details. Perhaps they may be prefaced by a bio-  
graphical sketch.

In regard to Wallbraun & Lane property I have  
no doubt you will be as soon as  
as a decision is reached. The sale will in  
value many changes & we make paper  
nothing. I wish he could finally give up  
all wish for College work but now that  
W. has had such a crushing blow he says



these this will be <sup>up</sup> joining the little influence  
 that remains to him & that may be exercised  
 in favour of such R. & W. Now you must  
 not infer fr: the same unbecomingly terms  
 that have come to the surface in this letter  
 that I am yielding to chronic melancholy -  
 for it is not so. Just lately letters fr: K. W. have  
 undoubtedly renewed a temporary acute ache  
 but these subside after I have unburdened  
 before the world & renewed the trust <sup>that</sup> has been  
 tried. Last night paper wrote a kind  
 congratulatory letter to Mr. M. D. on the coming  
 public opening & said, that he hoped it not  
 stimulate some <sup>ones do</sup> to go <sup>to</sup> see things fr: also that  
 he not des his longings <sup>in their department</sup> accomplished. He  
 has also written to Mr. Van H. on behalf of W. an  
 excellent letter. The human means <sup>now</sup> used  
 to us look for the divine blessing. Don't  
 overlook that I have written in the shaking cars  
 & giving part of my attention to the Country we  
 are passing through. besides it is so hot that I  
 must rest. With all best love to all I must be  
 yours from hence to Maumee. July 15<sup>th</sup> 1824