

Acc. 576
Provincial August 13th
Thursday
[1868]

My dear George—

Yesterday in the Street Cars
I overheard a lady telling about some
gentleman who had "torn himself
away from his wife". Well, I have
"torn myself away from flaming
Curtains" today, & own myself to have
been sadly wedded for the last fortnight
to things material & to ask your forgiveness
for so long delay my writing to you.
Altho so late let me thank you for

Writing with so much regularity as
you have. I feel your kind thoughtful
in warning me not to overfatigue
myself housecleaning. Anne & I have
been very busy & sometimes pretty tired, but
~~but~~ I really have tried to avoid doing
overmuch. You would hardly believe
how much self-denial & fortitude this requires,
Arthur Brown being in the house
helped towards this end, as we determined
to dine before dinner, & sit on the steps
or saunter round with him. The care
of Perkins & Eva & no Sophia to assist,
me, has tried me most. Now we
have finished cleaning & have only

some upholstery work. which when
the hair part is over, will be mostly
left for Eliza to finish.

You already know our Robert
family are reunited, with the excep-
tion of your own dear self. & altho' it
is now the third day since papa & William
returned I have had little opportunity
for quiet conversation about our
more important arrangements. Papa
thinks you will expect I wish some
of us to go to Tadousac to return with
you. Anna has promised to pay a week's
visit to Miss Abbott. & besides being a
long & expensive trip to Tadousac I do
not think it will be proper for A. either

to travel alone or stay at the hotel
without a married Chaperon.
For myself I will prefer above all things
a rest before we settle at home
no packing - no traveling - a rest.
Rankine's is the greatest fault we have
here. I have proposed to send him
& Eva to Murray Bay for 8. or 10. days
with Eliza who has been very diligent
in helping to houseclean. It might
be arranged for them to return by the
same trip of the boat by which you
return.

Wants you please write immediately
I say if you think it at all necessary
or desirable for your comfort for one

of us to go to return with you. & if
you wish us that will decide at
once our plans.

Papa has to go to a teachers ass^{ce} in
the townships at the end of the month
& does not, for his own sake, care
for farther change. but will go
before to Tallahassee with me if I
wanted like it for an excursion.
It is hard to persuade him that I really
prefer to stay at home.

I would be glad if you could
bring me some pretty mass & that
tree-like species of *Leopodium*. I shall
try to take a walk to the Cemetery soon

to gather some ferns.

Anna had a letter from O'Hara a
week from Kamarska. He says
he is enjoying himself very much.
He shot five edible birds. I has
had one or two boating excursions.
Papa saw Rabbit Carpenters to day
He asked for you I said he had
written to you often than he had
received answers.

Mr. Carpenter & another shell man
from California are to dine with
us to day.

Agnes, & rather Mrs. Stewart, in
her usual liberal spirit, has sent

little gifts to all of us. Money to all
our young people besides a box to Anna
& a few pairs of her own knitted stockings
to me.

Dear George you must kindly
excuse this ill worded jumble,
every one in the house seems
to have inquiries to make. The
interruptions here make it most
difficult for me to write at all.
How I do miss Sophia. Mama what
hours am I to wear? Mama! Maria!
She hurt my fingers! Mama where
are you? May I go out? I see the
Barnard's! May I ask them to dinner?

I Can't find my gloves & where is my
neck-tie. It is very trying to my
nerves.

Now I have gambled enough
so goodbye.

Accept my kindest love. I shall
be glad to have you home again
only I must forewarn you - not to
expect few Courses at dinner. Your
boats hushed with punctuality, & about
all if flies exist when you return
I cannot stand open blinds & windows.
Oh the flies this summer! Oh the flies!
Mosquitos, &c. I had almost said, bees
are nothing to hundreds of flies.
Your affectionate, old, gambling
Mother