Newport June 3rd 1869.

My darling Harry—

(T you don't mind if I am a little affectionate, now that you are so far away, do you?)—Your most welcome letter came to me some time ago, & was doubly welcome, as it reached me while I was in the very act of having the third hemorrhage of that day, & it quite consoled me, for them—By which you perceive that I still continue in my evil courses, which however don't seem to have killed me, yet—Since then I have had one other slight attack, last week, here, in Newport, where I had come to see my Aunt, Miss Clarke, who has been poorly all winter, and, incidentally, to meet the Bootts—They spent a week here, & the admirable John Gray regaled us with his pleasant society for a couple of days—Mrs. Shaw is here now for a week—when we all mean to depart, I, to Pelham, where I shall be all summer—Aunt Mary spent a day in Boston this week—& found all your people well—your father is coming to spend a day or two with us, while Mrs. Shaw is here—& I propose to reciprocate, by spending a day in Cambridge—I shall miss you, my dear—but I am most happy to know that you are well & enjoying yourself—I wish I were there too. If you were not my cousin I would write & ask you to marry me & take me with you—but as it is, it wouldn't do—I will console myself, however, with the thought, that in that case you might not accept my offer, which would be much worse than it is now—Have you read Col. Higginson's
story? I was quite rather curious to see it, after his criticisms of your productions—but I think now that we can afford to turn up our noses at him, in future. Have you seen Mrs. Lewes yet?—Kiss her for me—But from all accounts, I don't believe that is exactly what one wish to do to her. If I were, by hook or by crook, to spend next winter, with friends, in Rome, should I see you, at all?—So the pretty Irish girl pleased you, did she? Write me all about the creatures you like—

Your family had just got the news of Mr. Perkins' death, when Aunt Mary was there—I wonder what effect it will have upon Mrs. Walsh'es plans—There is nothing new to tell you—John Gray & Lizzie Boott were both as nice as ever—the former rather handsomer than ever—Elly & Kitty are at Pelham, well & happy—I shall stay there quietly all summer, & shall think often of you—You mustn't be homesick—I hear you find it expensive—, (not being homesick)[] How much money would you like me to send you? I have lots—Do write to me, if you have time. Just think how I like to get your letters—& remember that of all the princes & princesses (so to speak) who now seek your society, none of them love you half so well as I do—I am now going to bid you good-bye. I shan't be so long in answering your next letter—but I have had no more interesting news so far, to give you but of my own repeated illnesses—so I thought I would spare you—But I am all right again now, for the present—Do you feel strong again?—I hope so—God bless you, dear—Don't forget me—or that I am

Always your loving Cousin

Mary Temple

Aunt Mary sends love, & was much gratified to get your letter—will write soon, but has had her time much taken up with nursing Aunt C—
Notes

3  T • embossed Temple or Tweedy monogram, letterhead stationery

10  John Gray • John Chipman Gray (1839-1915), a lawyer and Harvard Law Professor

12  Aunt Mary • Mary Temple Tweedy, sister of Minny Temple's late father

19  Col. Higginson • Thomas Wentworth Higginson

21-22  Mrs. Lewes • George Eliot

25-26  Mr. Perkins' death • Leonard Perkins (d. 1869), husband of Mary Walsh James’s first cousin, Helen Rodgers Wyckoff Perkins. Once a Custom House officer, he died while touring Europe with Catharine (Aunt Kate) Walsh, Helen Ripley, his wife, and her brother, Henry Wyckoff

26-27  Mrs. Walsh • Catharine (Aunt Kate) Walsh (1812-1889), sister of Mary Walsh James

28  Elly & Kitty • Minny Temple's sisters, Ellen (1850-1920) and Katharine (1843-1895)

42  Aunt C— • Mary Temple Tweedy's stepmother, Charlotte Green Temple; she was the second wife of Robert Temple, grandfather of Henry James's first cousins, Kitty, Minny, Elly, Bob, and Henrietta Temple

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