

John La Farge to Henry James, 26 August [1869], from Newport

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1094 (316)

1 Newport,

2 August 26.

3

4 My dear Harry,

5 I did not have the courage to write to you all summer. Whenever I thought
6 of the long time I might have been having with you & the rest & quiet of (literally)
7 another world, I put it off until I should feel more satisfied at having stayed here. My
8 physician thought that I had better not go: he augured more fatigue than rest from an
9 ocean trip to be followed in the fall by another:—I gave up my trip [^]with[^] all the more
10 [^]willingness[^]—that if I went later the money saved might help me and besides I had
11 some hopes that if I could work at all I might save something towards going—I am little
12 better now than I was & I suffer from a continual dulness of mind—the body—“l’âme”—
13 has improved however ; if one can separate them. This fall I may go to Europe in quite
14 early in the winter, probably alone, as I am I have not the courage to take my family—If I
15 go alone I propose rather to go to Italy than to Paris, as I shall do more loafing than
16 anything else. Grant Heaven that I may be able to afford it.

17 I have only heard from Willie that you were to be in Italy in September he says nothing
18 else about you: I expect that you are still improving in health.

19 How much there will be for you in Italy—and for me too I hope. If my going comes at
20 the right time I expect to go to Rome for a “short” as the Portuguese have it; perhaps we
21 may meet—Let me know if possibly you have intentions what yr line of march may be.
22 I may go so late that I shall see little of Italy nor do I care for much, confident that a little
23 of anything European will do.

24 Do you know of the future movements of the Nortons?

25 Sargie is here who sends love to you & intends to write when he gets to Cambridge in
26 September

27 As for me, I can't write any more this evening—I only wrote as I had no news for you, to
28 keep myself in yr mind & as a possible surprise some day—

29 Goodbye,

30 Margie sends her love, & I am as always

31 Sincerely Yrs

32 Jno La Farge

33 H. James jr. Esq

Notes

- 12 “l’âme” • the soul
- 25 Sargie • Thomas Sergeant Perry (1845-1928), La Farge's brother-in-law
- 30 Margie • Margaret Perry La Farge (1840-1925), La Farge's wife

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