

Henry James, Sr., to Henry James, 27 April [1869], from Cambridge,

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1092.9 (4191)

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Cambridge

2

April 27th

3 My darling boy:

4

5 I am ashamed to have neglected you so much, & fully intended yesterday
6 to give you a long letter, but I was waylaid with proofs, and seduced from my rightful
7 allegiance to you. But Mama never fails, and that reconciles me to my own short-
8 comings. It is hard to believe moreover when one reads your letters, & observes the
9 fullness of life you are drinking in at every pore, that you care to hear from this humdrum
10 field of existence. But I shall take for granted that your memory of us continues lively,
11 hereafter, & do my duty in the epistolary way even as the rest.

12 I send you the nation now regularly, care of Barings. Arthur Sedgwick is one of
13 its chief contributors in your absence, only he affects the political & economical role
14 rather than the literary. He and we all are just now in the pangs of anxiety, he that Mr.
15 Eliot should be elected President of Harvard, we that someone whom the world thinks
16 better of, should be. Charley Atkinson says that when he was a student under him in the
17 scientific school, he (Charley) was in the habit of carrying a leather bag in and out for his
18 books, and that one day Eliot arrested him briskly, & said "Mr Atkinson, let me
19 understand what you do with that bag!" He evidently thought Charly used it to convey
20 away clandestinely certain valuable chemicals. Charley & every body else was very
21 much insulted. He is a man of the grossest lack of tact.

22 Bob is home, & gives curious details of western life & manners. He is happy &
23 healthy, and it is comfortable to see him. He rubs up Willy & Alice considerably, but not
24 in a disagreeable way. We expect Wilky soon. He writes favourably of his prospects.
25 James Lowell was here a morning or two since, & tells me he wanted the Swiss Mission.
26 But I see the place is filled otherwise, Chas Norton too was an applicant by his friends.
27 But neither James L. nor he suspected that they were rivals. Dana's paper is assailing
28 Grant grossly, but but ineffectually. The English hitch is a source of some anxiety. But I
29 do not suppose that any immediate danger impends to our relations with that country.

30 Aunt Kate left yesterday for New York. She sails the 5th May in the Siberia for
31 Queenstown.

32 I would not if I were you go to Scotland just now, as you will require your money
33 more for excursions upon the continent when you get there. And dont stay at Malvern
34 longer than you feel benefit for it.

35 Goodbye & believe me darling Harry ever affectionately.

36 Your Pops.

Envelope: Mr Henry James Jr | care of Barings, Brothers & Co | London | (England) | By
Steamer Russia frm New York Apr. 28

Postmarks: BOSTON | APR | 27 | PAID; LONDON | B | PAID | A | 10 MY 69

Notes

16 Charley Atkinson • Charles Follen Atkinson (d. 1915), a friend of William James (they attended the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard together) and later a Boston businessman

27 Dana's paper • Charles Anderson Dana (1819-1897) was part owner and editor of the *New York Sun*

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