

Mary (Minny) Temple to Henry James, 3 June 1869, from Newport

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1094 (435)

1 Newport June 3rd 1869.

2 My darling Harry—

3 T (You don't mind if I am a little affectionate, now that you are so far
4 away, do you?)—Your most welcome letter came to me some time ago, & was doubly
5 welcome, as it reached me while I was in the very act of having the third hemorrhage of
6 that day, & it quite consoled me, for them—By which you perceive that I still continue
7 ~~in[]~~ my evil courses, which however don't seem to have killed me, yet—Since then I
8 have had one other slight attack, last week, here, in Newport, where I had come to see my
9 Aunt, Miss Clarke, who has been poorly all winter, and, incidentally, to meet the
10 Bootts—They spent a week here, & the admirable John Gray regaled us with his pleasant
11 society for a couple of days—Mrs. Shaw is here now for a week—when we all mean to
12 depart, I, to Pelham, where I shall be all summer—Aunt Mary spent a day in Boston this
13 week—& found all your people well—your father is coming to spend a day or two with
14 us, while Mrs. Shaw is here—& I propose to reciprocate, by spending a day in
15 Cambridge—I shall miss you, my dear—but I am most happy to know that you are well
16 & enjoying yourself—I wish I were there too. If you were not my cousin I would write
17 & ask you to marry me & take me with you—but as it is, it wouldn't do—It is I will
18 console myself, however, with the thought, that in that case you might not accept my
19 offer, which would be much worse than it is now—Have you read Col. Higginson's

20 story? I was quite rather curious to see it, after his criticisms of your productions—but I
21 think now that we can afford to turn up our noses at him, in future. Have you seen Mrs.
22 Lewes yet?—Kiss her for me—But from all accounts, I don't believe that is exactly what
23 one wish to do to her. If I were, by hook or by crook, to spend next winter, with friends,
24 in Rome, should I see you, at all?—So the pretty Irish girl pleased you, did she? Write
25 me all about the creatures you like—~~we are~~ Your family had just got the news of Mr.
26 Perkins' death, when Aunt Mary was there—I wonder what effect it will have upon Mrs.
27 Walsh'es plans—There is nothing new to tell you—John Gray & Lizzie Boott were both
28 as nice as ever—the former rather handsomer than ever—Elly & Kitty are at Pelham,
29 well & happy—I shall stay there quietly all summer, & shall think often of you—You
30 mustn't be homesick—I hear you find it expensive—[~](not being homesick)^[~] How
31 much money would you like me to send you? I have lots—Do write to me, if you have
32 time. Just think how I like to get your letters—& remember that of all the princes &
33 princesses (so to speak) who now seek your society, none of them love you half so well
34 as I do—I am now going to bid you good-bye. I shan't be so long in answering your next
35 letter—but I have had no more interesting news so far, to give you but of my own
36 repeated illnesses—so I thought I would spare you—But I am all right again now, for the
37 present—Do you feel strong again?—I hope so—God bless you, dear—Don't forget
38 me—or that I am

39 Always your loving Cousin

40 Mary Temple

41 Aunt Mary sends love, & was much gratified to get your letter—will write soon, but has
42 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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