

1 Dresden. March 28, 1872.

2

3 My dear Harry

4 I thank you for your tender & loving words. I have no need to speak to
5 you of my loss, & of the change in the aspect of life to me, for you have been with us
6 enough ~~and~~ to know how happy we were, and you have known & loved us all enough
7 to feel with more truth than most others can what Susan's death is to us.—I am not
8 broken by it because her love is still strong enough to support me. I can bear what I have
9 to bear, for the thought of her is a comfort, and there is nothing but joy in the memory of
10 her during these ten years in which her presence has blessed me.

11 —

12 You do not know how warm & true a friend you have lost in her.
13 She cared much for you. She has often said to me that she wished our boys might take
14 pattern from you. It would have pleased her to believe that you would care for her
15 children for their own sakes as well as for hers.

16 My dear Harry I am glad you have seen her comparatively so lately, but I wish
17 you could have seen her during the last year. The happiest months of her life, I think,
18 were the months we passed in Venice. Life grew fuller & fuller of resource to her. All
19 powers of enjoyment, & of happiness increased from day to day. And it is a delight to
20 me to feel that she had never been more to others or to herself than during this last year.

21

—

22

I am ~~great~~ truly sorry that I have not written to you for so long, for my

23

letter might have given you some faint reflection of the happiness of the past. I have had

24

you often & often in my affectionate thought, and I had meant, as [^]when[^] the spring

25

brought fresh vigour & energy to me to write you a long, long letter. But that letter will

26

never now be written. Your letters,—there are two unanswered on my table—have given

27

me real pleasure. Write to me again. I will write to you as soon as I can get back into

28

natural relations with the days.

29

I hope we may see you before many months have passed.

30

Your truly affectionate friend

31

C. E. Norton.

Notes

4 your tender & loving words • Henry James's 7 March [1872] letter of condolence to Charles Eliot Norton

7 Susan's death • Susan Sedgwick Norton died on 17 February 1872, following the birth of her son Richard

13 our boys • Eliot (1863-1932), Rupert (1867-1914), and Richard (1872-1918) Norton

14-15 her children • In addition to their three sons, Charles and Susan Norton had three daughters: Sara ("Sally"; 1864-1922), Elizabeth ("Lilly"; b. 1866), and Margaret (1870-1947)

26 Your letters,—there are two unanswered on my table • Henry James's letters to Norton of 4, 5 February 1872 and 7 March [1872]

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To cite this letter, according to MLA style guidelines:

Norton, Charles Eliot. Letter to Henry James. 28 March 1872. James Family Papers. Houghton Library.

Harvard University. Cambridge, Mass. [Dear Henry James.org](http://www.dearhenryjames.org) Ed. Pierre A. Walker et al. 2005.

Salem State College. *[insert your date of access here]* <http://www.dearhenryjames.org>.