

Henry James, Sr., to Henry James, 9 August 1872, from [Cambridge]

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1092.9 (4194)

1 9th Augt.

2 My dearest Harry

3 Your letter of July 21st brings tears of joy to our eyes—to think of our having so
4 lovely a son! It is a delight above all delights to see ~~your~~ [^]one's[^] children turn out—
5 as ours have done—all that the heart covets in children; and my delight is so full that I
6 sometimes fancy my heart will have to burst for its own relief. Your conviction is not up
7 to the truth. Our “tender thoughts” of you all are so constant that I have hardly been able
8 to do any work since you have been gone. I can do little else than recount to myself “the
9 tender mercies of the Lord” to me & my household. Still I am not altogether idle, by any
10 means. I continue to do something every day, and though I have not my daughter at hand
11 to advise with about the rhetoric, and occasionally ^about[^] the ideas (where I possess her
12 perfect sympathy) still I do pretty good work.

13 Your conscientious economy (and the daughter's no less) is excessively touching,
14 but it is a little overstrained. You need not to be afraid of putting us to any embarrassment
15 so long as your expenses do not exceed their present rate; and you can buy all that you
16 want to buy before coming home without stretching your tether a particle. This is mothers
17 message as well as mine, & she would have put it in her letter to Alice if your letter had
18 arrived before she closed it.

19 Willy has got home from Mt Desert where he was not altogether comfortable, and
20 was too much excited by company to sleep well. It seems both dysentery & typhus fever

21 are endemic there, and poor Theodora has had a pretty severe ~~bo~~ attack[] of the
22 former. Anne A. was here yesterday however to say that her anxiety was relieved, as for
23 36 hours she had been without trouble. Eliot (Pres^l) was over ^here[] yesterday & said
24 she ought to be removed at once by boat to some other climate. Anne expects them home
25 at once. It was a poor experiment for them. Willy will write you in a day or two.
26 Meanwhile rejoice in the enclosed.

27 HARVARD COLLEGE.

28 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OVERSEERS.

29 BOSTON, August 7, 1872. -A special meeting of
30 the board of overseers of Harvard College was
31 held this forenoon by request of the President of
32 the university, Hon. John H. Clifford, president
33 of the board, in the chair.

34 After the reading of the records, the
35 president of the university presented votes of
36 the corporation appointing William James
37 instructor in physiology, for the ensuing
38 academic year: and George A. Bartlett instructor
39 in German, and the board concurred therein by
40 ballot.

41 Hon. Mr. Dana submitted a report
42 recommending that the board concur with the
43 corporation in the appointment of Adams Sherman

44 Hill as professor of rhetoric, and the board
45 assented to the said appointment by ballot.

46 After the transaction of a few matters of
47 routine business the meeting was adjourned to the
48 25th of September next.

49

50 Willy is very much gratified by this action.

51 Chas Atkinson wishes me to say to you that Monte Genneroso above Lugano lake
52 (and whose P. Office is Mendriso) offers an incomparable climate according to the
53 Lorings who are there now: and mother thinks—so fearful is she that you will descend
54 into Italy before the warm weather is over & so compromise alicé's strength—that you
55 had either better go there a while before going to Italy by way of deferring your visit; or
56 else be ready to retreat upon it in case you find the summer's heat still unbroken. It is
57 tremendously picturesque, in front of Monte Rosa &c. Willy has been feasting upon all
58 your letters. He is particularly struck with his sisters. But I suppose he will tell you all
59 about it. I read your proof of Guests Confession yesterday. It reads remarkably well. I'll
60 send you the number as soon as it is out. I send a Nation to-day. I have sent them
61 regularly. Give love to Aunt Kate & the little one—& believe me my darling boy Your
62 most loving daddy.

Notes

- 3 Your letter of July 21st • Henry James to his parents, from Grindelwald, 21 July [1872]
- 21 Theodora • Theodora Sedgwick
- 22 Anne A. • Anne Ashburner
- 27-48 HARVARD COLLEGE. [. . . .] September next . • Pasted in newspaper clipping
- 52 Mendriso • Mendrisio
- 59 Guests Confession • “Guest’s Confession,” *Atlantic Monthly* October, November 1872: 385-402, 566-83

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To cite this letter, according to MLA style guidelines:

James, Henry, Sr.. Letter to Henry James. 9 August 1872. James Family Papers. Houghton Library.

Harvard University. Cambridge, Mass. Dear Henry James.org Ed. Pierre A. Walker et al. 2005.

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