

21 feel confident, that he will get through safe & sound, and be all the better man for doing
22 so. We hear nothing of late about Carrie.

23 Willy goes on swimmingly with his teaching. The students (57) are elated with
24 their luck in having such a professor, and next year he will have no doubt a larger class
25 still, attracted by his fame. He came in here the other afternoon when I was sitting alone,
26 and after walking the floor in an animated way for a moment, exclaimed: “Dear me! what
27 a difference there is between me now & me last spring this time: then so hypochondriacal”
28 (he used that word, tho perhaps in substantive form) “and now feeling my mind so
29 cleared up and restored to sanity. It is the difference between death and life.” He had a
30 great effusion. I was afraid of interfering with it, or possibly checking it, but I ventured to
31 ask what specially in his opinion had promoted the change. He said several things: the
32 reading of Renouvier, (specially his vindication of the freedom of the will) &
33 Wordsworth whom he has been feeding upon now for a good while; but especially his
34 having given up the notion that all mental disorder ~~was~~ required to have a physical basis.
35 This had become perfectly untrue to him. He saw that the mind did act irrespectively of
36 material coercion, and could be dealt with therefore at first hand, and this was health to
37 his bones. It was a splendid confession, and though I knew the change had taken place,
38 from unerring signs, I never was more delighted than to hear it from his own lips so
39 unreservedly. He has been shaking off his respect for men of mere science as such, and is
40 [^]even[[^]] more universal and impartial in his mental judgments than I have ever known
41 him before.—You had better destroy this letter; although I am sure he would delight to
42 tell you the same things also, and it is no matter therefore.

43 All goes on as usual in the family. Alice (who is gone off this morning with
44 mother to the dentist’s) is going to visit Cousin Helen soon for a week. Ed Van Buren

45 died in Brighton (England) a week or ten days since, of Consumption. Smith remains
46 well. Elly is first rate, as usual. Willy dined a day or two since with the Holmes'. He
47 thinks no love is lost between W. père & W. fils.

48 No news: except the Sunday paper has a report of the approaching marriage of
49 Philips Brooks and Mrs Renselaer Thayer. I believe it is a mere rumour, like several
50 others to the same gentlemans address.

51 We dine the Childs on Thursday with G. P. Bradford & will drink your health. We
52 hear that Emerson's memory is failing him so fast that he can hardly write a letter.
53 Edward tells Willy this. I hope it is not so bad as it sounds. Good bye, my lovely Harry.
54 Words cant tell how dear you are to my heart; how proud I am of your goodness and
55 truth; of what M Arnold calls your "sweet reasonableness". Truly I am a happy &
56 grateful father at every remembrance of you.

57 Yours ever lovingly

- 4 “Laugel”, “Regniaud”, & “Parisian Stage” • “Laugel’s Notes on Travel,” *Nation* 27 February 1873: 152; “Henri Regnault,” *Nation* 2 January 1873: 13-15; “The Parisian Stage,” *Nation* 9 January 1873: 23-24
- 5 Bethnal G. M. • “The Bethnal Green Museum,” *Atlantic Monthly* January 1873: 69-75
- 6 that article • James’s review of *Middlemarch*, *Galaxy* March 1873: 424-28
- 12 your story sent to Gail Hamilton • “The Sweetheart of M. Briseux,” which Gail Hamilton had solicited for possible publication in *Wood’s Household Magazine*, but which was eventually published in the *Galaxy*
- 44 Cousin Helen • Helen Rodgers Wyckoff Perkins
- 44 Ed Van Buren • Edward Livingston Van Buren
- 45 Smith • Smith Van Buren
- 46 Elly • Ellen James Van Buren

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To cite this letter, according to MLA style guidelines:

James, Henry, Sr. Letter to Henry James. 18 March [1873]. 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>.