

Mary Walsh James to Henry James, 1 April [1873], from Cambridge

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1093.1(45)

1 Cambridge

2 April 1st

3 My darling Harry

4 You were longing for letters which did not come, when you last wrote—but since
5 then you must have received several— I wonder if any of our letters fail to reach you, we
6 are sure some of us to write every week—last week was an exception, Will hoping to do so,
7 and failing— He wanted at once to tell you his great delight in your Théofield Gautier
8 article, which he brought home in proof. Father and he both think it is the best thing you
9 ever did— Will says it is brilliant, as good, quite as good as Gautier himself! So prepare
10 yourself for fame, for you know the way.

11 The Galaxy people make no sign of acceptance of your Story, but send tardily \$30 for
12 Middlemarch— I presume it is only bad manners— Father is writing a notice of a Book
13 called Modern Diablolism which Howells asked to do over his own name for the
14 Atlantic— He is making a most interesting paper—perhaps the best thing he ever did—
15 This is saying much! You will be glad to hear that Alice has gone to N. Y. She went on
16 alone, (a wonderful assertion of her freedom) and writes on arriving that “for the future she
17 intends to travel alone”— So she will not on her next trip to Europe, be likely to inflict
18 herself upon you— She will perhaps when she gets back, under the invigorating influence
19 of her journey, write you all about it—

20 A letter from Wilky yesterday contained the good news that he has received the

21 appointment of Assistant Paymaster of the Road, with the added hope in case of the
22 vacancy of the Head Pay-master's [^]place[^], of being transferred to it— This will not
23 give him any more pay just now, but it takes him back to Milwaukee, and is a strong
24 expression of the confidence of the Managers, which I think he hopes much from, and I
25 trust will do his best to deserve—

26 I heard yesterday a rumor of the extreme illness of Fanny Lombard in Paris of a most
27 painful disease, ulceration of the Kidneys— I knew she had been sick, but the report now
28 is that she cannot recover— Poor infatuated M^{rs} L!. Who could have anticipated such a
29 catastrophe for her, in her crazy pursuit of health?— Ned Lombard is engaged to be
30 married to a Miss Butts of Providence. The family are delighted, he will be married next
31 fall. The Spring is coming on slowly as usual— The snow has almost entirely disappeared
32 and as there has been no depth of frost in the ground the grass will show itself at once— To
33 day the air is warm, and the birds make sweet melody—

34 There has been any quantity of good music this winter as usual ^in Boston[^]—but we have
35 indulged more in the drama. We saw Jaunascheck twice with very great pleasure. Alice I
36 think takes more pleasure in good acting than in any thing else—and I am glad to hear from
37 her letter this morning that is enjoying herself in this way in N. Y. Will is pleasing himself
38 with the prospect of 4 weeks, rest, to give way for Dwight. He is also taking pleasure the
39 last few days in handling the fruits of his half term's labor. But better than this is the
40 growing satisfaction he is evidently taking in the pleasure & ease with which he can now
41 lecture, compared with his first essays— He will doubtless tell you all about it himself,
42 before long.

43 He has [^]been[^] talking a good deal of late about a German book which he is reading by

44 Karl Hildebrand on France and the French. He is much delighted with it, and says it is as
45 good as Taine upon the English.

46 Our papers state that there is a great deal of fever in Naples and that there have been several
47 fatal cases among Americans? Do not run any risks darling Harry, by staying too long in
48 Rome, and do not overdo the horse-back exercise—

49 I write to Aunt Mary by this mail— Tell the Bootts with my love, that I look upon them as
50 insane to turn their faces homeward before that dreary season for living in country lodgings
51 is over. How gladly would we be in their shoes, for then would we be spared the annual
52 worry that is before us for the next few weeks—

53 Good-bye my darling child— We are looking for a letter, for it is time, and it is so
54 good to hear that all is well—

55 Your loving

56 Mother

Notes

4 You were longing for letters which did not come, when you last wrote • See Henry James to Henry James, Sr. 4 March [1873]

7 your Théophile Gautier • Henry James's review-essay for the April 1873 issue of the *North American Review*, "Théâtre de Théophile Gautier: Mystères, Comédies, et Ballets" (310-29)

11 your Story • "The Sweetheart of M. Briseux," *Galaxy* June 1873: 760-79

12 Middlemarch • Henry James's review of *Middlemarch* in the March 1873 *Galaxy* (424-28)

12-13 a notice of a Book called Modern Diabolism • Henry James, Sr.'s, review-essay "Modern Diabolism" reviewed M. J. Williamson's *Modern Diabolism, commonly called Modern Spiritualism, with new Theories of Light, Heat, Electricity, and Sound* (New York: Miller, 1873) and appeared in the August 1873 issue of *Atlantic Monthly* (219-24)

35 Jaunascheck • Prague-born American actress Fanny Janauscheck (1830-1904); after 1873 she performed in English, having previously performed in German

38 Dwight • Thomas Dwight (1843-1911), at the time instructor but later professor of anatomy at Harvard

43 a German book • *Frankreich und die Franzosen in der zweiten häfte der XIX Jahrhunderts* by Karl Hillebrand

44 Karl Hildebrand • Karl Hillebrand (1829-1884), German author and journalist; Henry James would meet him in Florence in 1874

45 Taine upon the English • Hippolyte Taine's *Notes sur l'Angleterre* (1872) and *Histoire de la littérature anglaise* (1863)

49 Aunt Mary • Mary Temple Tweedy

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