

Henry James, Sr., to Henry James, 18 April [1873], from [Cambridge]

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1092.9 (4200)

1 April 18

2 My darling Harry:

3 Your notice of Theophile Gautier (which I forwarded to you a fortnight ago in
4 the N. A. R. for April) is great success. A dozen persons have spoken to me about with
5 great praise, & Fields & wife have just invited us all to dine on the strength of it. Fields
6 says that it is the finest thing of the day, & no other man could have done it. He wonders
7 that some publisher does not get hold of you and put you to work in some way of special
8 renown. Willy I suppose has written to you about it. Howells, Perry, Wendell Holmes,
9 are among the persons I have heard, & they all speak of it with equal eulogy. I have
10 enjoyed it very much, & think with Willy it is your best performance. But I should like to
11 find fault with an French idiom you indulge in once or twice: I “doubt that the literature
12 of our day presents so perfect a genius: that they ever have been presented in a more
13 favourable light”, &c instead of “We doubt whether &c This grates on the ear.

14 We are as usual. Alice entertains her bee to-day, & Mother has just come in from
15 a raid upon the markets to furnish her tea-table. Willy has gone into town to an
16 anatomical lecture. He has accepted the lectureship for next year upon Anatomy &
17 Physiology both, \$600—provided he feels well enough in August next.

18 Make yourself worthy of every body’s. Sara S. continues very so-soish; the arrival of the
19 family will not help her health probably. She & Alice drive out in a buggy together now
20 & then. I am busy as usual & get on tolerably well. I have just written a long letter to the

21 Spectator which you will see, if they publish it. I have an article in the next no of the
22 Atlantic—for June. The May no has nothing of yours. I send it by this mail.
23 Ever my darling Harry (with love to Tweedys & Bootts—Your loving Dad H. J.

Notes

3 Your notice of Theophile Gautier • “Théâtre de Théophile Gautier: Mystères, Comédies, et Ballets,”
North American Review April 1873: 310-29

17 in August next • One or more pages of manuscript that would have followed this phrase are missing

18 Sara S. • Sara Sedgwick

21-22 I have an article in the next no of the Atlantic • “Modern Diabolism,” *Atlantic Monthly* August
1873: 219-24

© This is copyrighted material; reproduction for commercial purposes is not permitted by law except with permission of the copyright owners

To cite this letter, according to MLA style guidelines:

James, Henry, Sr.. Letter to Henry James. 18 April [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>.