

Henry James, Sr., to Henry James, 8 August [1873], from St. John, New Brunswick

ALS Houghton, bMS Am 1092.9 (4201)

1 St. John New Brunswick

2 Augt 8.

3 My darling Harry:

4 Your second letter from Homburg is full of balm & consolation to us all,
5 and we bless its air, its scenery, its waters, its society, with all our heart, that they
6 combine to make you so comfortable. I have a most pleasant remembrance of the place in
7 itself, and its vicinity to so many other noted places adds to its charm even if you dont go
8 to them. I hope the physicians judgment will be ratified by your experiment of the waters,
9 and that you may find them permanently restorative. There is a cure beyond a doubt
10 somehow and somewhere—if one can only find the how & where. In the meantime I am
11 disposed to insist that they are already found in Homburg.— I have sent with due
12 diligence every Atlantic to you, and every thing else that contained any thing of yours.
13 And the fault of your not getting them lies I suppose with the Bankers or the post offices
14 on that side of the water. I shall go on to send as usual, and hope that as you are now
15 nearer to civilization than you have lately been, you will find improved mail
16 arrangements also. I send you herewith your Roman Holiday, and in another envelope
17 (unless I can find one [^]large enough_^ for the two) your Roman Rides, lest you should
18 not have received the ~~one~~ _^August A. M. which_^ I forwarded from Boston before
19 leaving. I send you also a Nation by this mail. Dennett says nothing of Roman Rides, but
20 gives a sort of alcoholic notice of my piece. The Nation is poor every way, but the

21 literary part of it grows worse and worse every time I look at it. The truth is that a new
22 world is actually condensing all the while & taking more definite shape before our eyes
23 every day, and Godkin & his crew are so blinded by their petty and after all dillentante
24 scepticism as to see absolutely nothing of it, and give us accordingly nothing but stale
25 antediluvian prattle.

26 We are getting on very well here. Alice & Aunt Kate met us here a
27 fortnight since with Helen P. & Helen R. & we have been ensconced ever since in this
28 comfortable Hotel Victoria, where we shall probably remain till September. The
29 thermometer since we have been here has stood about 67. Augt 1 I bought one to keep a
30 record, & placed in the window of my room it reads thus at midday. 1st 68. 2nd 68. 3^d 66.
31 4th 70. 5th 67. 6th 69. 7th 56. 8th, to day, it is now 66 & by noon I perceive will be two or
32 three degrees higher. The heat, Judge Gray & Frank Parkman told me last night, had
33 been excessive at home. They came in last night, & are off this morning to Halifax. Alice
34 found a large number of letters to answer when she got here & she has been working
35 them off slowly ever since. She writes to you next, and wants to do so to-day, but I
36 coaxed her to let me as I wanted to say a word myself. She will write in a day or two.
37 You are not long out of her thoughts if I may judge by the frequency of her mention of
38 you. Indeed you are always in all our hearts & thoughts, & mother I think loves you more
39 than all her other progeny. I enclose a note of Willy to Alice, very characteristic. Your
40 devoted daddy.

Notes

- 4 Your second letter from Homburg • Henry James to Mary Walsh James, 23 July [1873]
- 16 your Roman Holiday • “A Roman Holiday,” *Atlantic Monthly* July 1873: 1-11
- 17 your Roman Rides • “Roman Rides,” *Atlantic Monthly* August 1873: 190-98
- 27 Helen P. • Helen Rodgers Wyckoff Perkins
- 27 Helen R. • Helen Ripley
- 39 a note of Willy to Alice • Possibly William James to Alice James, 24 July [1873] (see *The Correspondence of William James* 4: 441-42)

© 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. 8 August [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>.