

(Letter from C.C. to Rosalie)

(Property of Miss C. Roberts)

"115 E. 23^d St. New York City

Dec. 22nd 1874

"Dearest Rosalie - It is so long since I have been able to write to you that I fear you will think me forgetful & unmindful of you - but if you knew at all of my intended movements after that exciting time in New York & all that I had to get through in the way of work & wandering -

you would not be surprised at my long silence - & when you hear that I have been waylaid, [?] I have been very ill again, & unable to work or do anything else, you will be less surprised - still I might have made Miss Stebbins write & tell you the reason you did not hear from me - & she would have done so but that I hoped constantly to be able to write to you myself - Day went on after day - & I was so poorly & so miserable that I could not write. Before I left New York

(Letter of Dec. 23, 1874)

I sent newspapers to you & Mrs. [?] Forwood promised to write & tell you everything about me. Then came my illness. & everything had to wait. I have rec^d your letters from time to time & one on the 12th Nov. Dated "[?]" postmarked "[?]" 31" enclosing one from ~~Mabel~~ Mabel, which pleased me - as it was an improvement on her last, though it is singularly like a young child's letter. I hope she will get more stability of character & become more womanly - in the face of her engagement.

You must try to make her see how solemn a thing an engagement is - & how terrible is the responsibility of taking the happiness of a human being into her keeping. & so by impressing these things upon her - not in a jolly laughing way - but in a high religious sense - you may keep her firm to her promise to marry Forwood. & by these means make her sensible of the obligation she has taken upon herself - & its serious importance upon her whole life. a promise once made

(3)

(Letter of Dec. 22, 1874)

does not admit of any release - save by consent of both contracting parties. & before one promises - one must know absolutely, whether they can keep their word & faith for life - which is a very long time!

Cochran {?}

I sent to you a present from Mrs. Cochran. by Mrs. Thayer - I hope you rec'd it. & wrote to Mrs. Cochran. Did you see Mrs. Thayer - I hoped to have heard what you thought of her little gift - on my return to New York where I have come for a

visit [?] & for rest - I found "Ben's" letter & your postscript. I was very pleased to hear from him & shall take occasion to reply to him at an early date. Meanwhile you will tell him that I thank him for all his kind wishes & the pretty things he says about my retirement from the stage. I wish he could have seen me act, or what I think better - hear me read - but we cannot have all our wishes gratified.

I have been much disappointed in my journey to California - but it is thought well that I did not go

(7)

(Ltr of Dec. 22, 1874)

at this season of the year - when the storms on the plains & the mountains are so severe. If I had been blazed in - in a snowstorm - as I see people have been lately - in crossing the alps - it would have killed me in the state of health I now am - so alls well that ends well. & I am back here in a civilized community. I am so glad, dear - to hear that the family are behaving as they ought to do to Mr. Roberts & that you have been staying at Flint & that all is as it should be. glad too that you had been having an 'out' in London - it is very well to get a change of air now & then. it brushes away the cobwebs - & when you get back home - you are so glad that you have one! I get good accounts from St. Louis - save that Ned's business is still in a sick condition - He is much depressed at it. The children are all well & very happy in the anticipation of Xmas. for me - I feel very sad at being away from everyone belonging to me at this season - but God is so good to me in all ways that I must be content to shut my eyes & try to fancy all my dear ones in S Louis - London Liverpool & Stuttgart - in their happiness & enjoyment of these

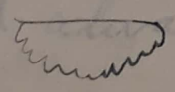
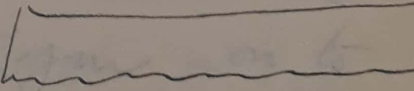
(5)

(Letter of Dec. 22, 1874)

precious holidays - I only wish I could have been with
you - I hope you will have enjoyed your Xmas visit to
- ^{Chester} ~~Carshe~~ [?] - I know how much you like your
new relations, so I know you will be merry &
happy there.

I had not heard of Mrs. ^{Vign} [?] getting her pension.
I am so thankful - I hope you saw them while
you were up in London - don't go to London without
seeing them - & sometime when you go - I wish you
would go out & see Uncle Charles' wife - You are now
a woman & not bound or trammelled [?] by any of

your fathers weak [?] prejudices & I should be glad
if you would do this for the sake of your uncle Charles
who loves her, & for my sake who wish you to do it.
and now I must close this letter for I am very tired,
& it hurts me to sit at a table to write.

I am going to ask you to send me ~~2~~ 2 Shetland
wool veils - not the little hoop [?] veils shaped
thus  but long ones - thus 
long enough to tie if one wishes. & I want
some of those elastics with which you fasten up
your dresses or rather which hook around the

(6)

(Letter of Dec. 22, 1874)

dress & you pull your dress up through. & Sallie begs
me to ask you to please send her ~~2~~ ^{six} ~~[?]~~ silk
- nets such as you sent her before - she says, "I
don't want her to give them to me as she did the
other things - for which I have been so grateful to her"
but I am sure you will be glad to send such a trifle to
one who has been for so many years a faithful &
devoted friend to me & mine. They can come by post.
or your friend Cop^[blank in original] would bring a little
parcel for you to me. always send them to 128
East 16th St - & I shall get them.

Goodbye & God bless you dear - Ever give my
best love to Mr. Roberts & believe me your
ever loving auntie C -

Did you send back to your uncle Charles - the
letter which I sent to him & which Ned left with
you when he left England - I hope so - I wish you
would always send my letters to you - or to
your Uncle Charles to read - asking him to
return them - & he will do the same.