

Letter from C.C. to Rosalie

(Property of Miss C. Roberts)

[Letter head] → "VILLA CUSHMAN"

NEWPORT, R.I. July 8, 1875

"Dearest Rosalie - Your very welcome ~~letter~~ note of the 11th of June - by hand of Emma, reached me very safely on the 25th - & delighted I was to hear from you. I have wanted to write to you very often, lately - but I have been so more than usually suffering, that I have been unable - physically unable - even now I would not be able to write, without such increase of suffering - that you would not for a moment allow me to undertake it - but that Ned has ^{had} ~~made~~ me some writing paper arranged in blocks so that I can lie back in my chair & write upon my knee - as I am doing now. It seems as though I had been mercifully helped to strength & freedom from great torture to enable me to fulfill my engagements up to the beginning of June - for ever since I have been in Newport. I have seemed to be getting worse & worse & my suffering so great all the time that I cannot walk or get any exercise - & even my afternoon drive causes me such an increase of pain, that I should not go out at all but by the Doctors orders to get air in driving - But I can get no moments of pleasure from anything. I eat, drink & breathe in pain. I am only able to ~~sit up~~ ^{sleep} now by

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help of ~~other~~ ^{ether} & my rights are very poor even at that. I am so sorry poor Mabel will be coming over to me at such a sadly suffering time, for I cannot unite in any gaiety - Still, Emma do every thing that is possible to give her pleasure - In her case, I suppose the longer she stays the better - so as to keep off the pressure in the matter of the engagement - In your case, you know you were anxious to get back to Ben, else I should have been glad for you to have staid longer - But I am glad you did go home & assert yourself - & that I sent Ned over to have the affair wound up. I am happier in that act than in almost any other of my life. I feel that I have done as your dear mother & grandmother would have wished me to do. & when I hear how happy you & dear Mr. Roberts are - & how nice & good & comme il faut he is - I am more than satisfied. But with Mabel it is different - ^{For Mr.} Earnest Forwood^[?] is still a boy - immature even for his years - I hear - & therefore the longer they are kept apart the better, But we shall see - if she comes & judge what is best when we see her - I feel to know her so much less

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than I did you - that I have got to study her & then somehow, there has always been the feeling, ^{with me} that she was so much more Muspratt than you - that I have never been drawn to her so much as to you - who are so much more like your poor dear mother - & like our family - But I dare say she will have her own ways of making herself dear to me & I will wait & see.

Friday, July 9th Here I was interrupted & yesterday-
8th rec'd your very interesting and most welcome letter of the 25th June - announcing Mabel's arrival, & the fact of your having seen her. ~~I~~ found her

improved from her sojourn abroad. I am glad of this. I got too a letter from Miss Vigin ^[?] giving me an account of her.
Vigin

I do think Mrs. Muspratt's shabbiness in not asking you to go & stop at the Hollies while you were doing your shopping on on Mabel's return from Germany - is just upon a par with all her conduct. But my dear, what could you expect from her. Take her antecedents in the first place - & attribute her failures to ignorance. She has behaved so infamously to you & Mr. Roberts that I don't wonder he finds it difficult to know how to behave now. Then there is an old proverb

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"Set a beggar on horseback & he will ride to -" parts unknown. Then again you must remember, dear - that she never liked you from the time she knew you as a school girl visitor at Flint ~~MS~~, & when your father married her - you disliked her so sincerely that you could never be brought to conciliate her at all. This was the reason you were always kept away at school - while she could keep you there - & always away from home as much as she could contrive - put all these things together - and your entire defiance of her ^{plans} in the matter of your engagement & marriage & you have enough, to make her behave stably to you whenever the opportunity offers - indeed she could not do other - being just what she is - for "blood will tell" & so will the reverse of blood - she, ^{is} of the lower orders & cannot help being what she is.

She will, naturally - do much more for Mabel than she will for you - for Mabel went to her, comparatively, a baby - knowing no other mamma - & they have grown together - Mabel is much more of her own making than you are. & she will do more to indulge her. Then again - she don't know how to manage Mabel - & is afraid she will break away entirely from her

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control if she coerces her. I think she behaves & has ever behaved very unfairly to you - & she will continue to do so to the end of the chapter.

I am so pleased dear in hearing of your new house it must be very lovely - have you bought it or do you rent it - Your description of your whole surroundings & what comforts you are having in the way of carriages & horses etc etc - quite delights me. Your poor dear mother never had such comforts and such pleasures. I hope you will prize them at their true value and be thankful to God for all your blessings - first of all being your good husband. You must be, by this time living in your house & I am sure enjoying it. How I wish I could see you in it - but this, alas - may not be. I am very poorly this summer more than I have ever been in my life - my suffering seems to me more than I can bear - for it is continuous - & I never get a moment of let up. I only get sleep by taking ether. The sadness is increased to by knowing that there is no relief - & that I can - now - never hope to be any better. But God knows best what we can bear. Thomasin [?] is just good for nothing but to look after baby who takes care of himself for the most part. I never saw so inefficient a nurse. Emma will have to be rid of her, I am sure.

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I think dear you were very generous with your
Hams(?) you should have kept more for yourself but
I dare say Ned will send you some more.

July 10th. I suppose Mabel has ^{sailed} started ere this for
it is with us 12 o'clock - so on your side it is nearly
6. p.m. - & you are getting your dinner. Mrs. Emmons
[^{Simmons} Emmons - ?] is here on a visit with her little girl &
maid. I have rec'd a letter from Mr. Emmons saying
he is going down on the 8th to Liverpool to take charge
of her he says he only hopes she is as agreeable as
her sister. & he shall enjoy his voyage. I shall
perhaps get some word before she arrives - if not I
shall write a letter to meet Mr. E. - at Sandy Hook
begging him to bring her on ^{from NY} with him as far as
~~Wickford~~ Wickford(?) & Ned & Emma will go down there to
meet & receive her. I hope she wont have bother with
the customs house people - By the bye - I heard from
Boston yesterday that Mrs. Cochran had had a
very bad turn - disease of the heart. Mr. C. has recovered
Mr. Childs don't seem to get over his loss of Mrs. C. -
at all. - he has built a number of cottages at his place

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so he is busy in the summer - Ned has gone fishing for sword fish - with ^{Ben} ~~Ed~~ Warren to be gone four days - Wayman [Waymon?] has gone to the mountains for a month - Miss Stebbins is up at Lenox looking after the alterations & repairs on her cottage - Mrs. Emmons [Emmons?] leaves us on Tuesday & Mr. & Mrs. Fred Seward [Seward] are coming for a week - Then Mr. Ogden [Ogden] is to come with his wife. I had a very splendid box of paper from them yesterday. Mr. Wheeler tells me that Mr. O. has had a slight shock [?] of paralysis since his marriage & is much changed & aged - & that Mrs. Ogden is perfectly charming. I am so glad - Nannie & Mary Chase are coming here on the 15th - Mrs. Warren's [?] new baby is a horror, I think - but Emma C. thinks it is lovely - because it is a girl - For yours & Mr. Roberts satisfaction I hope your first may be a boy - but for your own good & the good of all which you may have after - I hope your first may be a girl - It is so much greater a blessing in a family when the eldest is a girl - I think of you, dear, with great anxiety & affection [?] at this & your coming time if it is a girl won't you name it for me. It is a name you need not be ashamed of, I think.

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However - perhaps I may be vain & conceited. We shall send you a little package of things by Mr. Emmons on his return in September. It seems to me only a very few years ago that I was feeling just as anxious about your dear mother when you were born. I remember at that time - somebody said to her - I think it was a nurse (monthly) when Dr. Muspratt was lamenting that you were not a boy "any boy, sir, can father a boy - but it takes a man to father a girl."

Monday July 12th. Now I must wind up this epistle which I ~~had~~ hoped to have got off by the steamer of the 10th -

but I have been very poorly and could not finish yesterday. I long to hear a description of the inside of your house - if it had been in this country I could have given you many pretty odds & ends from this house, which is now too full - you must tell me the size of your rooms. As old Mr. Roberts pleased to have you so near by - ah dear I wish I could see you in your new home - where I am sure you will be very happy. Mr. Emmons gives me such a nice account of Ben - I wish I could see him. God bless you & him for me. & believe me ever your most loving & devoted
auntie,

[End.]
(Property of Miss C. Roberts)

Part of a letter among those from C. C. to Rosalie - evidently not a part of any other letter kept with this page.)

" & get it out for me. Don't forget to send the elastic's for holding up the dresses & Sallie's nets [mentioned in letter of Dec. 22, 1874] theres a dear. Remember me very kindly to all at Seaforth & Flint - now that they behave properly to Mr. Roberts & you I like them - as much as ever!

Sallie sends her love to you - Wayman Crow is

coming in from St Louis tomorrow with a lot of wild young fellows. & Mr. Crow is so worried that he is getting Ned to come along - to keep an eye & hand over Wayman who respects Ned very much & Ned's influence upon him is very good. so I shall see Ned tomorrow - which is a great pleasure to me. Emma is very gay now she is in town - goes out a great deal & has lots of company - more than a "blow out furnace" can afford, but she knows best, I suppose. Ned's business is very very "sick". Iron^{Iron} is in an awful way & Ned awfully depressed. I have not seen anybody since

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your letters from me before you write again - You know how anxious I am to hear from you & now that it is so painful for me to write you must not stand upon ceremony with me. Tell me everything about yourselves & what you do & think & feel [?]. Let Uncle Charles see this letter & it will do for a note to him. I have his welcome letter of Dec. 13th & thank him so much - I shall write to him as soon as I can. Tell him that the iron business is in such a very bad way -

that it cannot be made at a profit - & so Ned's furnace has gone out of blast until things recover. This makes Ned free to wander about - but he is very miserable about it. Tell him, too that I have not written to the Cochrams since his note came - but I will do so. I am so much obliged to him for paying this the Vigors [?]

[end of page]

Vigns [?]

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I came to town - for I have been too miserable - Mr. Chase was here the other day - but I did not see him - so I don't know anything about them - Nannie is not married & not in the way of it at present. Mr. Blakes' business is so dull. Newport is going on pretty well. The house^{place} [?] is all right. Miss Gibson is not there this winter - Miss Wilkinson is very well & is I hear being of great good to the dear little boys who all wrote me Xmas letters except Victor - who they all tell me is the joy of the house - You would not know him for the same child as when Emilia

was his nurse. He is passionately in love with his mother - kisses her hands & her clothes - if she is too busy to pet him - & is so reasonable - accepts everything he is told by his mother & father - as though there were no appeal. ^{Carlino} ~~Carlino~~ [Carlino?] is as great a scalliwag as ever - He has produced a great impression in his black velvet suit with scarlet stockings & point lace collar - his hair combed out down over his shoulders - making him like a Vandyke portrait.

I hope you will not wait to ^{get} [?] for replies to