

Letter from C. C. to Rosalie

(Property of Miss C. Roberts)

Philadelphia, Pa. U. S. A.

April 18, 1875

"Dearest Rosalie - Your welcome letter of the 2nd inst enclosing Mabel's nice letter - came safely to hand on the 16th" I thank you very much for yours dear and that you give ^{me the} ~~much~~ information you do so kindly & frankly - I pray God all may be well with you during all the intervening time between now & the date you indicate October - You are so strong and well that I do not anticipate a hard time for you & you must not be frightened into a dread which will deprive the anticipation of the blessing which is to fall to your lot - of all its happiness. It is an hourly occurrence & so few chance ^(?) to great & unbearable suffering that you must pluck up all your courage & believe that God will be with you & all will be well. I dare say Mr. Roberts will be delighted & if this had not come to you - in time he & you both would have been disappointed & perhaps discontented - so all will be well in that also. You will for a time have the

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discomfort - which all women suffer - but after that is over you will rejoice - Mr. Roberts I dare say wants to have a man child - but if it should be a woman - it will be much happier for you - & for all the little ones which may come after. It is so much better to have a girl older than the boys of a family - I think. You will not mind my telling Emma Cushman & Ned who have been very anxious for this event - for they know how it will consolidate your & Mr. Roberts happiness.

I have rec'd a number of notes & letters from you dear - which I have not been able to answer - for I have, most of the time, been too miserably ill & suffering, to go through the sitting over a table long enough to write. The mere mechanical part of writing has become almost impossible to me for this reason - & you must forgive my shortcomings. You know - dear - how I love you - & will never think that I fail in that respect - even though you get no written word from my hand. I was not in a condition to write - to thank Mr. Roberts properly for his kind gift of the chest of tea when I was in St. Louis. I got Ned to

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write for me & I hope Mr. Roberts rec'd the acknowledgment & thanks which should have been made so long before again through you dear. I must ~~trouble~~ ^{thank} him for his attention to my needs & my comfort. I have no doubt it will prove delicious - but I cannot tell until we get to Newport. It is now remaining in Stuarts Banking House until all my things are sent on to Newport for the summer - & as soon as it is tasted we will report again.

Emma Cushman sent me your letter - wherein you state that you have found her a nurse, who was to sail with Mr. ^{Emmons} on the 17th yesterday. I hope she may turn out as well as Miss Wilkinson has - ~~she~~ with whom they are quite satisfied - but it is a difficult thing choosing servants for other people difficult enough for oneself - but much more so for others. However we will hope for the best. Emma writes me that Ned is getting very well again & the furnace is being lighted up preparatory to fulfilling contracts for some considerable amount of iron - but the prices are so little remunerative that they wont make much money. However - better to be at work than idle where so much money

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is locked up in plant &c &c. Ned will not be strong enough to remain out in St. Louis this summer & I hope they may come on early in June to New York Newport - I came here on the 5th of this month & am remaining until the 24th - to be under Mr. Lippis [Lippis?] care - until my engagement in Baltimore (the week of 26th April) & my Boston engagement - / the 2 weeks of 3rd & 10th of May. I do not know if I shall be able to go through with these engagements until I try - but I must make the effort. I never know what I can do until I try. After that I have to go - if I am able - to Toronto in Canada - for a week & then save for ^[three?] ~~these~~ readings on my way back to the East, my work is done - & I shall go to Newport as soon after as I can - there to remain, as long as the weather will let me. Talking of weather - never has there been known such a winter as this & it still continues so changeable that one scarcely knows how to dress. This morning it snowed hard for a time. Day before yesterday it dropped in 2 hours from 60 degrees Fahrenheit to 30 degrees. No one can be well in such trying weather - Your Uncle Charles sent me some primroses & violets from his own little garden at Hornsey - in a letter

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I rec^d from him last night - but there is nothing like a bud upon the trees here yet - & I hear you have very trying weather with you. I do hope you may find a house at Woolton^[?] it would be pleasant to you to be near friends - Mrs. Jones (Jones?) was a dear friend of your ^{dear} mother's - & it would be a great comfort to me - if you could have her with you in your hour of trial she knows so well what to do - but I suppose you will have perhaps Aunt Frances or Aunt ~~Jane~~ ^[Emma?] _{Jane?} - I wish I could be near you - or that

Emma could - ^(w^d) would it not be nice if she could go ^{over} ~~out~~ to you. However, I feel that all will be well with you! your dear mother's & grandmothers spirits will be near you.

Mabel has improved very much - it appears to me in character - as well as in handwriting. Dear you must write so carelessly - it will grow upon you & you are too young to be careless - See that you have proper paper pens & ink in your desk beforehand & then you wont have to make apologies - I wish Mabel could find some one to come out with earlier than Mr. Emmons - perhaps you can learn at the Cunard

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office she will lose a good deal of the summer
& yet I suppose after she returns to Liverpool the
1st of June she will want to be a time with you
& the Flint ~~(?)~~ & Seaforth people before leaving.
However we must leave it to circumstances -
knowing that she can come with Mr. Emmons, -
but you must caution her about talking to gentlemen
on the steamer - it is not ladylike or proper & she
must be circumspect above all things. Poor
Brownie Mr. Childs splendid dog has died. Dutchie [?]
is at ^(Boscobel) Boscobel. Emma Cushman has the dearest
little Scotch Terrier you ever saw - now good bye
dear - I have written more than I ought. Give
my kind love to Mr. Roberts. I wish I could see
him. Do you know you never sent me a photo of
yourself & him together. Sallis sends love to you
& she will want you to get her some more nets
to come out by Mabel - will you ~~not~~ tell Mabel for
me that I will write to her as soon as I can - &
that I send her my dear love - & am delighted
with her letter. I shall be so pleased to see her

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this summer & shall keep her a good while when
she comes. God bless you - & believe me ever
your most loving Auntie

P. T. O. [Please
turn
over]
P. J.

Apr. 25th - I have been unable to finish this until today
& it enables me to ask you to get for Sallie 4 yards
& a half of this same stuff that you sent her a
present when you married - she has not enough
for the whole suit. please send it by Mabel & have
it wrapped up in some piece of Mabel's clothes so

that the customs house officers who have got to be
very strict - will not get at it - If I make up
my mind to have you send me ~~for~~ some silk
I will write about it later. You must be sure to find
out when Mr. Emmons is to sail & if he will take
charge of Mabel. God bless you dear - I am very
suffering these later days & can write with
difficulty Forgive me & ^{believe me.} ~~remain~~ your loving

Auntie