

S.S. Bahama



Miss Sophie Key
Halley
New York
N.Y.

U.S. CONSUL,
ANTIGUA.

will probably reach you sooner than one sent by
Post "Europe" three days. Antwerp June 23rd 1880
mine = 24^m

My Beloved - Ahem -

I think it was
day before yesterday I wrote you
last. It seems as though everything
was conspiring to exhaust my mental
energy. pen - ink + paper to keep
up the little ~~one~~ ^{one} I made to you
(in a moment of weakness) for how
you another vessel to day to
New York. Now when your pocket
is depleted and you have lost
that independence which money alone
can give. Caused by paying postage
on vessels letters. ~~it~~ will suddenly
come home to you what a sad
blunder you made. Etc., Oh! by the way
if it isn't wrong give me a kiss
this beautiful morning. I am going
to kiss some good wholesome girl -
Only two kisses since I left you
last year - only two - and they

they were dispersed to a little
eight-year old - dear little blossom.
It may be very humanly but
I do like ^{no} love - to speculate -
Dont believe could ever grow tired
of it. that is if the subject was
secret: - And if I should in the
future insist on one kiss per day
at the least ^(S) you must oblige -
but entreat like a dear little ^(S)
lamb that you are.

Surely this will find you at
Holley and I hope well - I hope the
warm weather easul away in the
later days of June. Actnally all
last eve night to send you something
cool.

Sounds so queer. that away
up with 1500 miles north of here that
you should have the thermometer at
 95° & 100° when here it has not yet
reached 90° . every day 86° to 88°
nights 80° I am so used to this

regularity in heat now as
to enjoy it - and would feel
uncomfortable if colder. I dont
hate the sun (only when it glares
in the streets) at all. carry my umbrella
keep in a genial perspiration and
am quite happy.

I never was stronger in my life
and have days of depression of spirits
or strength. although this girl has
no exhilarating influences yet have
exhilaration after all -

I have books and work and health-
ful play which ^{all} make happy now this
one link missing in that phrase. and
you know well enough what it is - it is
your own - shall I write it - clear living
street self to scroll on me when I
come home weary from the days
work. and when I throw myself
wearily down I want somebody to
bring washing bills and Pitchens bills to
truly regale me with - to tell me to keep
my dirty shoes off the sofa etc -

I feel that - I can't live much
longer without - these luxuries

My life is one-sided cold and full
of dreadful mortifying in some sense.
And can never be a happy one - a
real happy one - until your fortunes
are linked with mine. I must
have the luxuries before mentioned - I
am pining - pining for em -

But seriously my dear dear Lizzie
I never waited so impatiently at this
~~old~~ delay - All my friends are getting
married why can't I Beau'Arri!

How I would like to tramp through the
woods & fields with you this vacation.
Oh. Oh! Oh! skip away sweet visions
~~to remain myself~~ or I will unman
myself. and "fearful tears will flow(ahem)"
Now a kiss and adieu - adieu -
until the next letter (about five days)

Yours with great love.

This will take a passing
steamer instead of road ^{letter} so we come all the
quicker to you - my darling -