

NEW YORK
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Miss Lizzie H Keys
Holley
N. Y.
USA

Antigua June 29th 1880
My darling.

All at once I am aware that another vessel is about to take her departure so I hereby shall include another epistle to you. Knowing quite well that the SS. Cannica will be along in three days which will ~~not~~ ^{be} carry a letter to you to arrive sooner than this.

But never mind if you can stand the postage I can stand the writing. It must be funny to receive letters with such contradictory dates - or rather out of time -

Last night was a rainy one to be sure, and it actually thundered. Much to my astonishment and delight - and early this morning I awoke just enough to comprehend that we were having a regular old fashioned drizzle - drizzle - And I rather think it pleased the subscriber - what a time to sleep when the rain patters on the roof

You must be in Holley by this time; I think you arrived last night. And I should have liked to have

surprised you by being one of the
people waiting to receive you at the depot.
You don't know how many times I
am tempted to jump on the steamer
and take a trip for a week in
the Olyssium - but what a mess I
am making of that - I mean - to
state that I would stay a week in
your delicious growing presence -
and then try - or shy back again
to this infernal land. But the
coming back without you. Ah! there's
the rub - I know I would blubber
all the way back.

And so your dear brother is to
make a picture for us. I would
prize one of that kind much more
than when purchased new out of
a store - who wouldn't - We will
have lots of home comforts - dear
sometimes - why not - I am sure
we can appreciate them - will have
paintings - statuary - carvings - nice
tools - everything nice and tasty -
and lovely - sewing machines -

washing machines - platters &c &c -
and a big coal stove - Oh my
the happiness in store for us.

But I only need that it is deferred
thus long and that there's nearly
2000 miles between us - I suppose it's
all for the best. You must not think
of going back to school to get train and
tried again I won't allow it. There's
too much risk for the money - It
won't pay - or if you do - if you do then
never longer than the Autumn term -

But I think of will take you
all summer to get rested up and
about all the Autumn to get ready
for the nuptials - Oh! And then
- about the holidays or before then
oh! then - I could not think of
bringing you down here before Feb
or middle of Jan. because that is the
best time to come. although letters
come from England at all times of the
year - But there may be lots of
things happen before that time
who can tell - perhaps my old
Uncle in Michigan will die and die.

me \$15,000 and then we wouldn't
come down here to stay - although
we might come on a visit (ahem)

But I like the Consular business very
much and wouldn't like to stop short -
never to go again -

Don't believe I will ever go back
to Farming at Racine again - that is
~~not~~ ~~for~~ ~~six~~ ~~months~~ at any rate -

Have reason to believe that I am
in fair repute at the Department of State
and stand good chance for promotion
in fact am tempted to apply now for
one - but must wait a little to see which
way the cat will jump in politics - This
is a good place to wait - It is under-
stood that this place has increased six fold
in four years in commercial importance
and that there are many places of less
importance credited with a good salary -
so it's only a little question of time to
bring all things around ~~to~~ ~~time~~ -

Salaries are bound to be raised all around
in fact Consulates and Consular
importance are better understood in
the U.S. than ever before

There's a great many worse places
to live in than Antigua - take some of
the Brazilian - Spanish - French - German -
Dutch or the worst of them - and when you
cannot understand the language at all - and
see if a - sent - letter - For here we
are close to New York - English speaking
people - English Churches & society - It would
be a deal worse - and - and a deal
better - Oh! by the way I've heard that
Congress has subsidized lines of steamers
and - we to fly down this way - now
if they will come to A - it will be fine.
I shall beg the Postmaster General to
allow it - right - soon - I would like to
be Agent for em - then it would
cost nothing to go back and forwards
to the States -

Well I must stop - what would I
not give this morning - just to pinch
you - just once - and then 2 kisses
you - and make up - remembrances to
Mabel and the bird - hope the bird
didn't die - I wave a kiss to Hully
and all de Jewell's - Bye Bye
One exploring kiss and please
forgive me - ~~over~~ over

Now this^{is} one morning later, although the letter was sealed & directed. I have torn off the envelope, and turn to writing some more because I like to, and because I do love you so this morning. It thrills me and makes me strangely happy. All that I need, at least everything pales beside it, is your own sweet living self. And this is like turning back after a sweet "good night" to obtain a sweeter one.

To-morrow I commence to make out the Quarterly returns to send to Washington - First: (American vessels - arrivals & departures) their cargoes - quantities descriptions and values ^{second} (Statement of fees received) ^{third} (Letters received and sent) not yours (ahum) but official ones ^{fourth} (transcript of Invoice book) and a report on the trade - take me about a day I guess - so you see I have something to do, once in a while -

But I do wish one thing this nice cool morning and that is - that we were on our way to the White Mountains or the Catskills to stay the heated ^{term} out - with plenty of money - no care, and nothing to do but to scold each other - Oh my - but away ye dreams away, another expiring kiss and fare ye well me own ~~dearly~~ -
Chut -