

Amy Heard

Letters from the Gilded Age

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Preface



Amy Heard in Washington

Famous or notorious people leave tracks through history that are easy to follow. Their letters and writings are avidly preserved and they are much written about by others. The persistent biographer need only visit libraries and family or historical society collections to piece together the details of the person's life. Simply because the person was or is famous is usually sufficient motivation to make the effort to understand and describe their life, even if it has been done repeatedly before.

In contrast, people who do not have a profound impact on their contemporary general public can fade with time, leaving only a few family anecdotes and photographs for their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Occasionally, however, such fameless people do leave enough traces in

the forms of letters, notes, and journals to permit a determined researcher to piece together bits of their life years later, but the motivation to do so is usually lacking unless the person lost in the past is of particular interest to the sleuth of the present. As an obvious example, the life of ancestors is often of strong interest to a descendent who never knew them and knows little about them. Such research can be of interest to more than just the family of an ancestor. The ancestor might typify an interesting

time, class, or culture and their lives might by example provide an interesting excursion into an entire period. The ancestor might have come in regular contact with remarkable contemporaries, people who have been written about and whose lives can be found in books and newspaper files.



Amy Heard in 1876, Brighton

handwriting was so unlike any I had seen that I at first found it illegible. With hints of a secret scandal and a hasty departure from the U.S., the letter caught my interest and led to a search among my father's papers as well as the boxed collections of cousin Arthur Meeker Gray for further letters of the period. In parallel I began to discover in both contemporary and recent books the identity of Ms. Sackville-West and the other people who populated the letters, which proved to be full of Washington gossip concerning the diplomats and politicians of the age. Amy proved to be a well-connected bystander to the political and diplomatic life in Washington D.C.

Even if these reasons are only rationalizations, the process of doing detective work on the past, of being an amateur historian, can be challenging and fun on its own, regardless of the famous person or unknown ancestor selected as object for the search. It can be satisfying to figure out who some individual was, to find previously unknown gossip, to find the details of a scandal only hinted at, to find the futures of the young people encountered, and to find romantic aspects to lives previously described in biographies as having had none. Reading century-old letters and journals for the first time can provide a window into the past, a vicarious adventure that is remote from the present, yet strangely familiar.

Following the death of my father, Augustine Heard Gray, in 1982, I found in his papers a letter addressed to his mother, Amy Heard, from a V. Sackville-West.

The letter was in French and the

at the end of the nineteenth century, with friends among the best known diplomats, politicians, and writers of the time.

To date I have found approximately two hundred letters written to Amy, mostly from the daughters of politicians and diplomats and from her family during the 1880's and the 1890's, the period named the Gilded Age by Mark Twain [25]. These letters provide an intimate picture of close friendships of young women of the time and an insider's view of many of the personalities and events of diplomatic and political life in Washington, D.C. In addition, Amy kept a daily notebook with brief entries describing visits, parties, dinners, receptions, and other Washington, D.C., social functions as well as vacations to Niagara Falls and Bar Harbor. The notebooks for portions of 1881, 1882, and 1886 survive.

The early letters and the notebooks supplement the published letters of two of the most famous Washington women of the time: Mrs. Henry Adams [2] and Mrs. James G. Blaine[5], both of whom refer to many of Amy's correspondents and to Amy herself. Many of the people mentioned can also be found in the *Dictionary of American Biography* and several books devoted to that period such as *Mrs. Jack* [24], *The Proper Bostonians* [4], *The Gentle Americans* [14], and *Lady Sackville* [3] and others that will be cited. The later letters before and during the period when Amy's father was U.S. Minister to Korea provide a story of American politics and diplomacy of the time and of the difficult adjustments required of an unprepared diplomatic family in a new and struggling country. The Korean letters are the subject of a separate book, *Max and Max*.



Victoria West

Amy's most famous correspondent was she who wrote the first letter I found: Victoria West, later to become Lady Sackville. Her biography *Lady Sackville* [3] by Mary

Alsop provides a lively account of her life and times and was my first source once I discovered her identity. Victoria was the mother of the writer V. Sackville-West (known as “Vita”) and the grandmother of the writer Nigel Nicolson, who among other things wrote biographies of Napoleon and Lord and Lady Curzon. Both daughter and grandson described Victoria in books. Vita recounted her grandmother’s early life in her book *Pepita* [22] while Nicolson’s biography of his parents, *Portrait of a Marriage* [19] provide a brief account of his grandmother. Unfortunately the subsequent television production of *Portrait of a Marriage* provided a painfully inadequate and unsympathetic portrait of an elderly Victoria.

This chain of literary progeny and the notoriety of Victoria’s and Vita’s lives make discovering the family story a relatively easy task in comparison to tracking down some of the less well known names mentioned in the letters, some of which remain a mystery.

In addition to the letters from Victoria, many letters exist from friends and family. In particular, Victoria’s sisters Amalia and Flora and Amy’s sister Helen Maxima Heard (nicknamed “Max”) wrote often.

Victoria’s younger sisters Amalia (then 15) and Flora (then 17) arrived in Washington in December 1883. Amalia was to become an even closer friend of Amy’s than her sister. While Amalia was later to become a bitter spinster, during this period she was bright, witty, and enthusiastic, though a hint of her future sadness shows up in her musing about men, marriage, and death. Although published accounts suggest she never had a serious relationship with a man, the letters imply a romantic, and ultimately tragic, liaison with the nephew of the Spanish ambassador.



**Victoria, Flora, and Amalia
and Mme Boumy in 1884**

These letters typify letters among close women friends of the Victorian period: they are warm, affectionate, gossipy, and occasionally catty. All of the letters from the West sisters and Max are in French. The journals are in French, Spanish, and, only rarely, English.

The letters, journals, clippings, and photos became a hobby for me. I decided to try to translate the letters into English, track down the identities and what information I could about the people mentioned in the letters, and put together a book using the letters and journal entries as an excuse to describe one aspect of Washington diplomatic and political life during the Gilded Age, the view seen by the daughters and wives of male politicians and diplomats of the time. The stories of the writers and their friends are told, at least briefly, as their names occur in the journal and letters. The book is intended to provide a small guided tour of the times through the correspondence and notes of a participant.

One advantage of writing books as part of my profession is the possession of the tools to try out a book for the fun of it, even if the potential audience comprises only a few friends and family members (and possibly the Lady Sackville archives at the University of Illinois and the small collection of avid Lady Sackville groupies that I have met at Book Fairs). I hope that a few might enjoy peering back into the past as much as I did.

At this writing the letters from the Misses West and the notebooks have been transcribed and translated. The Korean letters have been transcribed translated and are presented in separate book, *Max and Max*.

As time permits, I hope to add the original French (and other languages) of the daily journals as well as other relevant letters.

A complete list of the letters follows.

Letters from Victoria, Amalia, and Flora West. All but one are to Amy Heard.

There is one letter from Victoria to Amy's mother, Jane DeConinck Heard.

1. 7 May 1884, from Victoria
2. 23 December 1884, from Victoria
3. 19 March 1885, from Amalia (& undated note)
4. 22 March 1885, from Victoria
5. 31 March 1885, from Victoria
6. 2 April 1885, from Victoria

7. 3 April 1885, from Victoria
8. 3 May 1885, from Amalia
9. 8 May 1885, from Victoria (& Flora)
10. 3 June 1885, from Amalia (In London July-Oct. 85)
11. 28 February 1886, from Amalia
12. 6 March 1886, from Amalia
13. 9 March 1886, from Amalia
14. 11 March 1886, from Victoria (Ottowa)
15. 14 March 1886, from Amalia
16. 14 March 1886, from Victoria (Ottowa)
17. 27 March 1886, from Amalia
18. 31 March 1886, from Victoria
19. 13 April 1886, from Victoria (summer '86 in England)
20. 19 July 1887, from Amalia (Paris)
21. 28 August 1887, from Victoria (Paris)
22. 21 October 1887, from Amalia
23. 22 October 1887, from Victoria
24. 12 November 1887, from Victoria
25. 12 November 1887, from Amalia
26. 26 November 1887, from Amalia
27. 30 November 1887, from Victoria
28. 22 December 1887, from Victoria
29. 26 December 1887, from Victoria
30. 23 January 1888, from Victoria

31. 29 January 1888, from Amalia
32. 20 February 1888, from Amalia (Cannes)
33. 19 March 1888, from Amalia (looking for house in Beverly Cove)
34. 9 April 1888, from Victoria (Flora's engagement)
35. 9 April 1888, from Flora
36. 11 April 1888, from Victoria to Jane Heard
37. 19 April 1888, from Amalia
38. 18 July 1888, from Amalia (Cove Hill, Beverly)
39. 19 July 1888, from Victoria (Cove Hill, Beverly)
40. 22 September 1888, from Amalia (Cove Hill, Beverly)
41. 31 October 1888, from Victoria (Murchison affair)
42. 6 November 1888, from Amalia
43. 11 March 1889, from Victoria (Cannes)
44. 28 March 1891, from Victoria (Knole)

Letters to Amy Heard from Augustine Heard (her father), Béb  (or Max or Helene, her sister Helen Maxima Heard), Jane Leaps Heard (her mother), John Heard (her brother), Albert Augustine Heard (her brother), and Albert Farley Heard (her uncle).

1. 16 September 1878, from Augustine (Ipswich)
2. 12 February 1883, from Augustine (NY)
3. 10 November 1884, from Augustine (Cleveland)
4. 27 November 1884, from B b 
5. 4 December 1884, from Augustine Albert Heard (Cincinnati to NY)
6. 13 December 1884, from John Heard (Boston to NY, in German)
7. 16 December 1884, from B b  (Boston to NY)
8. 17 December 1884, from John Heard (Boston to NY, in German)

9. 24 December 1884, from B  b   (Boston to NY)
10. 28 January 1885, from B  b   (Boston)
11. 10 February 1885, from Augustine Heard (NY)
12. 25 February 1885, from John Heard (NY to Washington, c/o Commissioner Loring, in German)
13. 5 March 1885, from B  b   (Boston)
14. 8 March 1885, from John Heard (NY to the Russian Legation,, from Washington, D.C., in German)
15. 10 March 1885, from Jane Leaps Heard (NY, sent c/o G.B.Loring, Washington D.C.)
16. 10 March 1885, from Augustine Heard (NY, c/o G.B. Loring)
17. 21 March 1885, from B  b   (Boston to NY)
18. 27 May 1885, from Augustine Heard (NY to Boston)
19. 2 June 1885, from B  b   (Boston to Ipswich)
20. 8 June 1885, from Augustine (NY to Ipswich)
21. 4 March 1886, from Jane Leaps (NY to Boston)
22. 9 March 1886, from Augustine Albert Heard (In French)
23. 17 March 1886, from Augustine (Cuba?)
24. 1 April 1886, from Jane Leaps & Augustine (NY to Boston)
25. 14 April 1886, from Jane Leaps (NY to Boston)
26. 25 January 1887, from B  b   (Washington to Boston, West sisters)
27. 29 June 1887, from B  b   (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
28. 5 July 1887, from Augustine (NY to Nahant)
29. 6 July 1887 , from B  b   (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
30. 7 July 1887, from Augustine (NY to Nahant)

31. 12 July 1887, from Augustine (NY to Nahant)
32. 15 July 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
33. 18 July 1887, from Augustine
34. 22 July 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
35. 27 July 1887, from Albert Farley Heard (Washington)
36. 1 August 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
37. 8 August 1887, from Augustine (Mt. Desert)
38. 8 August 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
39. 10 August 1887, from Jane Leaps & Augustine (Mt. Desert)
40. 17 August 1887, from Augustine (Belmont, Bar Harbor)
41. 19 August 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
42. 21 August 1887, from Augustine (Mt. Desert)
43. 28 August 1887, from Albert Farley Heard (Ipswich to Nahant)
44. 28 August 1887, from Augustine (Mt. Desert to Nahant)
45. 4 September 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
46. 18 September 1887, from Béb  (The Belmont, Bar Harbor)
47. 1 December 1887, from Augustine (NY)
48. 10 January 1888, from Max (Washington)
49. 19 January 1888, from Max (Washington)
50. 8 February 1888, from Max (Washington, mentions Amalia W.)
51. 18 March 1888, from Jane Leaps (NY)
52. 25 March 1888, from Augustine (NY)
53. 20 May 1888, from Augustine (NY)
54. 23 August 1888, from Augustine (Bar Harbor)

55. 30 August 1888, from Max (The Belmont)
56. 7 October 1888, from Max (Ipswich)
57. 13 October 1888, from Augustine (Bar Harbor)
58. 25 March 1889, from Augustine (NY, Blaine discussions)
59. 25 June 1889, from Augustine (Belmont, Bar Harbor)
60. 29 July 1889, from Augustine (Bar Harbor)
61. 25 January 1890, from Jane Leaps & Augustine (NY)
62. 10 February 1890, from Augustine (NY)
63. 30 May 1890, from Augustine (Seoul)
64. 6 August 1890, from Helene (Seoul, Korea)
65. 7 November 1890, from Augustine (Seoul)
66. 19 February 1891, from Augustine (Seoul)
67. 23 February 1891, from Augustine (Seoul)
68. 27 March 1891, from Augustine (Seoul)
69. 6 April 1891, from Helene (Seoul, No. 8)
70. 23 May 1891, from Helene (Peking, No. 9; courtship with von Brandt)
71. 31 July 1891, from Helene (Seoul, No. 11)
72. 30 August 1891, from Augustine (Seoul)
73. 22 September 1891, from Helene (Seoul, No. 14)
74. 20 October 1891, from Augustine (Seoul)
75. 25 November 1891, from Helene (Seoul, No. 16, + menu)
76. 4 December 1891, from Jane Leaps (Seoul)
77. 4 December 1891, from Helene (Seoul, No. 17)
78. 12 December 1891, from Helene (Seoul, also no. 17)

79. 17 December 1891, from Helene (Seoul, no. 18)
80. 25 December 1891, from Helene (Seoul, no. 19)
81. 6 January 1892, from Helene (Chunulpo?, no. 20)
82. 17 January 1892, from Helene (Seoul, no. 21)
83. 30 January 1892, from Jane Leaps (Seoul, in English!)
84. 10 February 1892, from Augustine (Seoul)
85. 19 February 1892, from Jane Leaps (Seoul, in English!)
86. 11 March 1892, from Augustine (Seoul)
87. 19 July 1892, from Augustine (Chefoo)
88. 21 July 1892, from Augustine (Chefoo, note from Max von B.)
89. 30 July 1892, from Augustine (Chefoo)
90. 10 August 1892, from Augustine (Chefoo)
91. 16 September 1892, from Augustine (Chefoo)
92. 8 January 1893, from Helene (Seoul)
93. 9 May 1893, from Helene (on board the Oldenburg, Straits of Malacca)

Other Letters to Amy Heard

1. 29 November 1884, from Alice Bowler (Cincinnati)
2. 14 February 1885, from Mary Endicott (mentions V.W.)
3. 15 March 1885, from Louise Bowler (Boston)
4. 16 March 1885, from Georgie (refers to articles)
5. 16 March 1885, from ?? (Biarritz)
6. 5 June 1885, from ?? (AWL below?)

7. 30 August 1885, letters to both Amy and Russell from I.S. Gardner (Isabella Stewart) +
8. 20 February 1886, from Louise Bowler
9. 17 March 1886, from Edith (NY to Boston)
10. 22 March 1886, from AWL (Bermuda to Boston)
11. 3 September 1886, from Genevieve Marshall (British Legation in Berne, forwarded from British Leg. in Wash to Bar Harbor. L.S.S. West signature on envelope) +
12. 7 September 1886, from Mary (Thurston?) Arnay-le-Duc, Cote d'Or to NY +
13. 9 September 1886, from (to Russell Gray) W.C.Loring
14. 10 September 1886, from Thèrese (de Chambrun or de Brazza?), (Paris to NY) (mentions V.W.) +
15. 14 September 1886, from Genevieve (Marshall) (Berne to NY) +
16. 17 September 1886, from M.V. Chaffraix (New Orleans to Boston) +
17. 23 September 1886, from Georgie (Bangalore to 1777 Mass Av, Wash D.C.)
18. 5 October 1886, from Josefina Martinez (Santiago)
19. 26 October 1887, from Horace Gray (Justice of Supreme Court)
20. 26 June 1887, from Bessie (Chalet Haltura)
21. 28 July 1887, from Louise (Chatwold, Mt. Desert)
22. 3 September 1887, from Louise (Chatwold, Mt. Desert)
23. 13 September 1887, from Edith
24. 23 September 1887, from Louise Bowler (Chatwold, Mt. Desert)
25. 8 October 1887, from Louise (Chatwold)
26. 22 October 1887, from Bessie (Chalet Haltera, Biarritz)
27. 13 November 1887, from Mary Endicott
28. 11 December 1887, from Louise Bowler

29. 25 December 1887, from Edith
30. 30 December 1887, from Louise Bowler (Mt. Storm)
31. 17 April 1888, from Mary Endicott
32. 20 April 1888, from Edith
33. 27 April 1888, from Louise Bowler
34. 7 August 1888, from Addie
35. 5 October 1888, from Louise Bowler
36. 6 November 1888, from Mary C. Endicott (engagement to J. Chamberlain)
37. 22 November 1888(?), from Mary Endicott Chamberlain
38. 6 June 1889, from Mabel Bayard Warren
39. 4 February 1890, from Mary Endicott Chamberlain
40. 24 April 1890, from Mabel Bayard Warren
41. 16 May 1890, from Mabel Bayard Warren

Acknowledgements

Thanks to my brother Steen for the family genealogy he wrote including the Heards and the Grays, much of the background material is drawn from his research. Thanks to my late cousins Arthur Meeker Gray and Joan Gray for their reminiscences of Amy Heard and many of the letters presented here. Thanks to the grandson of my grandmother's sister, Peter Alexander von Schimpff, who provided the photos of Max Heard as an adult. Many thanks to Annamarie Gosnell and her son William Rostek for having rescued from a Baltimore dump several of the photos of Amy, Jane, and Max Heard that appear in these pages.

Chapter 1

Introduction



Amy Heard in 1862, Paris

Augustine moved to Paris as a representative of AH& Co. He married Jane Leaps de Coninck in April 1858, and they had a reputation for living in grand style. The family still traveled during this time and Amy's younger sister Helen Maxima (Max) was born in 1868 in Hong Kong, then the headquarters of Augustine Heard and Company.

Amy Heard was born on 7 October 1860 in Paris, the month before the election of Abraham Lincoln and the year before the outbreak of the American Civil War. She was christened Amelia, but never used the name. She was the second child of Augustine Heard, at the time a well known China merchant, and Jane Leaps de Coninck, the daughter of a Belgian Diplomat. Augustine went to China following his graduation from Harvard in 1847 to serve with his uncle and namesake, Augustine Heard, the founder of Augustine Heard and Co.

Like his brothers John, Albert Farley, and George Farley, young Augustine was a senior partner of the largely family controlled firm and was reputed to be the first American permitted to trade in Siam (1855). Augustine took over leadership of the firm in 1852 from his older brother John, and directed the company until John's return in 1855 or 1857, when

**Augustine Heard****Jane Leaps Heard**

Jane's parents were François DeConinck and Amalia Williams Taylor. François served as the Belgian Consul in Havana. Amalia was born in Baltimore in May 1806, the daughter of Lemuel Taylor and Mary Wheatly Williams. Taylor was a Baltimore merchant who lost his fortune in 1816–1818 when he lost several cargoes in his West Indies trade. In 1821 he started fresh and moved to Cuba, where eventually he became owner of Sta Amelia, a sugar plantation in the Cilizo district between Matanzas and Cárdenas. François and Amalia were married at the Sta Amelia plantation on 16 June 1831 and subsequently had four children: François, Jane Leaps, who was born in Cuba in May 1832, Mary Taylor, who was born in 1833 and died in Cuba in 1886, and Amalia, born in 1835 and died in October 1884. Mary Taylor de Coninck married Thomas Johnson of Baltimore in 1881, as described in the notes herein. Amalia married Francois Piletur.

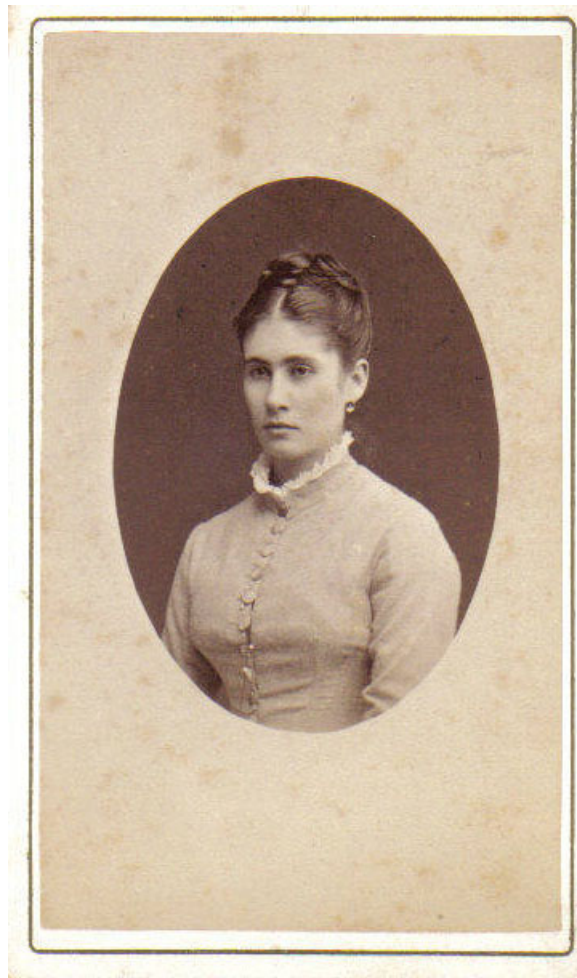
Amy spent most of her first ten years in Paris and moved with her parents to the U.S. to live in Washington, DC, in 1870. Although centered in Washington, DC, the family still traveled as she had portraits in Brighton in 1876 and in Biarritz in 1877.

As recession turned to depression in the early 1870s, Augustine Heard and Company went out of business in 1875 and the family had to learn to live on a much reduced income. Augustine Heard apparently moved to Washington with the hope of gaining a government diplomatic position based on his extensive experience in China. As is told in these pages, he eventually succeeded, but not in the way he wished. In the mean time, the family travels to Europe and to the playgrounds of the wealthy in the U.S. such as Newport and Bar Harbor seemed expressly designed to find good matches for the daughters, Amy and Max.

Amy lived with her parents until November 1886, although she often traveled to visit friends or spend summers with her friends. As told in the letters and commentary, she found a husband and in 1886 she married Russell Gray, from Boston, who was ten years her senior. Gray was trained as a lawyer at Harvard, but never practiced law. He was the son of Horace Gray, who founded the Boston Public Gardens with his donation of tulips, and Sarah Russell Gardner, an aunt of John Lowell "Jack" Gardner, the husband of Isabella Stuart Gardner.

During her time in Washington, D.C., Amy was an active participant in the political and diplomatic social scene. During her trips away from Washington and after her move to Boston she carried on an active correspondence with friends and family.

Her parents remained in Washington, until 1890 when her father was appointed the U.S. minister (the equivalent of a modern ambassador) to Korea, a story that will be told here. Amy and Russell lived in Boston thereafter. Russell died in 1929 and Amy died in 1949.



Amy Heard in 1877, Biarritz

The letters tell many related stories and form a window into another era. Perhaps the primary story is the Murchison affair, which may have cost an American president his reelection and resulted in the British Minister being recalled and a break in relations between the U.S. and Great Britain. The life of Victoria Josephine Sackville-West, who would later become Lady Sackville, is illustrated during her Washington days. She was the mother of the writer Victoria (Vita) Sackville-West and she was famous on her own, both because of her fascinating life and her powerful personality. Less well known is her younger sister, Amalia, who in these pages is more real than in any books I have found. Some of the most famous diplomats and politicians of the time appear, including the Spanish novelist, poet, and diplomat Juan Valera. When he announced his impending departure from Washington, Catharine Bayard, the daughter of the US Secretary of State, committed suicide. The attraction of this 60 year old renaissance man to young women in their twenties is apparent in the letters.

Transcriptions of the original French were added in summer 2005 and as a result many errors of translation were corrected. In the future I hope to start adding more letters from others of my grandmother's correspondents who are mentioned here.

Chapter 2

1881

Amy's brief journal notes from fall 1881 are used to introduce many of the people mentioned in the letters (and a few not heard of again). The Journal begins in Rhode Island, but describes some of the preparations made for her move to Washington, D.C. Although many entries seem trivial, the entire journal is included because of the overall flavor it provides of how Amy spent her time.

October

Newport, R.I.
October 1st 1881

1st Sat. Not out in daytime. Dined at Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts, no one but her 2 sisters, Misses Endicott & a Miss McAllister? Afternoon to party at Ida's. Mrs Craig Wadsworth, Miss Dehones.

Marshall Owen Roberts (1814–1880) was a capitalist and politician who, among other things, managed many government mail steamship service contracts. These businesses were severely damaged by competition from Cornelius Vanderbilt. Roberts gained notoriety as a profiteer from his steamship dealings during the Civil War. He was an anti-Seward Whig and a Republican. He was one of the group that financed Cyrus Field's first cable venture. Mary Endicott was the daughter of the Secretary of the Navy and a friend of Victoria's who married the British Diplomat Joseph Chamberlain after his successful negotiation of the British-American Fisheries Treaty. Mrs. Craig Wharton Wadsworth is the former Evelyn Willing Peters, 1845–1885. She would later be Amy's neighbor on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington.

2nd Sun. Not out. Mrs Calvert cd. Mrs. Sturgis & Rita & Susie tea with us.

The abbreviation “cd.” stands for “called.” The custom of calling is well described by Tehan in *Henry Adams in Love* [23], p. 24:

The paying of calls was governed by iron-clad rules. Any lady who was or wanted to be in society must first leave her printed calling card before making a visit. Her footman presented it to the servant of the house, and if the corner was turned down it signified that the lady had come in person. The lady for whom she left the card must, within seven to ten days, leave her card in return. This ritual use of the engraved bits of pasteboard was a means of testing the social temperature before entering the water. Next came the exchange of formal calls. One etiquette writer declared, “You cannot invite people to your house (however often you may have met them elsewhere) until you first call on them in a formal manner and they return your visit. It is a safeguard against undesirable acquaintances. If you don’t wish to continue the friendship, you discontinue to call and no further advances are made. But it is bad manners not to return a call in the first instance.”

3rd Mon. Arthur Carey, Mrs. Hopkins cd. Drove with Mr. Warren. Misses Endicott & McAllister.

4th Tues. Dr. Brackett filled tooth up. left. Mr. Atherton Blight, Arthur Rives, Miss Dehones. To see R. Sturgis, Mrs. Rob. Cushing.

5th Wed. To see Mme Outrey. Dr. Brackett general polishing. Mrs Parkinson sent us her carriage. Cd. on Phimneys, Wales, Perkins, Parkinson. Mrs. J. C. Gray, Miss Frick cd.

Mme Outrey was the “winsome” wife of the French Minister to Washington. Mrs. John Chipman Gray was the wife of the brother of Russell Gray, later to become Amy’s husband. John C. Gray was a Professor of Law at Harvard and founding partner of the Boston Law Firm of Ropes and Gray. Another brother (actually, a half brother) Horace was then a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. In her letter to her father of 15 January 1882, Mrs. Henry Adams writes of Judge Gray that

Last Sunday Judge Gray to dine. Has not gained in charm of manner in the years since we last met.

6th Th. To see Mrs. Roberts, Endicotts, Miss McAllister. Mrs. Edw. Potter cd.

Possibly Edward Potter is the sculptor (1857–1923) who created statues for the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893, did several equestrian statues, and did the lions for the New York Public Library.

7th Fri. Rita Sturgis, Mrs. A .A. Low, Miss Low, Mrs. H. Pierrepont Jr, cd. Dr. with Mr. Warren.

Abiel Abbot Low (1811–1893) of Salem was a merchant and the clerk and partner (837-1839) of Russell & Co. in Canton China, the company founded by Samul Russell of Middletown, Conn., following his arrival in China in 1824. Amy's father's uncle Augustine Heard had been a partner of Russell & Co. (1831–1836) before founding his own company, Augustine Heard & Co. [16, 26, 10] Russell & Co. was the largest and Augustine Heard & Co. the second largest American trading firms in China. A. A. Low formed his own company A.A. Low & Brothers and eventually became the leading China and Japan trader in silks and tea. He also shared in financing the first Atlantic cable and in the building of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad through West Virginia. Rita Sturgis is possibly either the wife of Russell Sturgis of Boston, who also was a partner in Russell & Co. (1842–1844) or of Robert Shaw Sturgis of Boston, another partner (1850–1857).

8th Sat. Papa came in the night. Mrs. Wetmore, Miss M. Whiting, Ida Decon, Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Hurd cd. I on the Providence. Smith's, M. Griswold, Ida where several girls came to aft. tea. Maud Legdard drove me home.

It is possibly coincidence, but there was also a partner of Russell & Company named John N. Alsop Griswold, possibly a relation to Minnie Griswold.

Oct 9th Ch. Papa to N.Y. by night boat.

10th Mon. Revd Potter, Min. Griswold, Emily Upton, Miss Gray, Mrs Kenuce

Miss Gray is likely one of Harriet or Elizabeth (Bessie) Gray, (half) sisters of John Chipman and Russell Gray.

11th Tues. Large girl's lunch at the Russells. Cd on Whitings, Mrs Boit, Eyre, W. Wadsworth, Sands. The misses Mason cd.

12th Wed. Mamma to lunch at the Rodmans. Mrs Livingston, Woodsworth, Endicotts cd.

13th Th. To see Mrs. W. Forbes at Mrs Pomeroy's. out. Cd. on Mrs Dr. King, Mrs Rich. Willing here & Mrs. Terry & Daisey! To see Mrs. J. C. Gray after dinner.

The name of Forbes also enters through Russell & Co., John Murray Forbes of Milton, Mass., was a partner (1834–1838) as were Robert Bennett Forbes of Milton (1839–1844), Paul Sieman Forbes of New York (1844–1873), and William Howell

Forbes of New York and Paris (1861–1880), Frank Blackwell Forbes of New York (1863–1880), James Murray Forbes of Milton (1869–1872), John Murray Forbes, Jr., of New York (1871–1880), and Henry De Courcy Forbes of New York (1872–1880). Russell & Co. was clearly a family affair, as was Heard & Co. Many of these men made fortunes while still young and some, like Amy's father, lost most of it during the recession of the 1870s. Mrs. J.C. Gray was Anna Sophia Lyman "Nina" Gray. She became a close friend of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

14th Fri. Mr. & Mrs. Forbes & Miss Pomeroy cd. Dr. with Mr. Warren. Cd on Miss Madeleine Mixer.

15th S. Mrs. Griswold & Miss Derby cd. Boston Mr. & Mrs. Gray came today, J. C. after din. Papa & Mama dined at the Pomeroy's. I at the Griswolds. Afterwards to Commerce Party at Ida's.

16th S. Ch. cd. on Mrs. & Miss Minot, dined 1.30 at the Pomeroy's. Walked with Miss Erving. aft. tea. at Miss Howard's. Papa left by night boat.

17th M. Mamma to join Papa in N.Y. & go on to Washington & hunt houses with him. Mrs & Miss Minot cd. I on Mrs. Rich Willing & the Russells.

18th Tues. Drove to Paradise & Purgatory

19th Oct. Mrs & Miss Phinney, Min. Griswold here. Drove with Miss Phinney.

20th Th. Cd on Smiths & Mrs. Stanard.

21st Fri. Mr. Crawford, Maud Ledyard, Mr. Morgand. Drove with Mr. Pomeroy (Tandem). Mamma back fr. Washington. Aug. fr. Quincy to see Brachdt.

22nd Sat. Drove with Mr Warren.

23rd Sun. Not out. Mr Arthur Rives cd.

24th M. Aug. back to Quincy. Began packing.

25th Tues. Miss Ida Mason & Perkins Cd.& Mrs Russell Forsythe.

26th Wed. Miss G. King. Mme de Vaugrigneuse cd.

27th Th. Mrs Buchler & B. sailed for Havre in "Lessing." Mrs. Edw. Potter cd. Not out since Saturday nor seen anyone. Hair washed.

The Lessing was a ship of 3,496 gross tons, length 375.1ft x beam 40ft, one funnel, two masts, iron hull, single screw, speed 13 knots, with accommodation for 90-1st, 100-2nd and 800-3rd class passengers. It was launched in 1874 by A. Stephen & Sons, Glasgow for the Adler Line, Hamburg. she started her maiden voyage from Hamburg to New York on 28th May 1874. In 1875 she was purchased by Hamburg America Line and continued Hamburg - Havre - New York sailings.

28th Fri.

29th Sat. Papa home. Mrs and Misses Austin, Miss Smith cd.

30th Sun. Ch. to say gbye to Miss Jane Stuart, Griswolds. Mamma dined at Mrs. D. King Sr. (French deb)

30th Mon.

November

Wed. 2nd To say g.b. & leave cards at Mrs. Blight's & Perkins, Bruens, Tweedy, Pomeroy, Ida & King, old King, Cunningham, Derby, Calvert, Forsythe, Redmond, E. Potter

2nd W. Left Newport by night boat.

3rd Th. Arr. N.Y. about 7 or 8 A.M. Came to N.Y. Hotel. Not out all day. Rain & fatigue. Saw no one but the crowd in dining room.

4th Fri. To see the cousins Taylor & Schönberger. Shop'g. Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Gray cd.

5th Sat. Shopping. To see Mrs. Roberts & Endicotts. Papa, Mamma & I dined at Mrs. J.C. Gray's, with Judge Barrett & went to the Standrd after to see "Patience" Sullivan & Gilbert last operetta, the success of the season. "Bunthorne" played by Ryly excellent. (Take off of the aesthetic craze_).

Bunthorne was a satire of Oscar Wilde.

6th Sun. To see the Rouths & Mrs. Baldy Smith.

Major General William F. "Baldy" Smith was a civil war commander with a reputation for being something of a martinet.

7th Mon. Mrs. Ch. Minot cd. Drove to Central Park with Mrs. Roberts. dined with her, 2 Endicott sisters, a brother Robert & Miss McAllister.

8th Tues. Shop. in the morn. Shops close at noon, election day.

9th W.

10th Th. Left N.Y. about 10AM. Arrvd Washington about 5. Mama, Max & I to Mrs. Penn's Boarding House 1800 F. because the house taken on Mass. Av. not finished.

11th Fri. Ethel Robeson came in the mf & took Max off for the day. Mama & I lunched at Mrs Hopkins with Mrs. Craig Wadsworth (staying there). Then to see the house Mass. Av., down town with Mr. Hopkins to the gas fixtures, to Mme Outrey's, the Rob. McLanes. Mr. & Mrs. Robeson & Outreys here.

Ethel is possibly the daughter of George Maxwell Robeson (1829–1897), a lawyer, New Jersey official, and U.S. Secretary of the Navy (1869–1877). He was a Republican congressman from New Jersey (1879–83). Max was Amy's younger sister, Helen Maxima Heard (1868–1937), who was Amalia West's age and was also to be on intimate terms with the West sisters. She was known throughout her life by the nickname "Max," but during her Korean stay in the 90's she signed herself more formally as "Helene." During the 80's The West sisters and Amy called Max "Bébé" (French for Baby) and she so signed her letters. Amalia often referred to herself (or to Max) as Amy's "Second Bébé."

Robert Milligan McLane (1815–1898) was in the House of Representatives, was Governor of Maryland from 1883–1887, and later minister to France.

Sat. 12th To see Mrs. Robeson. Max there to stay. Mama & I dined at the Outrey's. only Mr. Lowndes.

Mentioned frequently in the letters of Mrs. Henry Adams, James Lowndes was a South Carolinian and Confederate Army Colonel who settled in Washington following the war to practice law. He was believed to be the model for the character "Carrington" in Henry Adams' book *Democracy* [1].

Sun. 13th To St. John's Ch. with Miss McLane (Jinny)- To see Mme Outrey & stayed to din.

Mon. 14th Breakfast Jinny McLanes. In town with Mama. Mrs. Philaino cd. ordered books for me.

Tues. 15th Mrs. Davenport cd. & Mrs. Andersen Williamson. To the R. McLanes.

Jinny Davenport was referred to by Mrs. Henry Adams as being a member of the “team” consisting of the Miss Bayards (Katherine and Mabel), Miss (Emily) Beale, and Henry James. The Misses Bayard were the daughters of Thomas Francis Bayard (1828–1898), the Senator from Delaware (1869–1885) and President Cleveland’s Secretary of State from 1885–1889 and Ambassador to Great Britain from 1893 to 1897. Katherine Bayard would later committ suicide following the announcement of the departure of the Spanish Minister, her reputed lover Juan Valera, from Washington. As shall be seen, Valera seems to have figured prominently in Amy’s life as well.

Wed. 16th Not out. Lieut. Davenport cd. & Minnie Stout.

Th. 17th Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Adams, cd.

Mrs. John Davis was one of the three daughters (Sallie) of Frederick Theodore Frelinghuysen (1817–1885), a senator from New Jersey (1866–1869) and Secretary of State as of 12 December 1881, succeeding James G. Blaine, of whom much will be said later. John Davis served as assistant Secretary of State. Mrs. Adams is Mrs. Henry Adams (1843–1885), probably the primary chronicler of social and political Washington of the day and the wife of the historian Henry Adams, the grandson of one President and the great-grandson of another. Their house at 1607 H Street was one of the social hubs of political and diplomatic Washington. Born Marion Hooper, she was known as “Clover” [11]. Her brilliant wit became increasingly clouded by depression until her suicide in 1885 following the death of her father. Her husband’s memorial to her, sculpted by St. Gaudens, is in Rock Creek Cemetery near Washington.

Fri 18th To the house Mass. Av. Cd. with Mme Outrey & Mama on Mrs. Don Cameron, Blaine, I to the McLanes to dine with Mrs. Davenport at Wormdays. (Cont Lippe & Mrs Bosh of the Spanish Leg.) Aftern. with Mrs. D. and son to Miss Carisa Garewell Concert. Not sympathetic, though fine voice.

Mrs. J. D. Cameron was the former Elizabeth Sherman, a niece of General W. T. Sherman and Senator J. Sherman. She married in 1878 James Donald Cameron, the Senator from Pennsylvania during 1877–1897, Secretary of War 1876–1877 under Grant, and a widower of twice her age. He was also Chairman of the Republican National Committee during Hayes’ campaign and term. His father, Simon Cameron, was Lincoln’s Secretary of the Treasury before being removed for flagrant corruption. He was referred to as “Mr. Corruption” of the Republican Party and is famous for the comment that “an honest politician is one when bought, stays bought.” She was close to the Adams for many years and was romantically linked to Henry following the death of Clover. The story of this romance is told in *Henry Adams in Love* [23].

James G. Blaine was Secretary of State; he would be replaced by Frederick T. Frelinghuysen on 12 December. He had represented Maine in congress for 20 years and was a principal power in Republican party politics. He had run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1876 and 1880 and he would be the Republican presidential candidate in 1884 as the “plumed knight,” but clouds of suspicion regarding his honesty would contribute to his loss to the Democrat reform candidate, Grover Cleveland. Theodore Roosevelt fought hard against Blaine’s nomination at the 1884 convention, but he reluctantly supported Blaine after his nomination. Blaine refused the nomination in 1888 on the grounds that having lost once, he would not be the strongest candidate. (If only Richard Nixon had thought along similar lines!) Benjamin Harrison, the “little general,” became the nominee and Blaine regained his position as Secretary of State. Soon thereafter he appointed Amy’s father Minister and Chief Consul to Korea. The leading male character of Adams’ *Democracy*, Senator Silas P. Ratcliffe, was generally believed to be patterned after James G. Blaine. Clover Adams detested Blaine.

Mrs James G. Blaine’s letters provide, after those of Mrs Adams, the most informative source of Gilded Age Washington society. Born Harriet Stanwood in 1828, she married Blaine in 1850. She led an incredibly active and by in large happy life until 1893, when in short succession she lost her two elder sons, her daughter, and her husband. The remaining ten years of her life were unhappy to the extreme. A short biography of Mrs Blaine may be found in Bradford’s *Wives*. [6]

Count Lippe is Count Lippe-Weissenfeld, a counselor of the Austria-Hungary Legation.



Max Heard

Sat. 19th To choose gas fix. with Phillips. To see Mrs. Phillips (Levy) & Mrs. Roberson. Papa came fr. N.Y.

Sun. 20th To St. John's with Mr. Davenport. To see Minnie Stout.

In her letter from Mrs. Henry Adams to her father dated 20 November, Mrs. Adams mentions that

We are going to have a Thanksgiving dinner as well as you: Mrs. Augustine Heard and a beautiful daughter; the Lewenhaupts; Miss Beale; Count Lippe; and Kasson of Iowa, if he accepts. Mr. Heard may be here, so I must keep his place open and get another man too. Mrs. Heard is in a stuffy boarding-house, and looks as if life were a demnition grind. They've taken a house here for the winter. Tell Ellen, Mary de Connick, the little sister, was married two weeks ago to a man named Johnson, of Baltimore, without announcing it beforehand, Mrs. Heard says. I thought folks in boarding-houses and stray diplomats might help in a national sacrifice, and Emily Beale is to be all alone ...

Emily Beale was a constant companion of Elizabeth Cameron's. Kasson is John Adam Kasson (1822–1910) was returning to Congress as a Republican from Iowa after four years in Vienna as American Minister to Austria-Hungary. He was a candidate in December for Speaker of the House, but lost to Keifer of Ohio.

Mon. 21st Papa, Mama & I by 10.30 train to Baltimore to see old Mrs. McKion & dine with her at 5 O'clock. Mrs. K. grandchildren & sister Miss Cordelia Hollins. To see old Mrs. Chatard Mrs. Grace the Lydia Howards. Greenmount to Grandmama's grave.

22d Tues. To 1777 Mass. Av. A.M. Mama & I out with Mme Outrey in the P.M. to see wall papers. Call on Mrs. J. Davis. Mlle de Chambrun, Mrs Davenport, Mrs. Adams, the R. McLanes. Count & Countess Lewenhaupt, Swedish Minister. Count & Countess de Noqueiras, Portuguese min. called yesterday.

Mlle de Chambrun is Thérèse de Chambrun, the daughter of the Marquis de Chambrun, the French counsel before the French and American Claims Commission. Mme Mathilde de Nogueiras was the daughter of the Portuguese minister of 1878–1888, Visconde das Nogueiras.

23rd W. Rained all day & not out.

24th Th. Thanksgiving Ch. Papa, Mama, & I dined at Mrs Henry Adams with Count & Ctess Lewenhaupt, Miss Beal, Ct Lippe & Capt. Dewey who took me in.

Mrs. Henry Adams writes on 27 November 1881 to her father:

Our Thanksgiving dinner went off gaily; it grew to ten and Herbert Wadsworth came in to dessert and stayed till midnight to tell us about the South and cotton gins. Mr. Heard came with his wife and daughter, Lewenhaupts, Lippe, Miss Beale, and Captain Dewey, all Dinnerless folks.

Captain Dewey is the future Admiral Dewey, the hero of the battle of Manila in the Spanish-American war.

In her letter of 11 December she further writes

By the way, Mrs. Heard was much interested to see Miss Beale on Thanksgiving Day, having heard of her in Newport as the authoress of *Democracy* in collusion with Herbert Wadsworth, whom she accused of it after Miss Beale had gone. He looked very conscious and embarrassed and when we told Emily Beale she only gasped. So her fury of last year may have been a blind.

The Washington political novel *Democracy*[1] with its characters based on on leading figures of the time (including James G. Blaine) was attributed to many authors. The book had in fact been written by Henry Adams.

28th Mon. Down town with Mama._ with Min. St. to dress-maker Jackson _to see Mrs. Dr. P. Riske. Mrs. Adams with Mama._ Mrs. Blaine, Miss Knight, Miss Mixtur cd.

Tues. 29th Mama in town with Mrs Hopkins & back to lunch with her. Miss Beal, Mrs & Miss Pattison, cd. To Miss Knight's. Mr. Davenport & Babcock came in after din.

Wed. 30th To the house & Mrs. Hopkins.

December

Thurs. 1st Dec. Mamma, Max & I dined at Ms. O. at 6. to Willard's hall aftern. to sell at her stalls in a fair for St. Matthews Church. Cd with Jinny McL. on the Hunts (Sec.) Miss Beal, Mrs. Emory, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. L. Irving.

Willard's Hotel was one of Washington's best known hotels. It was there that Ulysses S. Grant stayed when he first arrived in Washington.

Friday 2nd Breakf. at J. Mrs. L. With Miss Hunt. Mrs. Ross Ray, Ct Lewenhaupt cd.

Sat. 3rd To Georgetown wharf with Mama & Mrs. McLean. To Mrs. Phillips in the af. Mrs. Schuyler Crowninshield.

Sun. 4th To Ch. Major Ferguson walked home with me. Cd. on Brs Roass Ray. Mme. Outrey. In the af to Mrs. Robeson's Reception. Mrs Hale, Mr. Boutrell, Woodbury Blair, Bliss, Kasson, presented & Miss Warden.

Mon. 5th At the house all day. Lunched at Mrs. Hopkins & down town for papers. Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. A. Bliss Cd. (_ment to Mr John Forbes). Letter from Minnie Griswold ??? her corsage.

Dec. 6th tues. To the house in the morning. Lunch at the Knight's with Mrs. Hopkins, Miss Mixer, Mlle de Noqueiras & Mlle Martinez. It being Miss K.'s recep. day, stayed till aftern. Mr. Ogdens drove me home.

Miercoles 7 A la nueva casa todo el dia. Comé en ca. de la Señora John Davis con Mrs Robeson, Miss Stout, Mr Phillips who took me in. Woodbury Blair, the expert, Dr Hamilton, Mr Robeson- ??ó el Presidente Arthur, muy tarde, como nos queriamos marchar y quedemos un rato pero el me habló.

Wednesday 7 At the new house all day. Ate at the house of Mrs. John Davis with Mrs. Robeson, Miss Stout, Mr Phillips who took me in, Woodbury Blaire, the expert, Dr. Hamilton, Mrs Robeson – met the President, Arthur, very late, as we wanted to walk and stay a moment, but he talked to me.

The President is Chester A. Arthur, who became president following the assassination of James A. Garfield.

Jueves 8. Mr. & Mrs. Worden (Rear Admiral) nos hicieron v. y el señor W. Hallett Phillips, Mrs & Miss ??? (secretary navy)

Thursday 8. Mr. & Mrs. Worden (Rear Admiral) visited us and Mr. W.

Hallett Phillips, Mrs & Miss ??? (secretary navy)

Fri 9th

Fri. 9th In the ??? to look for the \$50 that the old Mrs. P.C. Brooks sent me. Lunched at the home of Mrs. Hopkins as each day of the week. Miss Knight called & Mrs. & Miss Hack.

Sat. 10th Mrs. Henry Adams cd. Dined at the French Legation. 18 people. Mme Outrey was sick and could not appear and Countess Lewenhaupt took her place. The de la Barca's (the Spanish Minister), de Zamacona (Mexican Min.), Mrs Martinez and her daughter, Miss de Noqueiras, Mrs. Berard among others was there, and others whose names escape me.

Francisco Barca del Corral was Spanish Minister to Washington from 1881 through 1883. Mrs Henry Adams referred to his wife as being "stout, jolly, and common."

Sunday 11. To church. I returned with Mr. Woodbury Blair. At night Papa and I went to the Robeson's. The presented me to the Belgian Minister, the Count d'Hannetam?, the Secretary of State (Blaine), Mrs. Strong and Belmont.

Monday 12. All day in the new house as is customary. Lunch here with Mr. Hopkins.

Tuesday 13. " " Lunch here. The de Zamacona's (Mexican min.) visit.

Wednesday 14. " "

Thursday 15. " "

Friday 16. We left Mrs. Penn's house at 1800 F. and came here, 1777 Massachusetts Av. M. and Mme. Outrey came for the afternoon and Mrs. Hopkins to give advice on the general arrangements. Papa went away to N.Y. Min. Stout also came.

Saturday 17. Helene left the Robeson house and came here.

Sunday 18. To the Church of the Epiphany with Mrs. Hopkins. In the afternoon with Mama to see Mme Outrey, Bina and her daughter. Mrs Phillips and Miss Lee, Jinny McLane and Ginny Pendleton. In the evening Mamma and I went with the Hopkins, Miss Lee., Mr. Lowndes & Ch. Russell to the Loring house and found it fastidious. We concluded the night Mrs. Robeson's where it was crowded as usual.

George F. Pendleton was the senator from Ohio. The Loring house is the house of Dr. George Bailey Loring (1817–1891), his second wife Anna (formerly Anna Smith Hildreth), and his daughter Sally by his first wife Mary Pickman Loring. George Loring is one of the more interesting characters to pass regularly through Amy's journal. Perhaps the most concise and precise description of him is that of Joan Maloney [17]:

The man so admired by his contemporaries was, in fact, a splendid example of the venality of our Gilded Age.

Maloney describes in detail Loring's abuse of his wife's fortune and his theft of his daughter Sally's inheritance, but more relevant here is his political and Washington D.C. side.

Tiring of medicine at an early age, he became active in Democratic Party politics and retired from his practice in 1850 when appointed postmaster of Salem, Massachusetts by President Franklin Pierce. Sensing the the political wind changes, he switched parties late in the Civil War, eventually winning election to Congress as a Republican in 1876. He was an early and eager booster for James G. Blaine. When Blaine became President Garfield's Secretary of State he arranged for Loring's appointment as Commissioner of Agriculture (on the day before Garfield's assassination), a position he held until 1885, when he and most Republican office holders were swept out by Grover Cleveland's defeat of James G. Blaine, who had won the nomination over the incumbent Chester A. Arthur. When the Republicans returned to power in 1888 with the election of Benjamin Harrison, Blaine was unable to find Loring the cabinet post he desired. He settled for the backwater post of Minister to Portugal.

Loring had a knack for supporting losers. In addition to promoting Blaine, he was an admirer of Jefferson Davis and later of George McClellan. He was a long time colleague of General Benjamin "Beast" Butler, a political Civil War general who did much to exacerbate the ill feelings between North and South during his administration of occupied New Orleans. He died in debt following a severe attack of diarrhea.

Mrs. Henry Adams did not seem to like Loring much. In her letter of 3 December 1882 to her father after mentioning she is having a dinner party for the George B. Loring's she asks

Will Aunt Eunice ever speak to me again if you tell her we are to dine with Dr. Loring? Neither Henry nor I ever spoke to him, but I called on his new wife last week; she's quite pleasing and we met so often that it has grown to be awkward not to call.

Monday 19. I did not leave the house except to go to a grand reception in the evening at Mrs. Blaine's for the presentation to the diplomatic core of her

husband's successor, Mr. Frelinghuysen, the new Secretary of State. I was presented to him.

Tuesday 20. Did not go out. The Misses Ogden visited us.

Wednesday 21. Did not go out. Mrs. Craig Wadsworth lunched here. Visited by Mr. Frelinghuysen and the Vicount de Noqueiras, among others.

Thursday 22. Visited by the Lowndes and W. Blair and by Mrs. Keever?

Friday 23. Bought various things for Christmas Eve.

Saturday 24. Mrs. Wadsworth lunched with us as every day of the week.

Sunday 25. Mama gave me a bracelet of hers (?? and cameos) ?? gloves and a ?? of resin. Helene gave me a change purse. I gave her 69 books that I had when I was a child in Paris that just arrived with the furniture, and also a game. To Papa I gave two silver stickpins. Mama's gift was not even bought. ??? to Augustine who spends his vacation with Uncle John in Boston. At night we visited Mr. F. Roca de Togores. The Loring's with Papa.

In a letter written on Christmas Day by Mrs. James G. Blaine to her son, she says

... I interrupted myself in my letter yesterday to take H to Mme Outrey's, whither she was to go to practice a carol which her children and Ethel Robeson and Max Heard are to sing to-morrow at eleven.

In the same letter she mentions that Sackville-West had brought his daughter to call on the 23rd and that it was her first call since her arrival in Washington on the previous day.

Monday 26. Miss de Nogueiras visited. To Mrs. Emory, Schuyler Crowninshield, Temple.

Tuesday 27. Visits to the Ogdens, Beales, Irvings, McKeever, Blaine, Worden, McLanes, Ferguson, Schenk, Davenport. By John King.

Wednesday 28. To see Mrs. J. Davis, Mrs & Miss Slack, Min. Stout, Jenny Pendleton, Mrs. Hopkins. Mrs. C. Wadsworth lunched with us. Visits by Mrs. Loring, Miss Loring, Mrs. Bancroft, Jinny McLane, Miss Cameron, Mr. Fox. Mrs Ross Ray and Mrs. Alb. Ray. Mr. Davenport & W. Phillips.

Thursday 29. To the Christmas Eve tree at the French Legation, 3-5.

Friday 30. Mrs. W. lunched with us. Visit by Mrs. Peter Parker and her son. Mlle de Chambrun, Mrs. Adams came to ask me the favor of eating with them at the place of Mrs Cameron and to go to the theatre to see "The Vokeses" in "Cousin Joe" and "Fun in a fog." Amusing. It was a party consisting of the two Adams, Mr. & Mrs. de Bildt, also Miss Beale ate with us, but she did not go to the theatre because her mother was sick.

In Mrs. Henry Adams Letters she writes on 1 January 1882

Friday some folks to dine, to adjourn to the Vokeses. Mrs. Don Cameron and Aristarchi Bey, both ill, gave out just at the last, so I got Miss Heard and Laughlin, and Mr. de Bildt and Miss Beale were on hand. Tell the Gurneys I give in to "Fun in a Fog"; I nearly had hysterics. General Sherman sat in front mopping his tear-stained face.

Gregoire Aristarchi Bey was the popular Turkish minister.

Saturday 31. To see Mrs de Nogueiras and Hopkins.

Chapter 3

1882

January

Sun. 1 January To church. After to the Levys and Mrs. ?? and Mme Outrey. Mrs. Wodl. Blair and W. Hopkins here. Papa to N.Y.

Mon. 2 First official of the year. Did not go to the White House, and I did not receive here, because I went to the quarters in Mrs Hopkins house where Miss Worden was receiving. I left for the dinner with Mrs. J. Miller, Lowndes, and Everett. Left cards here: Vindes, Boca, of the Spanish legation, Babcock, Clover, Henneberger, Strong, Mancomb, Paine, 2 Phillips, Lowndes, Upshur, Ferguson, King, Adams, Allen, Buchanan, Stephens.

At that time the President still held an open house on the first of the year (or the second if the first was a Sunday). Anyone who wished could visit the White House and greet the President.

T. 3 Mdle de Noqueiras here. Went with her to see Miss West, Mme & Mmle Medina, Fava, G. Lorings, Lee King, Mrs w & Miss Lippett, Mis Dodge & Miss Turnbull called. Lunch with Mrs Wadsworth here.

This is the first evidence of a meeting between Amy Heard and Victoria West. Victoria had recently arrived in the United States as the daughter of the new (and never married) British Minister to Washington, Sir Lionel Sackville-West. Sackville-West was a career diplomat, having served as Secretary in Paris and as British Minister to Buenos Aires and Madrid before taking that office in Washington in 1881. He was the fifth son of the fifth Earl of Delawarr.

The long term liaison between the British diplomat and his Spanish gypsy dancer mistress was the subject of the book *Pepita* [22] by Vita Sackville-West. Official

Washington had already decided to accept Victoria as the new hostess of the British Legation in spite of her unusual status, perhaps in relief of the previous rather dull occupants. The arrangement, however, proved a source of constant comment in diplomatic annals of the times. Despite her initial social handicap, Victoria would prove to be one of the most clever and adept hostesses in Washington of the time.

Victoria and Amy were roughly the same age. Victoria spoke little English and Amy was fluent in French, having been raised in Paris while her father served as an agent for the China trade. Their common language and age was a sufficient bond to form a friendship. In March "Miss West" became "Victoria" in Amy's notebook and Victoria appears regularly from then on. The two traveled in similar circles and had many friends in common.

Baron Saverio Fava was the Italian Minister to Washington from 1881 through 1893. Mrs Henry Adams found his wife the Baroness "lively and amusing."

Sun. 8 To see Miss Hopkins, D. King, Adams. The evening at the Robesons with Davenport and Mama who came to look for us and return with us.

M. 9 To see Mrs Bancroft, Mr Keever. Mr West, Miss Long, Mrs Phelps again. Danced at the house of the Mexican minister (Zamacona). Lunched with Mrs Wadsworth.

T. 10 To see Mrs Cox. Mme and Mlle de Barca & Mathilde de Nogueiras here. Dined with the Countess Lewenhaupt. Mr de Meissner took me to the table. Went to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Adams, Mme de Meissner, Mr and Miss West, Miss Hooper, Miss Beal, Viliasons ? de Bildt, Boca.

W. 11 Went to the Frelinghuysens. Count & Mrs Upshaw, Mrs Blaine came. Mrs Robesons theatre party to Miss Pratt. saw "Our Bachelors" Robson & Crane. amusing-- Supper at Mrs B.

Thursday 12 Aristarqui Bey, Mme & Mathilde de N, Capt. & Mrs McCalla, Howells, Storeys here. Mrs C. W. lunched with us. To see the Pendletons, Zamacones, Bayards. Dinner for 16 given by Col. Bliss to Mama, Sen. & Mrs Hale, Mr & Mrs Hopkins, Gen. & Mrs McKeever, Miss L. Frelinghuysen, Jinny McLane, Mrs. G. Loring dined. Ct Benst, Aristarqui, Mr Conduzcó, Mr Hopkins at the table.

F. 13 In the city for the morning. Bad weather and I did not go out in the afternoon. Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Lowndes came.

Sat. 14 Mrs J. Ricketts Roca here. To see the Countess Lewenhaupt, Sherman, Upshaw, Kearney, Howell, Alt. Ray, Outrey. Max vaccinated by Dr Wales.

Sun. 15 Church in the morning. Evening at Casa Nogueiras.

M. 16 Lunched with Ginny McLane, Jinny Pendleton, Miss Sherlock, Miss Shenck. Later, with Mama to see the Pettisons, the Navy Yard, Mrs. Bancroft Davis, McCalla. Mr. and Mme. de Fava, Gen. Mrs. and Miss Hunter, Mrs. Phillips & Miss Levy, Mrs. Lee Phillips, Mrs. Barbour, Miss Dangerfield, Mrs. Stewart here. At Casa Pendleton for the evening.

Notes: Bancroft Davis was nominated Assistant Secretary of State in December 1881, a position Mrs. Adams says he had refused under Blaine. That same month Chief Justice Horace Gray of the Massachusetts Supreme Court was nominated to become Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court by President Chester A. Arthur. Miss Shenck is likely the daughter of General Shenck.

Tues. 17 Danced the “Tuesday German” with Roca.

A German was a dance or cotillion, where the custom was that the women had turns asking the men to dance.

W. 18 In the city with Mama. To see Dr. Pope. Mme. Outrey, Mrs. and Miss Rives, Cap. de la Chère, Mr. Bérard to see us.

Notes: Mrs. Rives is possibly Mrs. William Cabell Rives, the former Grace Sears of Boston, who was mentioned in the letters of Mrs. Henry Adams of 1 January 1882. Mrs. Adams had never spoken to her, but they had exchanged cards some time before. Mrs. Rives granddaughter Amélie Rives (later Princess Troubetzkoy) was a novelist. Amélie also crops up in *Mary Curzon*, the biography of Mary Leiter [20], about whom we shall hear more later. Her future husband, Lord Curzon, spent three days during August 1882 at “the house of a Mrs Rives” in Virginia, “whose daughter Amélie he had met in England.” Curzon commented how “Upon me Amy shone with the undivided insistence of her starlike eyes” in his diary.

William Rives was American Minister in Paris during the 1830’s.

T. 19 Mrs. & Miss McCeney, Mr. & Mme. deBille, Dr. & Mrs. Pluwer, Mrs. Lam. Palmer, Jam. Palmer, Mme. Pollock, Mme. de Chambrun, the Nog. here. To see the ??, Hunter, Stuart, Phelps, Knight, Delany, L. Palmer.

F. 20 To see Mrs. Ricketts, Miss Turnbull, Mrs. & Miss Rives. Danced the “Bachelor German” with Babcock.

Sat. 21 It rained all day, but ?? with Mrs. Hoskins. Mrs Robeson, Miss Pritt, Mme de Bildt came here.

Sun. 22 ??? Visit by Mrs. Lowndes.

Mon. 23 With Mama to see Dr Pope (second time). To Mrs Pollok, Mullen, & Grace. Visits by the Jays, Outreys, Schuylers, Coxes, Frelinghuysens, Shermans, Howels, Martinez, Biddles, Bancroft Davis, Storey. For the evening "at home" at the home of the Spanish Minister.

Eugene Schuyler (1840–1890) was a lifelong diplomat. At this time he was Counsel at Bucharest. His wife was the former Gertrude Wallace.

Tues. 24 To see the Biddles, Mrs. Lamb. Palmer and in the city. Mrs. Mackely and Lorings here.

Wed. 25 To buy boots for Helena. To see Mathilde.

Thurs. 26 Mrs. B. Morse here, Mathilde. To see Mrs. sen. Hale. Dined at British Legation with Mathilde. Misses Barca, Martinez, Lowrie, Hooker and Mr's Roca, Bérard, Cadojan, Lowrie, Count Brunetti, and Lord Geo. Montague. I was conducted to the table of the Minister Mr. West. After dinner, dance.

Fri. 27 To consult Dr. Loring for my eyes. And Mama for her ears. To See Mrs. Schuyler and Mrs. Jay. Mama fell on the stairs and sprained her foot so badly that she will have to stay in bed for several days.

Sat. 28 Mrs. Robeson, Miss ??, Mrs. and Miss Pitts, Mrs. and the Misses Emory, Cte Lippe, Mrs. Wadsworth here. I to the McCeneys, Barcas, Hopkins. Dinner given for Mama at the French Legation. With Papa and Mrs. Wadsworth. Also Mr and Mrs Schuler Mr and Mrs Jay, Misses Loring, Ginny McL., Mathilde de N., Baron Arinos, Mrs. de Meissner, Perry Belmont, Villarmo?, ?? took me to the table.

Sun. 29 To Church. Lunched at the Nogueiras'. with Count Brunetti later to the customary party. Papa came to find me and take me to the Robeson's.

M. 30 With Mathilde to Miss West, Aldis, Waites, Millers, Emory. The Brownes, ?? Palmers, Pendletons, Lewenhaupt, F. Adams, Babcock, Miss Porter, Misses Markol, Mr. Blaine.

Morrison R. Waite of Ohio was chief justice from 1874 through 1888.

T. 31 I was sick, stayed in bed. Snowed all day.

February

- W. 1 Feb.** Did not go out except for the evening to an “at home” at the Bancrofts to which Mrs Wadsworth took me. The Blaines, Dodge, Upshurs, Miss Lee, Ogdens, Josie Taylor, Carters, Pattisons, Miss Witherspoon came here.
- Th. 2** To receive with the Pendletons. Mathilda and Miss Turnbull here, Ginny McL. and her niece (???).
- F. 3** To see the Cutts, Logans, Porters, Ross Bays, Rathbones, Hooker, Grace, Miss and Mr L. and Ginny. In the evening to the “Bachelor’s German” where I danced with a Taft from Cincinatti, a friend of Mrs Pendleton, who took me there.
- Sa. 4** Snowed without stopping for a moment all day. Nevertheless I lunched with Mathilda de N. and stayed with her until after 5, playing piano. Papa returned from N.Y.
- Sun. 5** To the party (tertulia) at the Nogueiras_with Señora Martinez and Josefina.
- M. 6** With Papa “to the House” where ??? Miss Lucy Frelinghuysen, Mrs Oliver and her sisters Rathbones, Mrs McLane, Hale, Kasson, Lowndes, Belmont. We all lunched with Mr. Kasson. Afterwords we went to see the machines underneath for heating, provisions, etc. Then I went with Papa to see Mrs Basbouis (??) and Miss Dangerfield. Mrs Bancroft, Ogdens, Mrs Robeson and Minnie Stout, Miss Levy, Peabodys, Crowninshields, Mr R. Rofles and Lowery here.
- T. 7** Miss Hooker, Mrs Dr G. Loring, Mrs Boswell (??) Schuyler, Beale, Arth. Dester here (and Mrs Ruth, Dr Gunnell). To see Mrs F. Adam, Rathbones, Duncans, Biddles, Peabodys, Crowninshields. Mama left her room for the first time since the 27th, to go to dine with Mrs Wadsworth. Later Papa returned from N.Y.
- W. 8** To see Mathilda, Josefina, Peabodys, Browne, Aulick Palmer, Frelinghuysens, Hunts. Here Dr James Palmer, Schericks, Ginny McL. Monday I received from Juan a precious little edition of “Undine.”

An undine is a water sprite, a nymph with the ability to assume human form. As with other spirits, they lacked a human soul. According to Paracelsus, when an Undine married a mortal and bore a child, the fusion of natural and supernatural resulted in her gaining a soul. “Edicionita” has been translated has been translated as “small edition.” My guess is that the item being referred to is a small volume of the book *Undine* by Friedrich Heinrich Karl de la Motte Fouqué, the son of Huguenots who

fled to Prussia from Normandy after the revocation of the edict of Nantes. His book, which was inspired by the writings of the Swiss physician Paracelsus, was extremely popular during the Victorian era, although it had been written much earlier in 1811. It happens that in 1882 an English translation of the book was published by Riverside Press, a subsidiary of Houghten Mifflin [18]. The book is indeed an “edicionita,” being a small volume in a green binding with attractive illustrations. In addition to the book, the story formed the basis of musical scores, operas, the Hans Christian Anderson tale of the little mermaid, one of the stories in Oscar Wilde’s collection of fairy tales, and a modern Walt Disney Cartoon.

This journal entry contains the only appearance of the name Juan in the journals. The only Juan I know of in Amy’s life is Juan Valera, who arrives in Washington in 1884 as the Minister from Madrid and who is often mentioned in the later letters. This is the first evidence the two might have known each other before 1884, but at this time he was Spanish Minister to Lisbon.

Wed. 9 It rained all day and I did not go out until the evening for a dance at the British Legation with Mama. Mrs. Fanny Peabody who was here for several days at Mrs. Crowninshield’s danced the cotillion with Charon. Misses Aldis and Schutz here.

F. 10 Mrs Ashton Gordon-Cumming, Duncans & Mr Kasson here. To see Posie Mason, Miss Mercer, McFreley, Outrey, Miller (Hopkins)_ For the evening at the Lorings (Commissioner).

Posie Mason is mentioned in the letters of Mrs. Henry Adams. On 12 February 1882 she writes regarding a tea party that there were

lots of pretty girls, Posey Mason looking as if the ball and chain were off her ankles; she was gay and gracious — she is paddling her own canoe as a guest of the Pendeletons.

George Loring was the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Sat. 11 To see the Hopkins, Ashtons, Gordon-Cummings, McCeney, tea-party at the “Wisery” _ Peabodys, Biddles, Mrs L. Carter, Dr. Shirley Carter, Miss Lela Mercer, Mrs Bingham, Ricketts, P. Parker, Miss Lee, Miss Stoughton, J. Kings, Lippetts, Dodge, Mr Ray, Rogers, Kasson here.

Sun. 12 Mr Arthur Dexter, Mrs Phillips, Misses Levy, ???, Stout, McLane, Mr Strong called. High tea at the Shenks with the Hales and General Smith. And later at the Nogueiras’.

- M. 13** Mrs Grace lunched with us. For the afternoon at the house of Mrs J. Davis. For the evening, reception ??? (Rose Ray?), afterwards the wedding of his daughter with Mr Harrison, later to the Markol musical and to the Pendleton's.
- T. 14** To see Miss West, Mrs Gitting, Miss Mild, Mrs W. Moore, Prestons, Robeson, Knight. Baron de Arinos, Mrs Peabody, Mr Blaine, W. Phillips & Mrs Hannah ? here. For the evening the last German of the "Tuesday Club."
- W. 15** To play the piano with Mathilde from 10 to 12. Lunched with Ginny McL. (Misses West, Lela Mercer, M. Pendelton, Posie Mason, Biddle, L. Williams. Mr & Mrs W. Moore, Mrs Davenport, General Beale, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Big. Lawrence, Misses Chapman & Mercer. For the evening, at the Wadsworth's.
- Th. 16** Lunched at the Lawrence's. Misses Chapman, Mercer, Biddle, L. Emory, J Pendleton, L. Williams & Mrs Arth. Dexter. To see Mrs Robeson who was sick all the week. For the evening at the Frelinghuysen's. Misses Waite, Bissel, Meigs here.
- F. 17** To see Mrs Gittings, Outrey, final Bachelors German with Strong. Ida arrived from N.Y. and (???) with us. Chacon, Boca, Ida, P. Mason, J. Pendleton here.
- Sat. 18** Lunched at the Pendletons. To see Miss Turnbull of N.Y., Ida, Mrs Hopkins. Mrs Sally McLane, Mme and Mlle de Chambrun, Miss Miller (Justice), Mrs Story, Mr Paine, Aristarchi, Count Lewenhaupt, Mrs Ferguson here. For the evening at the Bancroft Davis' (some twenty young people for dancing). Papa returned from N.Y.

The note "Justice" suggests that Miss Miller is the daughter of Samuel Freeman Miller (1816–1890), an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (appointed by Lincoln in 1862).

- Sun. 19** It rained so much that I did not go to church. In the afternoon to see Mrs Willie Emory and for the evening at the Robesons with Papa and the Minots. Mrs Gitting and Ida and Maj Booth here.
- Mon. 20** Dined at the Ogdens. The Minots took me to the dance at the British Legation.
- Tues. 21** For the evening at the Bancroft Davis'. Lunched with Mrs Wadsworth. Tea at the Wisery. To see Mrs Gittings, Ida, Miss Lee. Bénard. Papa returned from N.Y.

W. 22 Ash Wednesday. At Church. Josef. Martinez, Ida, Dr Palmer, Lamb. Gittings, Mr. & Mrs Hopkins here.

Th. 23 To see Dr Loring for the fourth time. He burned my eyes with silver nitrate which caused them much pain all day, more than the alum. Also he reapplied electricity. Mr. G. Dorr and A. Rives here. To see Mrs. D. King and her sister Miss Rives, Mrs Carter, Lawrence, Chapman, Mercer, H. Adams, Meigs, Brewster, Blaine, Ogden, Markol, McLanes, Robeson.

G. Dorr is George Cabot Dorr, the son of Charles Hazen Dorr and Mary Gray Ward Dorr of Boston. George would later gain fame as the founder of Acadia National Park. Mary Dorr was a distant cousin of Russell Gray, whom Amy would later marry. Mary as a granddaughter of Samuel Gray of Salem, an older brother of William "Old Billy" Gray of Salem. William was Russell Gray's grandfather. Charles and Mary were married in 1850, the year of Russell's birth.[12]

F. 24 To play the piano and lunch with Mathilde. To see Mrs J. Davis, M. Storey, Bingham, Ida, the Church. For the evening at the Wadworths'.

Sat. 25 To see J. Pendleton, Ida, Miss Stoughton, at Church. Dined at the Dav. Kings. Later at the Hopkins, Mr. V. Drummond, W. Blair, Dr. Gunnel, Prestons (Haiti).

Sun 26 At Church. Ida lunched with us. For the evening at the Robesons.

Mon. 27 Did not go out. Mrs Gordon Cumming came.

Tues. 28 Did not go out. Mrs J. Morris and Miss Lee, Dr and Mrs Ch. Carter, Mr & Mrs H. Adams, Mr & Mrs Ch. Dorr, Mr & Mrs L. Irving, Mrs J. Lodge, Mrs Schlesinger, Mrs Jack Gardner.

Isabella Stewart Gardner ("Mrs Jack") was the wonderfully eccentric and wonderfully rich art collector who scandalized Boston for years and founded the Gardner museum. Possessor of two fortunes, that of her father and that of her husband Jack Gardner (a cousin of Amy's future husband Russel Gray), she roamed the world in general (and Italy in particular) in search of art treasures for her reconstructed Italian villa in the Fenway, then the swamps on the border of Boston. The famous collector and critic, Bernard Berenson, arranged for many of her purchases, which ranged from the sublime to the silly. The stories about her have become legend. Some examples: Upon moving to Boston and discovering that the aristocracy all belonged to the Episcopalian Church, she announced her conversion to Buddhism. While her villa was being built, she liked to watch while perched in a nearby tree. She kept a whistle

handy in order to call the architect or others involved with the project, each responding to a specified series of blasts on the whistle. When told that the orchestra needed an audience to test the acoustics of the concert hall before the opening concert, she was so reluctant to let anyone see the hall before the official opening that she invited the local school for the blind for the rehearsal. Unfortunately it was raining and a well-meaning janitor carefully arranged all of the raincoats, umbrellas, and rubber shoes he found randomly scattered in the entryway. It took hours for the children to locate their moved belongings. Good biographies of her are *Mrs Jack* [24] and *Isabella Stewart Gardner of Fenway Court*[8].

Mrs Schlesinger is possibly the wife of Sebastian Schlesinger, who according to Mrs James G. Blaine was a “foreign banker.”

March

W. 1 Did not go out. Ida and Miss Ogden came.

Th. 2 Gin. McL., Mrs Hopkins, Wadsworth here. Misses Williamson. To see Mathilde, who was sick. To the Lippitt’s to hear the general read “Vatel,” com. in one act for (???). In the evening at the Freylinghuysen’s. Papa arrived from N.Y.

Fri. 3 Fifth time that I went to see Dr. Loring. To say goodbye to Ida, to make visits with Victoria West. Mrs Blaine and Miss Dodge, Dr Peter Parker here.

This entry is the first time that “Miss West” becomes “Victoria West.”

At this point the entries cease to be for every day.

Sat. 18 Aunt Alice came with her father and Elsie from Baltimore for the day.

21 of March Dined at the house of General Meigs. First time that I went out for the night since Dr. Loring put the Belladonna in my eyes on the seventh of this month. Still I am too blind to read or do anything.

23 Thursday I can see to read and write but my eyes are still too weak. Yesterday I went to Camera with Mrs Jay. The Mrs McLane, Kasson and Tucker came. (???) the Chinese question. Mrs Robeson and Emily Ogston, Miss Loring, and Miss Toughton came here. Mrs Cameron, Mrs Davenport.

24 F. Mr. Blaine and Mathilde came. For the evening at the Millers with Josefina Martinez. Did not go out.

25 Sat. Cap. de la Chère, Mrs Miller (Hopk), Schuyk, Lowery. For the evening at the Wadworths. Now I do not bring my dark glasses except in the sun. Still I cannot occupy myself except several minutes at a time.

22 March Papa went away for Cherry Creek.

April

15 April I could write for an hour three times a day_ having gained two minutes each day in my reading. Yesterday lunched with Martha Silsbee, Mathilde, and Emily Ogston who was with her aunt Robeson. Mrs Hopkins, Woodworth, Blanchford, and Miss Jones Grattan and Miss Carter, Mr Blaine, Mrs Jay came.

18 Sat. Lunch at the Pendeltons'. Today came Mrs Schoenberger, Miss Torrey, Liz. Linzee, Ct Lewenhaupt.

Th. 20 April Permission from the doctor to do as much as I wish. Lunch with Lola Mercer. To see Mrs Jay and her sister Sybil Kane, Mrs Judge Miller. Came here: Mr Blaine, Mr and Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Park. For the evening to the Freylinghausens.

F. 21 Lola Mercer, Miss Emory, Mrs Hill, Maud Ledyar, Mrs Hale. Left with Mama for the morning. With Emilie Ogston in coach for the afternoon.

Sat. 22 To the grand marke with Mama and Miss McCalla from 10 until 11. For the afternoon to see Count Lewenhaupt, Miss Eustis, Mrs Phillips.

Sun. 23 It rained, hailed, and snowed all day. I did not go out. Mrs J. Rogers came.

Rear Admiral John Rogers, USN, (1812–1882) was the superintendent of the Naval Observatory.

Mon. 24 Victoria West lunched here. Went out with Mama to make a visit to Mme de Struve, Rives, J. Carter, de Chambrun, Pendleton, Gittings, Lee, Rogers, Moltey, Wales. For the evening at the Hopkins to meet Mr and Mrs Drummond.

T. 25 Lunched at the Hales. (Mrs Craig & Mrs James Wadsworth, Miss Frelinghuysen, Turnbull, Travers, Gin. McL. To see Mrs Miller (Wise) Knight, Cropper, Mrs and Miss Frelinghuysen, Mr and Mrs Drummond.

W. 26 Lunch at the Blaines. Mr and Mme Gardini (Genster) who still sings, Mr and Mrs Drummond, Mr and Mrs Whitney, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Arch. Hopkins, Miss Lawrence Hopkins, Capt Bartell. For the evening danced at the British Legation. Mrs Wadworth and Miss Aldis came.

Th. 27 Mme de Struve, Dr and Mrs Shirley Carter Mr Lowndes, Ginny, Josefina Martinez with whom I went out by coach. Mrs Pattison.

F. 28 Visit to the Turnbolls.

Sat. 29 For the evening at the Hopkins to see two Indians, Zuni chiefs, to hear Mr Cushing, who had become one of them to study their customs and literature, and discuss with General Armstrong the Indian question. There were no young people, except senators and other politicians with several of their women. Lunched at the Robesons. Paid visits to Miss Eustis, Mrs Lawrence Hopkins, Countess Lewenhaupt. Mme de Nogueiras here and Mr. Blaine.

General Samuel Chapman Armstrong (1839–1893) was an educator and philanthropist as well as a soldier. He founded the Hampton Institute in 1868 in Hampton, VA, as an industrial school for African-Americans and led the school until his death.

Sun. 30 Mr Blaine came. Emily Ogston came to say good-bye. For the evening at the Lorings'.

May

M. 1 May For the evening at (???). By coach with Col. Bliss.

T. 2 For the evening at the White House, with the Hopkins.

W. 3 Mrs W. Lowery, Miss Loring, Mrs Richard Bingham. (???) to read with Josefina Martinez.

Th. 4 To see Mrs Hale, Blaine, Emory, Mercer, Chapman. Dined at the Lewenhaupt. (Mr & Mme de Struve, Mr & Mme de Vava, Mr & Mme Outrey, (he conducted me) Villarmon, Bening, Aristarchi Bey) Josefina here to read.

F. 5 Did not go out.

S. 6 ”

Sun. 7 ” Baron Schaeffer and Mr. W. Blair came.

- M. 8** In the city with Mama. The Marquesa de Chambrun, Mr. Blaine, and Josefina Martinez came.
- T. 9** To read with Josefina. Atrocious heat.
- W. 10** I did not go out because I had to wait for Mama who (???).
- Th. 11** Gave to Helena books and things that I had. To read with Josefina. To see Mathilde and Count Lewenhaupt. Left by coach with Mrs Wadsworth. Mr Blaine, Ginny, & Miss Williams came.
- F. 12** Ethel Robeson and Carrie Storey lunched here. With Mama to see Mrs & Miss Rodman (from Boston), Mrs. Pet. Parker, Pollok, Slack, Jay.
- Sat. 13** To see Miss Knight, Mrs Phelps & Hopkins. Miss Rodman here.
- Sun.14** To church. Mr Blaine here.
- M. 15** To see Mathilde and M. Stout, to read with Josefinia. Mathilde here. In the city with Mama.
- T. 16** To read with Josefina. To see Mrs Phelps, Loring, Jay, Storey, Miss Knight, Biddle, Worden. Always looking for servants. Miss Levy and Miss Lowndes here. Mamma with me to the Hill's.
- Wed. 17** Mr. Blaine came. To the Outrey's. To see the Freylinghausens.
- T. 18** To see Lowery, Miss Eustis.
- F. 19** Mr. & Mrs Anderson, Aulick Palmer, Pendleton, Mr. Blaine came.
To see Mrs Palmer (the elder) at the convent to hear Max play in a trio with the Outreys. Saw Sister Angela, ??? interested me more that ??? that I had seen in my life.
- Mrs. James G. Blaine thanks her sons for having attended "Mother Angela's funeral" in March 1987.
- Sat. 20** To see Mrs Hopkins. Mathilda here to play piano. Mrs Wadsworth lunched here.
- Sun. 21** At Church. Mr. W. Blair, Blaine, L. Phillips.
- Mon.22** To see Mrs Anderson Mrs Lawrence. Miss Chapman here to say goodbye.

- T. 23** To Brentwood with the coach of Mrs Loring. For the night to see Mme Outrey. Mr. Lowery here and Mrs Gordon & Wagner.
- W. 24** To see the Frelinghuysens. Outrey.
- Th. 25** Mathilde, Ginny, Mrs. Jay & Aldis came. We went to see the Pendletons, Allison, Hill, Robeson. The Outreys went away.
- F. 26** To see Sister Angela who is sick and could not receive me, and Mathilda.
- Sat. 27** Freylinghuysen's picnic at Mrs Vernon's. 30 People. Dined at the Pollacks. Baron Schaeffer conducted me. Josephina here.
- Sun. 28** Did not go out.
- M. 29** Did not go out. Mrs Martinez and Jos., Mrs Machey, Thérèse de Chambrun.
- T. 30** To see Victoria West. Mrs Campbell & Charlton, Josephina, Dr. Landes came here.
- W. 31** With Mama to see the Frelinghausens, McLanes, Mrs Nich Fish, Countess Lowenhaupt, ????. Josephina here, Mr. Blaine, Leeds, Count & Countess L.?

June

- Th. 1** To read with J. To pay Mrs Aldis for the socks that her daughter bought for me in NY. \$2.50. To see Sister Angela, Mrs Bancroft Davis.
- F. 2** To see Mathilda, Minn. Stout, & Mr L. Dr & Mrs Carter here and Josephina.
- S. 3** Picnic to Great Falls by the canal which passes by beautiful country. (11 hours)
- Sun. 4** To Church. Baron Schaeffer, Mr. Bl., Min. Stout came. Papa returned from from the ???. Went to the Robesons' with the Storys.
- M. 5** Mr. Bl. came.
- T. 6** To see Mrs Mackay, Pollok, Story, Lewenhaupt, Martinez, Ferguson. Mr Blaine dined here.
- W. 7** Papa went away for N.Y.
- Th. 8** As all these days, to look for recomendations for servants. With Mama in the city.

- F. 9** Dined with the Martinez. Ginny and her father, Mr Lowndes, Mrs Robeson and Min. came.
- Sat. 10** To see Mathilde. Papa returned from N.Y.
- Sun. 11** Mr. Bl. came with his oldest son, for the night. We went to see Mr. L.
- M. 12** With Mama to see the Bl., de Chambrun.
- T. 13** In the city all morning. For the night at the Bliss' "Meeting of the Book Club." Mrs McLane here.
- Wed. 14** To say good bye to the Levys. At the Freylinghausens. Jeanie Pendleton came.
- Th. 15** For the morning conducted Max to the distribution of prizes at the Academy of the Visitation. For the afternoon, with Papa & Mama to Quantico. We returned (all for the picnic) at twelve, having walked from the wharf to the street.
- F. 16** Mathilde and the Hopkins came. Did not go out.
- Sat. 17** For the morning to ask for recomendations for a cook. For the afternoon at the "Soldier's home" with Josefina, Laura, and Max.
- Sun. 18** Did not go out. Ginny came to say good bye and Mr. Bl. for the night.
- M. 19** Did not go out. Mathilde and Mme de Chambrun and her sun came, and Mr. J. Chew, and Miss L. Frelinghausen.
- According to Mrs James G. Blaine, John Chew was with the State Department in 1872.
- T. 20** With Mama to see Mrs Ross Bay, Barras, Turnbolls. Josefina came. Also Mr. Bl. to take me to see his new house. Papa went off for N.Y.
- 21 Wed.** In boat ??? with Thérèsa de Chambrun Mrs Pool and J. Chew returned to dine here and Mme de Chambrun.
- 22 Th.** For the night to see the Pendletons.
- 23 F.** In boat with Richardson, Chew, and Helena.
- 24 S.** Josefina, J. Chew, Lowndes came. To the musical at the White House.

- 25 Sun.** I stayed in bed all day with a headache and nausea. Occasional thought for the high fever which did not permit me to sleep or eat. Mama and I dined at the English Legation with Mr and Mme du Puy de Lome and the secretaries Howard and Charlton. Mr Bl. came twice to say good bye and we did not see him.
- 26 M.** Josefina came to say good bye. Chew for the evening and conducted us to eat ice cream.
- 27 Tues.** Mr Hopkins and Mr Lowery came.
- 28 W.** To see Mathilde. The Martinez left for Longbranch. Baron Schaeffer came.
- 29 Thursday** Boat with Mrs Story, Mr Chew & Mr Hannat. We returned around eleven Beautiful moon. Mr McLane came.
- 30 F.**

July

- First of July** Boat with Mama, Chew, and Poore from 7 to 10 1/2. Papa returned from NY.
- 2 Sun.** To church.
- 3 M.** Cold. To the city with Max. Mrs Green, Mr & Mrs McCalla came. To see Mrs Hopkins who returned from the country last Saturday.
- 4 Tues.** To see Victoria West, Thérèse de Chambrun.
- 5 Wed.** To the city. Papa to N.Y.
- 6 Th.** Admiral & Mrs Carter and Mr Lowery here. To the Soldiers home with Mrs McLane.
- 7 Fr.** To see the "State Department" with Mama and Max, showed Chew. Mrs and Miss Pendleton, Mr Charlton, Mr McL came.
- 8 Sat.** To the White House with Miss Frelinghuysen to hear the music played in the garden, passed through the crowd. Mlle de Chambrun and her brother came.
- 9 Sun.** Did not go to church because it was to hot. W. Phillips came.
- 10 M.** Mr Naima came.

- 11 T.** By coach with old Mr L.
- 12 W.** Mr Chew came.
- 13 Th.** All day with Mr West and Victoria.
- 14 F.** To see Miss Hopkins. Found Ade 3rd assistant secretary who is so deaf that he absolutely cannot hear anything unless it is said right in his ear.
- 15 S.** All day with Max, Chew, and J. Poore. Papa returned from NY.
- 16 Sun.** To Church. Mathilde came.
- 17 M.**
- 18 Tues.** Papa left for New York. Count Lewenhaupt and Marquese de Chambrun and her daughter came.
- 19 W.** In the city with Mr and Mrs L. Chew came.
- 20 Th.** Mrs McCalla Mr Lowndes & Hopkins came. In the city.
- 21 F.** Mr McLane and Cout Lewenhaupt came. Mrs Hopkins.
- 22 Sat.** Mr Hanna came.
- 23 Sun.** At church. W. Phillims and Chew came.
- 24 M.** Mr Hanna took us, Mama, Max, and me, to visit the Jesuit Georgetown College. Also to Arlington. Chew and Mr. McLane came.
- 25 Tues.** Mrs Lowery and Hanna came.
- 26 W.** Mr and Mrs Hopkins and Chew came. Papa returned.
- 27 Th.** Roses from Chew. Hanna came. Dined at the Hopkins with Mr. F.
- July 28** Left Washington 9:55. Mr Chew and Hanna saw us off.
- 29 Sat.** Arrived Bellows Falls after 4 P.M. found Aug. here.
- Sun. 30th** To church.
- Mon. 31** Walk to "table rock" with Aug. & Max. Papa to Boston and back. Mrs & Miss Janet King.

Bellows Falls, Vt. August 1882

Tues. 1 Tea at the Kings.

Wed. 2 Drove with Miss Janet K. & tea there. Papa left for N.Y. and the West.

Th. 3 Dined at Kings.

Fri. 4 Not out. Not well.

Sat. 5 Miss J. King called.

Sun. 6th Mamma & I took 7 O'Cl. at the Kings.

Mon. 7th Left Bellow Falls at 9:10. To Pittsville where we stayed until 4. Mathilde came to the station to see me. We arrived at Stockbridge, Mass., at 5:45. We took rooms at the Pumb Cottage near the Stockbridge House where we ate.

Tues. 8 To see Mrs Ogden Edwards, who lives here. For the afternoon, in a coach with her. The country is very beautiful.

Wed. 9 Mr & Mrs Henry Sedgewick came, brought Miss Edwards Flores. Aunt Amalia arrived.

Aunt Amalia was the sister of Amy's mother Jane, Amalia de Coninck.

Thurs 10 To see the Edwards and Sedgewicks.

Mon. 21 To Lenox with all the family 2-6. To see Aunt Luisa, the cousins, Mrs Ch. Hoffman and Emily.

Tues. 22

Wed. 23 Road in the coach with Mr de Neufoille.

Thurs. 24 Max and I to Lebanon Springs and to the Shaker house with Mr & Mrs de Neufoille, Juliet and Mrs Parker. We left at 9:30, we returned after 7. Mrs Butter sent me peaches and flowers.

Fri. 25 and S. 26 Did not go out, except to go to Stockbridge where we ate. All day.

Sun. 27 To church.

- M. 28** Lunch for Mrs Douglas Robinson, at the Tuckermans'. Mrs de Neufouille took me there and we went by coach afterward. Emily Hoffman, who had come for the lunch and wanted to go to the amateur minstrels tonight, took tea with us. All to the "Minstrels," among whom was our cousin Alex Mason. Later went to the dinner at the house of Mrs Doane.
- Tu. 29** Went in the coach with Mr. H. Sedgewick and his cousin Laura S. Tea at the Butter house.
- W. 30** Mrs Sedgewick and her daughter "Blossom" came. Emily W. from Lenox on horseback to invite me to spend the night of the 9th, when there will be a "hop." To say goodbye to the Edwards.

September

- 1 Sat.— 2 Sat.** With Aunt Amalia to Niagra. We left Stockbridge by coach at 9:45, to take the train on the State Line and we arrived at Niagra Falls after 2 in the morning. We went to the Cataract House.
- Sun. 4** From Niagra at 7:25, to Saratoga after 6. To the Clarendon Hotel for the night. To see Mrs Pennington who leaves tomorrow.
- Tu. 5** To see rooms that we took at the Everett. To the station at 8 to meet Mama, Aug., and Elena who came from Stockbridge.
- Thurs. 7** We all started drinking the "Hawthorn Spray." Mrs Ruggles came to see us.
- Friday 8** To see Mrs John Gitting Mrs James G. and her daughter at the "Grand Union" where we met Mr West and Victoria. For the evening to hear the music at the "United States." We met Mrs Geo. Bird and her sister Mrs ? and Mr Cont? Mr de Councy and the Thompsons of Baltimore. Mama and I by coach with Mrs Ruggles.
- Sat. 9** Spent with Augustin and Elena. The Thompsons came. For the evening at the "Grand Union" with the Gittings and the Wests.
- Sunday 10** To church. Miss Stocker and her niece Miss Cox, Mr. West and Victoria came.
- W. 13** Yesterday spend with Ag. and Max. The morning at the "Grand Union," for the evening to see Mrs & Miss Cox and Miss Stocker.

Th. 14 Mr Taylor came, Admir. & Mrs Carter.

F. 15 To the park with Elena. Mrs Ruggles came.

M. 18 We left Saratoga at 8:40 AM. We arrived at New York after 2. To 6 guest houses without finding rooms. Finally at the N.Y. hotel, where ???,
After dinner to the Nogueiras. Augustine to Quincy.

Tues. 19 Went to look for rooms. We changed from 12 W 10th St to the Misses Cadle at \$2 a day. To see Mrs Edw. Potter and ???.

Passed time at the streets and shops.

September 1882 12 W. 10th St N.Y.

Wed. 20 Did not go out. Mrs Wood and Mrs Potter came.

Sun. 24 To Trinity Church (high). Ethel Potter came. To see Miss Morgan at 62nd St and 8th Ave with Aunt Amalia. All to see Aunt Louisa. 50th and stayed for tea.

Wed. 27 The Misses Routh here. I to the N.Y. Hotel to see Mathilde and Mme Chaffraix.

Fri. 29 Papa returned from the West. Dined with Mme Chaffraix.

October

Sun. 1 To Grace Church. After to see Mme Noessareth, who was in Europe. Miss Morgan and Mr ??? came.

Mon. 2 Lunch with Aunt Louisa. To ??? with Josie.

Tues. 3 Chew came. To the 14th St theater. With Jefferson in "Bob Acres."

Th. 5 To say goodbye to Mme Chaffraix.

F. 6 Quit N.Y. and arrived in Washington. Papa to Boston. Aunt Amalia with us.

Sat. 7 Aunt A. gave me \$42. With Mrs Hopkins to visit the house of Mrs Miller. 18th St. For the Kings of Bellows Falls, Vt.

S. 8 To St. John's with the aunt and Max.

M. 9 Count Lowenhaupt and Mr Lowndes came.

Tues. 10 Mr. Lowery came. I to see Victoria. Met Mathilde and walked with her. Aunt A. washed my hair.

1777 Mass. Av.

W. 11 With Aunt A. & Max to the Agricultural Dept.

Th. 12 Thérèse de Chambrun came. Papa returned.

F. 13 Mathilde came. Mr Phillips came.

S. 14 To see Mathilde and Sister Angela.

S. 15 To Epiphany with Max. For the afternoon with Mama, to see the Countess Lewenhaupt. Mrs Philips came with her son Lee.

M. 16 Aunt Amalia went away. I spent 2 hours looking for Max at Mrs Hilton's school.

T. 17 With Max to the Library of Congress. I took the first two volumes of the memoirs of St Simion and the novel of a poor young man "de Feuillet."

Papa left for N.Y.

W. 18 To visit T. de Chambrun where I met Mr and Mrs Pollack, who took me home.

Th. 19 Chew came. I did not go out.

F. 20 Mr and Mrs Aulich Palmer and Countess Lewenhaupt came.

Sat. 21 Miss Lee and Mr Lowery came. Road in the coach with Vict. West.

Sun. 22 Mr Hanna came.

M. 23 To see Mrs Johnson, Pollack, Phillips, Fay Everett, Chambrun. Mr and Mrs Pollac came to see me to go out in a coach.

T. 24 Dr Smithe filled a tooth. Two hours.

W. 25 Mama and I in coach with Mr & Mrs Pollack. Mr and Mrs Sidney Everett came, Thér. de Ch., and the Mrq. de Polestad and Capt. Story came.

F. 27 With Capt Story to the top of the Washington Monument. Mrs Pollock, Mr Chew and Mr Hanna came. Papa returned from N.Y.

- Sat. 28** Chew sent me flowers and grapes. To see Mrs F. Loring, Mrs S. Irving and Mr Davenport here. In the evening to the Pollacks with Papa and Mama. Part for Commandant Frangeul of the "Canada" that brought us to America.
- S. 29** To St John's with Count Lewenhaupt. Mr Hopkins came to look for me to talk about a certain Leo Saratoff, a Russian boy of 16 years who said he had left his parents in St Petersburg because he did not wish to go ??? and had come to America, thinking to find a sister of his in Baltimore who could give him work.
- M. 30** To see Victoria West and the Noquierias. Mathilde came with me. Mr Hopkins came after dinner. Met Mr. Williamow, the secretary of Russia, who treated this Leo Saratoff as an imposter.
- T. 31** Left with Papa. Slept at the Hopkins. Mr Poore came.

November

- W. 1** Mr Hanna, Victoria, Mrs Mackay, Fanny came to visit. Horseriding with Mr Hanna.
- Th. 2** To the dentist to redo his work of the 24th of last month. Mr and Mrs Anderson, Adm and Mrs Howell, Mrs Davenport came. Mr Aulick Palmer came to take me for a coach ride. He took Mama as I was not at home.
- F. 3** Judge and Mrs James, Chew came. Time with Thérèse de Ch.
- S. 4** To see Miss Meigs, to G. McLane and Min. Sha., who had not returned.
- Sun. 5** To church. Col. Bliss returned with me. Counte de Lippe and Mr Hanna came. Papa and Mama went to the Lorings for the evening.
- Mon. 6** To see Mr Polk, Turnbull, Ricketts, Pollok, Ray. Mr and Mrs H. Adams here.
- T. 7** To the city to buy fabric for a dress for the ??? Dora.
- W. 8** To the city with Mama. Mrs Parke came. Papa to N.Y.
- T. 9** Miss Polk here. With Mama to see Miss Lee, Baroness von Klenck, Mrs Dr Palmer, Slacks, James.
- F. 10** With Mama to see Mrs Robeson, Chambrun, du Puy de Lome, Eustis, Godoy, McLane.

Sat. 11 Did not go out. Mr Hannah came and brought me roses.

Sun. 12 Did not go out. Lowndes came.

M. 13 Janet King, Mr & Mrs Pollok came. Mrs Hopkins son was born.

T. 14 Ginny and her cousin Kitty McLane, Mrs Hall Slack & Miss Slack, Janet K. Mr & Mrs Godoy, J. Chew.

W. 15 To see the Kings, who came with me and Miss Knight. Mrs Worden Admirer and his wife, the 3 Noqueiras, Lippe, Pedroso, Chacon, Miss Clymer, Baron de Klenck and his wife came.

Pedroso was the Spanish Attaché.

T. 16 Mrs Johnston and Ginny McL., Mr Babcock here. To see Mrs Ferguson, Story, Loring, Leonard, Adams, Eustis, Rogers, Howell, Schenck.

Nov. 17, F. To the dentist, to fill a tooth for the third time. Thérèse de Ch., Countess Lewenhaupt, Mrs Judge Loring and her daughter Mary came.

S. 18 To see Ginny McL., Min. Stout here.

S. 19 Mr Munroe, Lowery, Blaine, Hannah came. Misses Eustis & Polk, Levy. With Mama to the Lorings for the evening. Mr Roustan was presented to me.

M. 20 M. de Bildt and Mrs and Miss Frelinghuysen. Took Max to the Dentist who pulled a tooth.

T. 21 With Thérèse de Ch. to look around the city, looking for cooks. Judge Loring, Cap. de la Chère came.

W. 22 With Mama to leave a sympathy card with Min. Stout for the death of her uncle Mr Wylie Aulick, to see Mrs Clymer, Ruggles.

T. 23 Thérèse de Ch. came and left with us to see the Kings, Field, Berry, Mr L. Mrs Rickets came. Dined at the English Legation (Mrs Godoy and her husband, Marquis del Valle who took me to the table, Lippe, Pedroso, Laurin; after dinner Domingues came, of the Repub. of Argentina, Chacon, and Howard.)

F. 24 In the morning to the city with Mama. Admiral and Mrs Rogers, Mrs Temple, Chacon and Pedroso came.

S. 25 To see the Noqueiras, Mrs Greene, King. The Stevens came. Papa returned.

- S. 26** To church. It rained and showered. Mr Edw. Crosby, Hannah, Chew came.
- M. 27** To the Navy Yard to see the Pattisons with Mama. The Emorys and Mrs Davenport herre.
- T. 28** Mr John Field and the Marq. de Chambrun came. It snowed all afternoon.
- W. 29** Janet King, Mrs Capt Story, Miss Polk came. To the first reception of the season at the Freylinghuysens. To John Field's house to meet Mr and Mrs Story of Rome. (the sculptor)
- T. 30** Thanksgiving. To St. J's. M. de Geofroy, Mr Blaine, Mr Jay came. Mama, Max and I dined at the Hopkins, with Mr Lowndes and Mrs Miller. To see Victoria, Miss Edgar, Ginny.

December

- F. 1** For the morning in the city with Mama. To see the Stevens, Munroe, W(?)agner, Emory (de H). The Sanfords, Shencks, Berrys, Storys (of Rome), Mr Laurin came.
- S. 2** Did not go out, except for the evening to the Noqueiras, where they go to receive every Saturday. Mr Hannah came.
- S. 3** Did not go out, except for the evening to the Lorings. Papa left. Janet King, Thér. de Ch., Mr W. Phillips, Wood, Blaine came.
- M. 4** Janet King, Baron von Schaefer, Miss Beale came.
- T. 5** Mr and Mrs Clymer, Mrs F. Greene, Miss Edgar came. To the Beale's reception for the evening.
- W. 6** Mrs Leonard, Misses Loring, Aldis, Ginny, Mr Denaut, Chew came. To see Mrs Jay, Nich. Hoffman, Adams.
- T. 7** To see Mrs Robeson. Arthur Carey came.
- F. 8** To see Mrs Mackay, Noble, Ashton, Mr L. Lewen., Lippet, Dodge. Carey lunched here.
- S. 9** To the dentist with Max. In the afternoon to see Min. Stout, Miss Polk, Mrs Hopkins. Janet K., Mr du Puy de Lome, Emory, Mrs Jay here.

- S. 10** Mrs Jay, Mr Roustan, Denaut came. Dined with Mrs Jay and we went together to the Lorings.
- M. 11** To see Mrs Biddle, Levys, Rathe, Min. Stout. Miss Stearns (niece of Mrs Noble) here.
- T. 12** To see Miss Aldis, Miss F. Loring, Chambrun. Misses Biddle and Worden here.
- W. 13** To see Mrs Jay. Mrs Ferguson here. To see Jefferson in "The Poor Gentleman." Biddle theater party.
- T. 14** To see Mrs Jay, the Dominguez, Pendleton. Dined at the Hopkins with Mr and Mrs Story (sculptor), and the secretary of war, Lincoln. We did not go to the Bliss', Mama was ill.
- F. 15** To the city with Mama. The count of St James, M. de Bildt, Janet King, Mrs and Miss Polk came. Dined at the Camerons (Leut. and Mrs Greene, Miss Turnbull, Gen McCook, Mr Woodl. Blaire, Mr Rae. Mr Greene took me to table. People came afterwards.
- S. 16** To see Miss Jay and to Ginny's. For the afternoon at the Noqueiras. Papa returned. Mrs Geo. (April) Loring and Miss L. came. Janet K. lunched with us.
- S. 17** To St John's. Col. Hoffmann, Rev Dr Leeds, and Mr Hannah came. To the Lorings.
- M. 18** To see Mrs (Justice) Miller, Temple, Brown, Allison, Blatchford, J. Wadsworth, J. Gardner, (Miss Howe) Mr Keevers, Berrys, B. Davis, Bancroft, Edgars, - Marques della Vallé, Mr J. Gardner, J. Field, Mrs James. For the evening to the Pendletons.
- T. 19** To buy a half pound of wool to crochet a ???(enaguitas) for the son of the doctor F. Loring. To see Mrs Hopkins. Lorings here. At the Beales for the evening. Papa returned to N.Y. Miss Levy came.
- Wed. 20** To see Mrs Brewster, J. David, Frelinghuysens, Barca. The Domingues here.
- T. 21** First communion at St. Johns. Augustin arrived from Quincy.
- F. 22** John arrived from Europe.

S. 23 Papa arrived from N.Y. M. de Willamow came. To see Miss Polk and McLane.

S. 24 To St. J. Janet King came. In the evening to the Lorings' with Papa. Mr Nelson and Hoffman were presented to me.

M. 25 Received from Mama and Papa for Christmas \$10, a large pair of white gloves, a dozen buttons (crystal balls), from Augustin an image and a ???, from Max, a gold brooch for my hair, toenail cleaner, ???. From Aunt Amalia, \$10. From Victoria West, a crystal stamp moistener. From Janet King, a vase. Xmas cards from Sala, Mercer, Nellie Fearson, Lolita W., from Bessie, from Lizzie Lisnse, from Emily Bard. Flowers from Mr Hanna.

To see Victoria W., Mrs Hopkins, Robeson. Ginny and her father here.

I gave a book of orations to Mama, a basket to Papa, a watchchain to Max, buttons for Augustine, a blotter for John. Sent Xmas cards to Lady Wolff, Mrs Buckler Bessie, Mme Chaffraix, Ida, Mrs Brooks.

Count Sala was first secretary to the French Minister.

T. 26 Mrs Berry and her son, Miss Clymer, Mrs Jay, Dr & Mrs Brown, Mr Bustamante, Hopkins came. With Mama to see Mrs Cox, Godoy Cabalano, G. Loring, Kings, Biddles. For the evening at the Beales with Mama and John.

Wed. 27 Miss Markos, Edw. Crosby, Mrs & Miss Edgar came. For the evening at Wil. Emory's house, we ate at Crosby's.

T. 28 To see Mrs McClellan, Cameron, Pendleton. Mr & Mrs John Davis, Mr Fred. Phillips, Com. & Mrs Temple, Mrs Phelps, Mrs Levellon Brown, Janet K., Crosby here. Juan to Cambridge. Dined at the Barca's with Victoria W., who took me. Misses Mathews & Sturgis, M.M. Dalla Vale we took me to the table. Chacon, Heredia, Pinto, Bustamante.

F. 29 Did not go out. Aristarchi Bey, Mrs Cox, Bancroft, the Brewsters left cards.

Chapter 4

1884

This is the earliest letter in the collection from Victoria to Amy.

Letter to Miss A. Heard care of Mess. J.J. Cisco & Son
59 Wall Street, New York.

*Tout le
monde se
réjouissent de
votre arrivée*



British Legation
Washington, D.C.
7 Mai /84

Ma chère Amy,

Enfin je suis bien contente de savoir que vous viendrez “pour sûr” demeurer avec nous.

J’aurais aimé que vous fussiez ici pour les courses; cela vous aurait amusé; mais je crains d’après votre lettre que vous ne pourrez pas. Vous me demandez de vous fixer le jour qu’il me serait le plus agréable de vous avoir. Le plus tôt sera le mieux.

Peut-être aurez-vous quelques commissions et emplettes à faire à New York; donc vous désirez probablement avoir un peu de temps libre. C’est pour cela que je préférer que vous fixiez vous-même le temps de votre arrivé.

Nous sommes encore ici pour une grande partie de l’été; ainsi donc vs pouvez venir quand bon vous semble. Et surtout arrangez-vous de ???? à rester aussi long-temps que possible; vous devez au moins nous donner 19 jours ou 3 semaines, si cela vous est possible permis.

J’espère que Mount Desert ne vs attire pas trop; c’est pour cela que je veux vs. garder. Je désire faire d’avance un arrangement avec vous: que vs. soyez tout à

fait libre de votre temps, comme si vous étiez chez vous. Je sais qu'il y a des hôtes qui veulent toujours faire des programmes pour leurs invités, et de cette manière, leur être fort désagréables. Mais comme je veux que vous ayez avec nous "a nice time", j'espère que vs accepterez cette condition et que vs vous distraierez autant que possible.

Il n'y a pas grand chose maintenant; on se repose. Mais on se voit dans l'intimité; nous sommes à la maison une fois par semaine le soir pour le corps diplomatique seulement; nous commencerons probablement mardi prochaine.

Nous ferons de longues promenades en voiture; Papa vient de nous acheter un petit "panier" que je conduis moi-même, comme nous aurons alors le temps de bavarder!

Au revoir, chère Ami, et à bientôt. Faites-moi savoir tout de suite quand vs venez.

Votre sincère amie,

Victoria

Les courses commencent le 14 et durent jusqu'au 17 moi. Etes-vous tentée? ...
Milles amitiés à votre maman.

*Everyone
is delighted with
your arrival*

British Legation
Washington, D.C.
7 May /84

My dear Amy,

Finally I am well pleased to know that you are coming to stay with us "for sure." I would have liked for you to be here for the races; that would have amused you; but I fear from your letter that you will not be able to. You ask me to fix the day that would be the best for me to have you. The sooner the better.

Perhaps you have some errands and purchases to make in New York; then you will probably desire a little free time. It's for that reason that I would prefer you to fix yourself the time of your arrival. We are still here for a large part of the summer; thus you can come when it seems good for you. And above all arrange things so as to remain as long as possible, you must at least give us 19 days or three weeks, if that is permitted.

I hope that Mount Desert does not attract you too much; it is for that reason that I want to keep you. I wish to make in advance an arrangement with you: that your time should be completely free, as if you were in your own home. I know that there are hosts who always want to make programs for their guests, and in this manner, they are quite disagreeable. I want for you to have with us “*a nice time*,” I hope that you will accept this condition and that you will amuse yourself as much as possible.

Nothing much is going on now; one rests. But we see each other in private; we are at home one night each week for the diplomatic corps only; we will probably begin next Tuesday.

We take long carriage trips; Papa just bought us a little “wagon” which I drive myself; how we will then have the time to gossip!

Au revoir, dear Amy, and a bientot. Let me know soon when you are coming.

Your sincere friend,
Victoria

The races begin the 14th and last until 17 May. Are you tempted?
Notes: Mount Desert Island is a summer resort off the coast of East central Maine which now forms part of Acadia National Park. The resort first gained popularity with academics and artists who journeyed their for summer vacations, but sadly the paintings produced by the artists popularized the resort which began to draw the social and wealthy and rival Newport in its “cottages,” if not in its hotels, which were notoriously non-luxurious for the time. Amy apparently accepted Victoria’s invitation as she received a letter in January 1885 with “British Legation, Washington, D.C.” as her address.



Victoria

Letter from Victoria West at the British Legation in Washington
to Amy Heard at 262 Fourth Avenue, NY.
Dated 23 December 1884.



23 Décembre

Ma chère Amy,

J'ai juste une minute avant de sortir pour vous envoyer me meilleurs souhaits pour la Noël. Quant à ceux pour la nouvelle année, je sais que j'aurai la plaisir de vous les dire verbalement.

Je vous attends la semaine prochaine, et je compte que vs me ferez savoir le jour et l'heure de votre arrivée ici. Vos amis vous attend avec beaucoup d'impatience, et surtout celles qui habitent á la Légation Britannique.

Monsieur Valera trépique de plaisir en pensant que vs serez ici bientôt.

Je crois que Madame la femme devrait en être avertie!

Papa donne un grand bal à Flora le 6 janvier. Et nous allons chez la Président le matin du 1er.

Au revoir, ma chérie, j'ai tellement à faire que je ne sais où donner de la tête.

Votre amie

Victoria

Mille bons souhaits à tous les vôtres.

23 December

My Dear Amy,

I have just a minute before leaving to send you my best wishes for Christmas. As for those for the new year, I know that I will have the pleasure to give you them orally. I await your arrival here next week, and I trust that you will let me know the day and the hour. Your friends await you with great impatience, espeicially those who inhabit the British Legation. Monsieur Valera jumps with pleasure thinking that you will be here soon. I believe that Madame his wife should be warned of it! Papa is giving a grand ball for Flora on 6 January. And we are going to the White House the morning of the first.

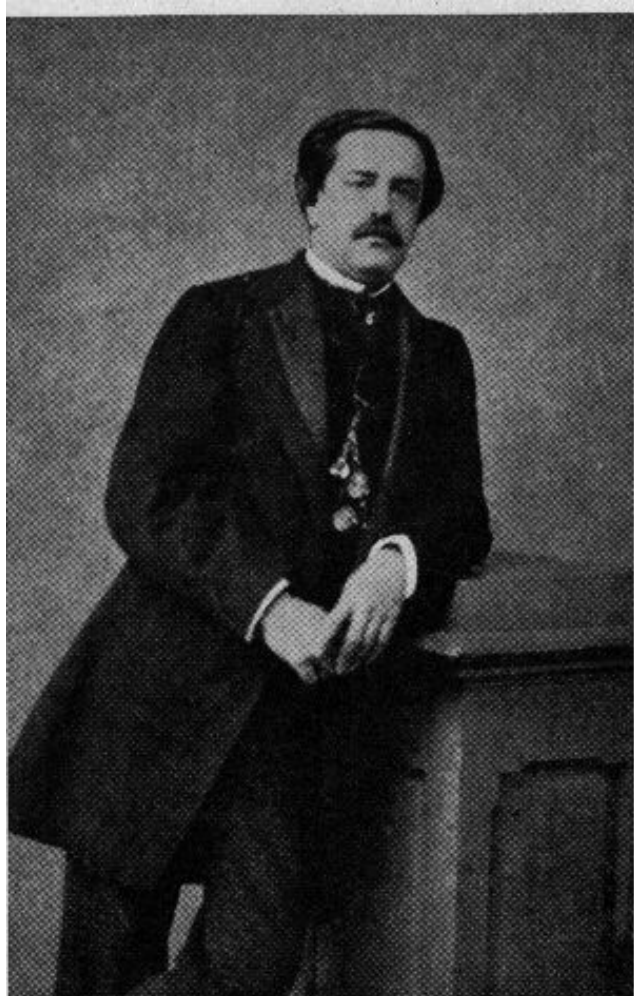
Au revoir, ma cherie, I have so much to do that I don't know what to think.

Your friend,
Victoria

A thousand best wishes to all of yours.

Notes: don Juan Valera y Alcala Galiano, 1824–1915, was the minister of Spain to the United States from January 1884 until 1886. Valera was also a poet and novelist as well as a diplomat. His novels were not known as being particularly good, but he was a pioneer of what was to eventually develop into a Spanish school of fiction. His best known novel was *Pepita Jimenez*. He had a reputation as a womanizer. His wife, Dolores Delavat, was twenty years his junior and remained conveniently in Spain, so he was free to socialize extensively. One of his reputed mistresses was Katherine Lee Bayard, the daughter of the secretary of state from 7 March 1885 through 6 March 1889, Thomas Francis Bayard, and the sister of Amy's friend Mabel Bayard Warren. In January 1886, three days after Valera's transfer orders, Katherine committed suicide.

Valera was born on 18 October 1824, so he was 59 when in 20 January 1884 he arrived in Washington DC and moved into 14 Lafayette Square, close to the White House. He wrote his friend Menéndez Pelayo “y hasta me llaman *handsome*, que tengo hermosos ojos,” observers remarked he looked younger than 50.[7] He would serve in the position until being named Minister to Brussels on 25 January 1886, a position he would assume in 11 May. Katherine Bayard, the daughter of the Secretary of State, committed suicide 16 January, apparently after being informed by Valera of his imminent departure. According to his biographer, Valera had fallen in love with Catherine soon after his arrival in Washington.



Juan Valera y Alcala Galiano

Chapter 5

1885

Letter from Amalia West at the British Legation
to Amy Heard at 262 Fourth Ave., NY.
Dated 19 March 1885.

An undated note card with another short letter was in the same envelope. Amalia (b. 1868) was one of Victoria's younger sisters. Amalia's reference to herself as the "second bébé" indirectly refers to Amy's sister Max (Helen Maxima Heard) whose numerous letters to Amy were signed bébé during their youth.

Washington
17 Mars 1885

Voici la lettre ma bonne Amy, que vous m'avez donnée à garder hier au soir et que vous avez oubliée. Comme je suis triste! Vous voila partie peut-être pour longtemps!

Espérons que non. Il faut revenir bientôt, il ne faut pas laisser votre second bébé tout seul comme cela. Vous savez qu'il vous aime beaucoup encore plus que jamais. Lundi soir au théâtre mon plaisir était gâté tout simplement Chère Amy pour ce que vous nous quittez. Mon Dieu! Comme c'est donc triste que les départs je le déteste. Les personnes que vous aimez s'en vont toujours et celles pour lesquelles vous n'avez aucune amitié ne d'en vont jamais. Si j'étais grande j'irai à New Yourk vous voir et nous nous amuserions bien ensemble. L'autre soir quand je suis rentrée à la maison j'ai trouvé votre Papa et mon Papa tous les deux installés dans un fauteuil au coin du feu ayant l'air de beaucoup s'amuser à ce qu'il paraît cars ils avaient l'air tout étonné de me voir rentrer si tôt. Votre Papa est très gentil je l'aime bien il me faisait l'effet d'être scandalisé à table lorsqu'on parlait de flirtation. Ça m'amusait beaucoup.

Je suis obligée de finir lettre ma bonne Amy cela m'ennuie beaucoup car j'aimerais continuer mais malheureusement je n'ai plus de temps.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite amie quie vous aime tendrement.

Amalia West (tournez)

Bien des chose de ma part à votre Maman et à votre Bébé. N'oubliez pas surtout votre Papa.

Uncore un bon baiser. Comme vous êtes gentaille!

Flora et Victoria vous embrasse bien.

Washington
17 March 1885

Here is the letter my dear Amy, that you had given me to keep yesterday evening and that you had forgotten. How sad I am! You are suddenly gone, perhaps for a long time! We hope not. You must return soon, you cannot leave your second bébé all alone like that. You know that she loves you much more than ever. Monday night at the theatre my pleasure was spoiled simply, dear Amy, because you left us. My God! It is because they are so sad that I hate departures. The people that you love always go away and those for whom you have no friendship never go away. If I were grand I would go to New York to see you and we would amuse ourselves together. The other night when I returned home I found your papa and my papa both installed in armchairs in a corner by the fire appearing to be very amused by what appeared because they had an astonished air to see me return so early. Your papa is very nice. I like him well. He gave



Amalia West

me the impression of being scandalized at the table when a flirtation was being discussed. That greatly amused me. I am obliged to finish the letter, my dear Amy. That greatly saddens me because I would like to continue, but unhappily I have no more time.

Je vous embrasse bien fort
Your petite amie who loves you
tenderly.
Amalia West

Good wishes on my part to your Mama and your Béb . Above all, don't forget your Papa.

Again a big kiss.

How gentaille you are!

Flora and Victoria send their love.

Note accompanying the previous letter.

A.W.

British Legation
Washington

Ma bonne Amy,

Je sens qu'il faut que je vous  crive un tout petit mot et  a m'aurait  t  impossible de laisser finir la journ e sans vous  crire.

Il me semble qu'il y a si longtemps que je ne vous ai pas vue. Comme je voudrais vous embrasser. Voyez tout de m me ch re. Amy combien je vous aime, je vais au th atre tous les soirs de cette semaine. Je devrais  tre gaie n'est pas? Et bien, je suis triste. vous devinez pour quoi je n'ai pas besoin de vous le r p ter. y'apprends de nouveau mes le ons dans votre chambre alors quand je suis l  – je suis heureuse!

Je n'ai pas revu Monsieur Valera depuis que vous avez quitt  il doit  tre aussi bien triste.

Plus de papier il faut que je termine en vous embrassant bien fort.

Votre petite amie qui vous aime tendrement.

Amalia West

A.W.

British Legation
Washington

My dear Amy,

I feel that I must write you a small word and it would have been impossible to let the day finish without writing you. It seems to me a long time since I have seen you. How I would like to embrace you. You see all the same dear Amy how I love you. I am going to the theatre every night this week. I ought to be gay, shouldn't I? And yet I am sad, you can guess why. I do not need for you to repeat it. I learned again my lessons in your bedroom then when I was there—I am happy!

I have not received Monsieur Valera since you left. He also should be very sad.

No more paper. I must finish and send you a kiss.

Your petite amie who loves you tenderly. Amalia West

Note: Gentaille seems to be a made-up word among the West sisters and Amy, perhaps a diminutive of gentille or nice.

Letter from Victoria West at the British Legation in Washington
to Miss Heard at 262 4th Ave, NYC.
Dated 22 March 1885

Washington
22 Mars 85

Ma bien chère Amy,

Je vous réponds de suite à cause de votre petit boîte que Canfield viendra prendre Mardi ou Mercredi prochain. Tenez-la prête, voulez-vous? Je la remettrai a Mr Roustan, et vs me direz à qui il doit l'envoyer à Paris.

Vous ne me ennuez en me demandant de vous faire vos petites commissions, ainsi ne vs genez en rien.

Je crains bien ne plus pouvoir aller à N.Y. à cause des changements de nos domestiques; il faut que je soit l'a pour surveiller moi-même, surtout au commencement. J'ai arrêté définitivement le maître d'hôtel des Freylinghuysens et leur blanchisseuse; il reste à trouver une bonne cuisinière: grosse affaire. Ces détails de ménage m'assomment! De plus, il faut acheter un autre cheval!

Je dois donc sacrifier mon plaisir d'aller à N.Y. et de vs y revoir, ma chère amie. J'espère que vs vs amuzerez bien à Boston. Si vs pouvez revenir passer un mois du printemps avec nous; par exemple, Mai avec Mme de Struve et Juin avec nous.

Tâchez d'arranger cela; ce serait si gentille!

Notre diner au Président a été bien, ainsi que la petite soirée qui l'a suivi. Nous donnons demains un diner au Reuterskiöld; Mme de Stuve a eu l'amabilité de me demander si c'était un diner de fiancelles! . . . Elle est incorrigible.

Théo a été beaucoup mieux que dans cette abominable piece de Lundi.

La fille de Tambour Major était charmante.

Au revior, ma bonne; écrivez moi dés que vs aurez le temps. Nous vs enverrons souvent des nouvelles de la maison et de vos amis. Je n'oublierai pas votre commision pour Mr Valera, qui a l'air à présent d'un corps sans âme.

Milles bons souvenirs a votre Maman.

Toujours votre meillieure amie.

Victoria

J'espère que votre frère reussira bien.

22 March 85

My very dear Amy,

I am responding to you quickly because of your little box which Canfield will come to take next Tuesday or Wednesday. Have it ready, will you? I will return it to Mr. Roustan, and you tell me who he should send it to in Paris. You do not bother me by asking me to do your little errands, so do not bother yourself about it.

I am afraid that I can no longer go to N.Y., because of changes in our domestic servants; it is necessary that I be there to survey them myself, especially at the beginning. I definitely captured the maitre d'hotel of the Frelinghuysans and their laundress; there remains finding a good cook: a big affair! These difficulties of the household bore me to death! What's more, it is necessary to buy another horse. I have to therefore sacrifice my pleasure of going to N.Y. and of seeing you again, my dear friend. I hope that you have fun in Boston. If you could come back to spend a month in spring with us; for example, May with Mme de Struve and June with us.

Try to arrange that; it would be so nice!

Our dinner with the President was good, as was the small soiree which followed. Tomorrow we are giving tomorrow a dinner for the Reuterskiölds; Mme de Struve had the amiability to ask me if it was an engagement dinner!... She is incorrigible. Theo

was much better than in the abominable play of Monday. The daughter of Tambour Major was charming. Au revoir, my dear; write me as soon as you have the time. We will send you often news of the house and your friends. Do not forget your errand for Mr. Valera, who now has the air of a body without a soul.

A thousand good memories to your mother.

Always your best friend.

Victoria

I hope that your brother succeeds well.

Notes:

Theodore Justin Dominique Roustan was French Consul-General in Tunis when the French protectorate was established there. He was French minister at Washington from 1882 to 1891, replacing M. Outrey who had been a good friend of the Sackville-Wests and Amy. Roustan was reputed to be very much in love with Victoria West.

Stealing domestic servants seemed to be a popular sport in Washington at the time.

Frederick Theodore Fruylinghausen (1817–1885) was senator from New Jersey from 1866 to 1869 and from 1871 to 1877. He succeeded James G. Blaine as Secretary of State, his appointment being sent to the Senate on 12 December 1881. He and his daughters frequented Mrs. Henry Adams' circle, as did Amy and Victoria. Mme de Struve was the wife of Charles de Struve, the Russian minister to Washington, 1882–1892. Reuterskiöld was the minister from Sweden and Norway. Although at this time the President was Grover Cleveland, the reference to the President is to Chester A. Arthur, the just-previous president since Lionel Sackville-West gave a farewell dinner party for him in March 85 with all of the West sisters attending.

Letter to Amy from Victoria
dated 31 March 1885.



31 Mars

Ma chère Amy,

Je vs écris de suite pour vous dire que j'ai reçu votre lettre et votre oncle, Mr A. Heard. Je l'ai trouvé très agréable et je me suis faite aussi gentille que possible.

Je regrette qu'il vienne pendant la Semaine Sainte, où nous ne pouvons pas l'inviter à venir manger du poisson avec nous.

J'ai vu en effet mon portrait dans le graphic; je suis étonnée qu'on m'ait fait aussi bien.

Qu'est-ce que vous avez bien pu dire sur moi au diner des Rosen? Toujours la même vieille histoire de ce pauvre Mr Roustan. Ici on recommence à m'ennuyer, et on dit partout que nous nous marirons au moi de Mai. Je vous assure, ma chère amie, que ce n'est pas vrai, vs pouvez croire que si jamais j'étais fiancée, je vous le dirais de suite. Les T. Bell sont enchantés d'aller en Hollande.

J'espère que votre oncle réussira dans ce qu'il vient chercher ici. Il m'a dis de vs faire ses amitiés.

Les petites jouent au tennis; il fait un superbe jour d'été.

Au revoir, ma Bonne; milles sincères amitiés.

Toute à vous
Victoria

31 March

My dear Amy,

I am writing you quickly to tell you that I have received your letter and your uncle, Mr. A. Heard. I found him very agreable and I made myself as nice as possible. I regret that he is coming during holy week, when we cannot invite him to come eat fish with us.

I saw, in effect, my portrait in the graphic; I am astonished that I was made so well.

What were you will able to say about me at the Rosen dinner? Always the same old story of this poor Mr. Roustan. Here one begins to bore me, and one says everywhere that we are getting married in May. I assure you, my dear friend, that it is not true; you can believe that if ever I am engaged, I will tell you about it immediately. The I. Bells are enchanted to go to Holland.

I hope that your uncle will succeed in what he came to search for here. He asked me to give you his best wishes.

The little ones play tennis; it is a superb summer day.

Au revoir, my dear; a thousand sincere good wishes.

Tout a Vous,
Victoria

Notes: Baron Roman Romanavitch Rosen was a Russian diplomat. He was the Russian Chargée in Japan 1877–1883 following a tour in Belgrade. He was reputed to be calm and not given to bluff, an honest and reasonable man with a “German way of thinking.” He was known for his “noble stubbornness.” He was the architect of the Rosen–Nishi agreement of 1898 between Russia and Japan. (See *Balance of Intrigue*[15].) Baron Rosen was to become in 1888 the Russian Charge d’Affaires in Washington. Bell had just been chosen ambassador to Holland. The uncle is Albert Farley Heard, 1833–1890. After leaving Yale in 1853, he went to China where he was active in Augustine Heard and Co. For several years he officially represented the Chinese Government in Russia. He is the author of a book on the Russian Orthodox Church.

Letter to Miss Heard, 262 Fourth Avenue, NY,
from Victoria West at the Washington Delegation.
Dated 2 April 1885.



2 Avril

Ma chère Amy,

Je vs envoie, dans un paquet séparé, vos gants et ceux de votre Maman.

J’espère que c’est ce que vs vouliez; s’il y a erreur, ce n’est pas de ma faute. Il n’en est pas venu pour moi; donc je n’ai pas pu me tromper. Maintenant, soyez bien gentille et laissez-moi vous en faire cadeau; c’est l’œuf de Pâques que je veux vous offrir, ma bonne et chère amie. N’allez pas me le refuser surtout.

Monsieur Roustan me charge de vous dire que son correspondant au Ministère doit quitter Paris au mois d’Avril pour ne venir qu’en Mai; donc il faudra que vous attendiez jusqu’à ce moment-là pour votre boîte.

Savez-vs que Miss O’Donnell et Mr Robert Hinckley sont fiancés, and qu’il en est de même pour Daisy Stewart et un jeune Anglais nommé Liddell? Ces deux engagements sont sûrs et annoncés par les parties contractantes. Quant au mien! tra la la . . .

Je suis toujours libre. Tio est venu nous voir Mardi soir et m’a donné de bonnes nouvelles de vous.

Nous avons été visiter les Eglises, car c'est le Jeudi Sainte. Nous étions en landau, car nous essayons le nouveau cheval, une vieille rosse dont on veut 425 dollars. N'est-ce pas une honte?

Mille bonnes amitiés

Victoria

Mr Emory vient de recevoir l'ordre à la minute de partir ce soir pour Panama. La pauvre femme est désolé.

2 April

My dear Amy,

I send you, in a separate package, your gloves and those of your mama. I hope that it is what you would like; if there is an error, it is not my fault. It did not come for me; thus I could not have been fooled. Now, be very nice and let me give you a present; it is an Easter egg that I want to offer you, my good and dear friend. Above all do not go and refuse me.

Monsieur Roustan charges me to tell you that his correspondent at the Ministry has to leave Paris in April to not return until May; thus it will be necessary for you to wait until that moment for your box.

Do you know that Miss O'Donnell and Mr. Robert Hinckley are engaged, and that it is the same for Daisy Stewart and a young Englishman named Liddell? These two engagements are sure and announced by the contracting parties. As for mine! tra la la

I am still free. Tio came to see us Tuesday evening and gave me good news of you. We visited the churches because it was holy Thursday. We went in a carriage, because we were trying the new horse, an old red for which they wanted 425 dollars. Isn't that a shame?

A thousand good wishes,
Victoria

from Victoria West at the Washington Legation.

Dated 3 April 1885.



Samedi
Vendredi
3 Avril 85

Ma chère Amy,

Quoique je sois bien occupée aujourd'hui, je vs réponds de suite car vs m'avez écrit d'une manière qui me montre que vs seriez content d'avoir un mot avant que vs quittiez pour Boston.

Je crois que vs vs êtes un peu exagère ce que l'on dit sur votre compte à propos de Mr Valera.

Franchement, je n'ai jamais entendu mal parler de cette liaison. On vs taquine un peu, voilà gout. Nous sommes de si bonnes amies que je n'hésiterais pas une minute à vs donner un bon avis si le cas était échéant et si j'avais vu qu'on associait votre nom avec celui de Mr V. on on fait de celui d Mrs Helyar avec T., ou de moi avec Mr R. Je vs jure qu'il n'est rien de la sorte, et que vs pouvez être sans crainte. Dorénavant quand on dira un mot au sujet de vs deux j'agirai selon vos instructions. Je comprends comme il est désagréable qu'on parle ainsi; je suis aussi une victime de ces bavardages, quoique j'écrive avec précaution de me montrer dans le monde avec Mr R. C'est tout ce que je peux faire; et je ne me ferai pas un ennemi d'un de mes meilleurs amis!

Je crois que la Bnne Rosen est une gentille personne très éprise de son mari. Voulez-vs lui donner mes bons souvenirs?

Votre oncle est revenu nous voir; malheureusement, j'étais sortie..

Je suis enchanté de la bonne opinion á mon égard.

Je dirai à ce pauvre Mr Roustan ce que vs avez décidé pour votre broche. Dites-moi franchement aussi si on a parlé bien mal à son sujet et au mien. Quant à vs, vs pouvez vs rassurer. Je vs tiendrai toujours au courant. Vs savez bien qu'on dit que vs avez eu un amour malheureux, et que votre expression parfois bien triste vient de ce souvenir pénible. Je soutiens toujours la contraire. Il me semble que tout le monde voudrait que que j' épouse Mr R., on oublie la différence d'âge et la manque total de fortune des deux côtés; il n'a que ses appointements. Il est vrai que, (comme vs me disiez, taquine) nous faisons très bon m]enage ensemble et que je suis sûre qu'il ... m'aime bien. Enfin, enfin, qui vivra vivra! ...

Tout ceci sont des secrets; je vs raconte ce que je peux. J'espère que vs serez rassurée complètement, ma bonne Amy.

Répondez-moi bientôt pr me le dira; et connez-moi votre nouvelle adresse. Toujours votre amie dévouée

Victoria

Friday
3 April 85

My dear Amy,

Although I am very busy to day, I am responding to you quickly because you have written me in a manner which shows me that you would be content to have a word before you leave for Boston.

I believe that you exaggerate a little what is being said on your account a propos Mr Valera.

Frankly, I have never heard ill spoken of this liason. You have been teased a little, that's all. We are such good friends that I do not hesitate for a minute to give you good advice if the opportunity arises and if I had seen someone associate your name with that of Mr V. as they do with that of Mrs Helyar with S. or me with Mr R. I swear to you that it is nothing of the sort, and that you can be without fear. Henceforth when one word is said on the subject of you Amy, I will act according to your instructions. I understand how disagreeable it is when one speaks so; I am also a victim of these gossips, however I avoid with caution showing myself in the world with Mr. R. It is all that I can do; and I will never make an enemy of one of my best friends!

I believe that Baroness Rosen is a nice person, very much in love with her husband. Will you give her my best wishes?

Your uncle came again to see us; unhappily, I was gone. I am enchanted by his good opinion of me.

I will tell this poor Mr Roustan what you have decided for your two-sided broche.

Tell me frankly also if people are speaking ill of him and of me. As for you, you can reassure yourself. I will keep you always current. You know well that it is said that you have had an unhappy love, and sometimes that your very sad expression comes from a painful memory. I support always the opposite. It seems to me that everyone wants me to marry Mr R.; one forgets the difference in age and the total lack of fortune on both sides; he has only his appointments. It is true that, (as you

would tell me, tease) we do very well together and that I am sure that he loves me well. Finally, finally, who will live will see! ...

All of these are secrets; I tell you what I think. I hope that you will be completely reassured, my good Amy.

Reply soon to tell me; and give me your new address.

Always your devoted friend,
Victoria

Note: Mrs. Helyar was the wife of a secretary of the British Legation.

Letter to Miss Heard, 125 Marlborough Street, Boston,
forwarded to Care of John Heard Esq., Ipswich, from Amalia West, British
Legation.

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
3d Mai 1885

Voilà bien longtemps, ma bonne Amy que je ne vous ai pas écrit mais cette semaine j'ai eu beaucoup à faire. Vous devez vous demander: "Qu'est ce que j'ai eu à faire pour que je ne trouve pas même un petit moment pour vous écrire?" Je me sens coupable car, toute cette semaine Flora et moi n'avons fait que de jouer tennis avec mon fiancé, Monsieur Mesia and Mattie Mitchell. Vous devez alors comprendre que je n'ai pas eu un moment pour écrire des lettres. Je dois répondre à tout le monde et je n'ai pas encore commencé. Je suis charmée que vous aimiez nos photographies. J'espère que quelque fois elles vous rappelleront vos petites amies qui vous aiment bien et qui pensent bien souvent à vous.

Vous êtes bien gentille!

Imaginez-vous ma bonne Amy que hier au soir j'ai été à une soirée chez Mme de Struve. C'était une espèce de petit concert où tout le monde invité chantait en chœur toute sorte de petits chansons. J'ai été invitée parce que soi-disant il n'y aurait pas beaucoup de monde. Mais il y en était rien de ce "pas beaucoup de monde" c'était une vraie soirée où je me suis bien amusée. Ce soir je vais à un petit souper chez Monsieur Mesia, donné en l'honneur de Miss Mathie Mitchell, là alors il n'y aura presque personne, nous trois, Mathie, Papa, et puis les deux secrétaires de la

légation d'Espagne y seront. Cela va être bien amusant. Vous devez penser que je suis mondaine! Cela me fait rien, je vous aime tellement!

Monsieur Valera vient nous voir jouer tennis. Il est si gentil!

Flora vous écrira bientôt . Nous aimons vous écrire séparément cela vaut mieux je crois et nous fait plus de plaisir.

Mes amities à votre Bébé.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite amie qui vous aime beaucoup.

Amalia West

Flora vous embrasse.

A.W.

British Legation

Washington

3 May 1885

It has been a long time my good Amy since I have written you, but this week I have had much to do. You should ask yourself "What have I done in order to not find even a tiny moment to write you." I feel guilty because, all this week Flora and I have only played tennis with my fiance, Monsieur Mesia and Mattie Mitchell. You should thus understand that I have not had a moment to write letters. I should reply to everyone and I have not begun.

I am charmed that you like our photographs. I hope that some time they will remind you of your petites amies who love you well and who think of you very often. You are very gentaille!

Imagine my good Amy that yesterday evening I had had a good evening at the house of Mme de Struve. It was a kind of little concert where everybody invited sang in choir all sorts of little songs. I was invited because supposedly there would not be many people. But there was none of this "not many people." It was a real soiree where I had a lot of fun. Tonight I go to a little supper at Monsieur Mesia's, given in the honor of Miss Mattie Mitchel, there there will be hardly anyone, we three, Mattie, Papa, and then the two secretaries of the Spanish Legation will be there. That is going to be very amusing. You should think that I am very worldly! That is nothing, I love you so! Monsieur Valera is coming to see us to play tennis. He is so nice!

Flora will write you soon. We like to write you separately. That is better I believe and gives us more pleasure. Good wishes to your Bébé.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Your petite amie
 who loves you a great deal
 Amalia West

Flora sends you a kiss.

Notes: Juanito Mesía de la Cerda was Juan Valera’s nephew, the son of his sister Ramona. Mesía was referred to as extravagant and insupportable, he stirred up a great deal of commentary in Washington Society, almost all of it bad. His reputation for womanizing was supported by his own letters to his friends in Spain [7], and Valera complained about him in his own letters, “Mi sobrino don Juanito anda mucho con algunas señõritas que le hallan sobrado ameno.”

Amalia later refers to him as having gone crazy in China and being sent back to the U.S. in a straitjacket. Amalia is referred to as never having had a serious relationship with a man. This letter suggests that she was indeed romantically linked with the fey Mesia. The photographs referred to likely include those pictured earlier of Amalia and the three West sisters.

Mattie Mitchell is mentioned in *Famous American Belles*[21], p. 272. She later became Duchess de Rochefoucauld by marrying François, the fifth Duke (1853-1925). She was the daughter of a Senator from Oregon and reputedly took \$300,000 into her nobel marriage.

Letter to Miss Heard, 125 Marlborough Street, Boston,
 from Victoria West at the British Legation.

Dated 8 May 1885 Victoria did not sign the letter, but it is her handwriting. Flora added the last line.



8 Mai 1885

Chère Amy,

C’est mon tour à vous écrire en réponse à votre bonne longue lettre. Vous amusez vous toujours autant à Boston?

J'ai été passé deux jours à Baltimore pour voir la Birmess c'était très joli; il y avait des costumes magnifiques, et si je n'avais pas eu si mal aux dents je me serais bien amusée. Ici c'est toujours la même chose; nous jouons tennis presque tous les jours avec Mattie Mitchell, Mesia, et Bouton de Rose qui est revenue de ~~Baltimore~~ New York plus moqueur et plus taquin que jamais. Il n'est plus si gentil avec moi; son séjour à New York l'a gâté.

Mardi prochaine, nous aurons les courses pour quatre jours. Jeudi dernier nous sommes allées avec notre bande ordinaire à un concert pour entendre chanter Miss Thursby qui a une bien jolie voix. On voit très peu Monsieur Valera. maintenant car il est toujours souffrant. Mesia nous donne des petits soupers de temps en temps; pauvre bèbè il [est] bien bon. Si vous pouvez seulement le voir dans sans costume de tennis comme il est drôle. Il a l'air tout a fait d'un petit garçon. Nous allons avoir un autre attaché à notre Legation. Il est marié. Il ne sont pas encore à Washington mais ils sont à New York. Nous allons aller pour cet été à New London tous ensemble. Cela sera bien plus amusant.

Au revoir chérie Amy. Amalia me charge de vous embrasser bien bien fort et moi je fais de même.

Bien des choses à votre Bébé. Votre petite amie. Flora S. West.

British Legation
8 May 1885

Dear Amy,

It is my turn to write you in response to your good long letter. Do you always amuse yourself enough in Boston? I had passed two days in Baltimore to see the Birmess. It was truly very nice; they had magnificent clothes, and if I had not had such tooth aches I would have had a lot of fun. Here it is always the same thing; we play tennis nearly every day with Mattie Mitchell, Mesia and Bouton de Rose who came back from New York mocking and more teasing than ever. He is no longer so nice with me, his stay in New York spoiled him!

Next Tuesday, we will have races for four days. Last Thursday we went with our usual band to a concert to hear Miss Thursby, who has a very pretty voice, sing. Monsieur Valera is seen very little now because he is always suffering. Mesia gives us little suppers from time to time; Poor Bébé, she is very good; if you could only see her in her tennis costume, how droll it is; she has the exact air of a little boy. We are going to have another attache in our Legation. He is married, they are not yet in Washington but they are in New York. We are going to go to New London together. That will be much more enjoyable.

Au revoir dear Amy. Amalia charges me to embrace you very, very strongly and I do the same.

Good wishes to your Bébé. Your petite Amie. Flora S. West

Letter to Miss Heard, 125 Marlborough Street, Boston,
forwarded to Care of John Heard Esq., Ipswich, from Amalia West, British Legation

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
3 Juin 1885

Pas encore de réponse à ma lettre ma bonne Amy, je commence à croire que vous m'oubliez. J'espère que je me trompe.

Vous n'avez pas une idée combine je voudrais avoir une petite lettre de vous pour me montrer que vous pensez encore à votre petite amie. J'attribue ce long silence à ce que vous devez être bien occupée à faire vos preparatifs pour Mount Desert. Nous partirons pour New Londan à la fin du mois prochain et y resterons jusqu'à Octobre. Je vous écrirai très souvent une fois là bas mais à condition que vous en fassiez de même. Il y aura toute une "party" de diplomates, ce qui rendra notre séjour plus agréable. Tous les Struve s'en vont en Russie le mois prochain et mon fiancé s'en va aussi pour le mariage de sa soeur. Donnez mes meillieures amitiés à votre 2eme bébé. Comme je voudrais être à sa place pour deux minutes afin de vous embrasser.

Ecrivez moi bientôt ma bonne Amy. En attendant je vous embrasse de tout mon coeur.

Votre petite amie
qui vous aime bien
Amalia West

P.S. Vous m'excuserez je vous prie pour l'adresse qui est fort mal écrit et taché mais mon papier-buvard a raté son office.

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
3 June 1885

Still no response to my letter, my good Amy, I am beginning to think that you forget me. I hope that I am wrong. You have no idea how much I would like to have a little letter from you to show me that you still think of your petite amie. I attribute this long silence to the fact that you are very occupied making your preparations for Mount Desert. We leave for New London at the end of next month and will stay there until October. I will write you very often once there but on the condition that you do the same. There will be quite a party of diplomats there which will render our stay more agreeable. All the Struves go away to Russia next month and my fiance goes also for the marriage of his sister. Give my best wishes to your 2nd bébé. How I wish to be in her place for two minutes in order to embrace you.

Write me soon my good Amy. In waiting I embrace with all my heart.

Your petite amie
who loves you well
Amalia West

P.S. You will excuse me please for the address which is very badly written and stained but my blotter failed to work.

Notes: Amalia never married the fiancé whom she refers to or anybody else.

Chapter 6

1886

Letter to Miss Heard, 28 West 18th Street, NY,
from Amalia West. dated 28 February 1886.

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
28 Février 1886.

Quel gentil petit mot Jolaille, que celui que [vous] avez mis dans la lettre de Flora. Au premier abord, elle ne l'avait ps vu, quand j'ai vu que vous lui écriviez une si longue lettre et que votre petite amie n'avait rien je me suis mes en colère contre vous en disant, que vous ne m'aimiez plus. Mais comme j'ai été vachée, lorsque Flora allait déchirérer son enveloppe y a regardé trouvé votre petit mot qui m'a fait tant de bien. Pourquoi Jolaille avez vous souligné "sans y penser"? Aurais je, sans le savoir, conquis un des ces coeurs masculins qui sont généralement si durs à vaincre?

S'il en est ainsi vous devriez m'avertir, j'aimerais savoir à qui ce coeur appartient! Mais comme je vous l'ai dit je ne le croirai jamais. Pauvre Jolaille, je suis bien peinée d'apprendre que vous êtes inquiète de votre Papa, Cuba lui fera du bien j'en suis sûre. La maison me parait si triste depuis que Papa et Victoria sont partis ils me manquent beaucoup et serai bien contente quand ils reviendront. L'autre soir Flora et moi sommes allées dîner chez Mmme Reutershiöld en famille. C'était bien gentil de sa part de nous inviter. Après le diner nous avons chanté tous les airs de la Mascotte avec Monsiuer Pedroso et Monsieur Reutershiöld. Malgré cela j'étais bien triste. Comme Victoria est heurese de vous avoir vu. C'est moi qui aurait bien vouler être à ca place!.

Au revoir ma
Jolaille mille baisers

de votre petite amie

Amalia West

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
28 February 1886

What a nice little word, Jolaille, that which you put in the letter to Flora. At first she did not see it. When I saw that you wrote her such a nice long letter and that your petite amie had nothing, I became angry with you, saying that you no longer loved me. How mad I was. Then Flora was going to tear up the envelope and found there your little word which made me all better. Why Jolaille have you underlined “without thinking of it.” Had I, without knowing it, conquered one of these masculine hearts which are generally so hard to vanquish?

If it is so you should warn me, I would love to know to whom this heart belongs! But as I told you I will never believe it. Poor Jolaille, I am very pained to learn that you are worried about your Papa, Cuba will do him good, I am sure of it. The house seems so sad since Papa and Victoria left. I miss them a great deal and would be well content when they return.

The other night Flora and I went to dine at the house of Mme Reutershiold. It was very nice on her part to invite us. After the dinner we sang all of the airs of the Mascotte with Monsieur Pedroso and Monsieur Reutershiold. In spite of that I was very sad. How happy Victoria is to have seen you. It is I who would have well wanted to be in her place!

Au revoir my Jolaille. A thousand kisses.

From your petite amie
Amalia West

Notes: “Jolaille” like “gentaille” does not exist in any dictionary I have. There is a suffix -aille which adds a sense of multitude and a perjorative sense to words, e.g., mangeaille for a quantity of mediocre food; but this does not seem to fit the affectionate use of these words. Victoria later refers to her father as Jolaille. Perhaps these are home-made words based on “gentille” and “jolie.” La Mascotte is Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Sorcerer*.

Letter to Miss Heard, 18 Commonwealth Ave., Boston,
from Amalia West, British Legation.
Dated 6 March 1886.



British Legation
Washington
6 Mars 1886

Vilaine Jolaille que ne me répond jamais!

Si je ne savais pas que vos yeux vous faisaient mal, je me facherais!

Victoria et Papa sont enfin arrivés at Ottawa, après avoir été arrêtés en route à cause de la neige, le train ne pouvait plus avancer. D'après ses lettres elle a l'air de bien s'amuser.

C'est votre petite Malia qui voudrait être là bas!

C'est assomment d'être la troisième, mais d'un autre côté si je me l'étais, je ne servis pas votre préférée, et cela ne ferait jamais.

Nous allons nous lancer la semaine prochaine tous les soirs, depuis mercredi jusqu'à Samedi nous irons au théâtre voir "Judic". Il faut aussi que nous ayons un peu d'amusement. J'aime tellement être en l'air. Cette jeunesse comme vous l'appellez est frivole quelquefois, mais elle vois aime bien. Tout le monde a été très gentil à Boston pour Victoria je suppose qu'elle vous aura écrit toutes les nouvelles. Comment va votre Papa? Et vous ma bonne Jolaille comment cela va? Vous ennuyez vous beaucoup? Se je vous avez vous seriez bien gaïe car je ne vous permettrai pas d'être triste, à quoi cela sert? à rien du tout.

Malgré ce raisonnement je le suis presque toujours. belle avance, je n'ai personne pour me consoler! Ma Jolaille n'est pas là!

La vieille Endicott va bien, Flora est allée avec elle bien souvent aux bals et aux soirées. Mme Endicott n'est pas bien elle a mal à la gorge.

Les yeux de Mme Boumy sont à peu près la même chose, elle ne peut pas s'en servir.

Mille baisers de votre petite amie que vous aime.

Amalia

British Legation
 Washington
 6 March 1886

Villainous Jolaille who never replies! If I did not know that your eyes were bad, I would become angry! Victoria and Papa finally arrived in Ottawa, after having been stopped en route because of the snow, the train could advance no farther. After her letters she has the air of having a good time. It is your little Amalia who would like to be there! It is deathly boring to be the third, but on the other hand, if I were not that, I would not be your favorite, and that would never do. We are going to throw ourselves into every night next week, since Wednesday up to Saturday we are going to the theatre to see “Judic.” It is also necessary for us to have a little amusement. I so love to be in the air. This youth as you call it is frivolous sometimes, but it loves you well. Everyone was very nice in Boston to Victoria. I suppose that she will have written you all the news. How is your Papa doing? And you my good Jolaille, how are you doing? Are you very bored? If I had you I would not permit you to be sad. What does that serve! Nothing at all. In spite of that reasoning, I am sad almost always. Good advance, I have no one to console me! My Jolaille is not there!

The old Endicott is doing well, Flora went with her very often to balls and soirees. Mme Endicott is not well, she has a sore throat. The eyes of Mme Boumy are about the same, she cannot use them.

A thousand kisses from your petite amie who loves you.

Amalia

Notes:

Mme Endicott is Mary Endicott, the daughter of William Endicott, the Secretary of War. She married a British statesman Joseph Chamberlain who came in 1886–1887 to negotiate the fisheries treaty. There are several letters from Mary Edicott to Amy. Judic was a popular actress who played with the Opéra-Bouffe company, the “long established darling of the boulevards.” In the *Annals of the New York Stage* she is referred to as “perhaps the most artistic representative of the species ever seen in this country.” She was “recognized by connoisseurs as a comedienne of the first rank. As the Herald repeatedly pointed out, she depended, not, like previous performers of this school, on winks and kicks and flirting of skirts, but on genuine comedy touches and sustained working out of character and situations.” The *Annals* goes on to say that “On October 6th [1885] the new star made a big hit (at least with the discriminating) in *La Femme á Papa* ...”

Mrs. Henry Adams refers to her in a letter also containing a diatribe against Sara Bernhardt. She mentions Judic in “*Femme á Papa*” in a letter from Paris to her

father on 28 December 1879. She describes her as “very good,” but says that she had never seen a “draggier, sillier, longer dose of nonsense” than the play.

Madame Boumy is pictured with the West sisters in the photo shown earlier.

Letter to Miss Heard, 18 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA,
from Amalia West in the British Legation

British Legation
Washington
9 Mars 1886

Ma Jolaille,

Comme je suis gentaille, je vous écris bien souvent, bien souvent, et vous, vous ne m'écrivez plus du tout.

Nous avons reçu des nouvelles du Canada, où Victoria je vous assure s'amuse bien, elle est beaucoup fêtée et Lord et Lady Lansdowne sont très gentils pour elle.

Jolaille, est ce vrai que pauvre le perdre son père? J'ai lu cela dans les journaux d'aujourd'hui, Mon Dieux j'espère bien que ce n'est pas vrai!

Pauvre Dora Miller vient de perdre son père, que c'est donc triste la mort. Ne nous en allez pas Jolaille!

Demain soir nous commençons notre semaine de théâtre, je me rejouis d'avance. Nous commençons bien le Carême, mais vraiment il faut saisir l'occasion aux cheveux. Nous serons bonnes tout le reste du Carême. Votre bébé va-t-il bien?

Au revoir Jolaille. Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite amie.

Amalia West

British Legation
Washington
9 March 1886

My Jolaille,

How gentaille I am to write you so often, and you, you no longer write me at all. We have received news from Canada, where Victoria is having fun, I assure you, she

is much feted and Lord and Lady Lansdowne are very good for her. Jolaille, is it true that poor Greger lost his father? I read that in today's paper, My God I hope that it is not true.

Poor Dora Miller just lost her father. How said death is. Don't you ever go away, Jolaille!

Tomorrow evening we begin our week of theatre, I am already rejoicing. We will begin Lent, but it is truly necessary to seize the occasion. We will be good for all the rest of Lent. Is your bébé well?

Au Revoire, Jolaille. Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Your petite amie,
Amalia West

Notes: There was a Senator John Franklin Miller from California who died in 1886 (b. 1831); perhaps the father of Dora. Greger was a rich young secretary of the Russian legation according to Mary Alsop. Lord Lansdowne (Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice) had been Governor General of Canada since 1883, following long service in the British Government including the House of Lords, Lord of the Treasury under William Gladstone from 1869 to 1872, undersecretary of war from 1872 to 1874, and undersecretary of state for India in 1880. His wife was the former Lady Maud Evelyn Hamilton.

Letter to Miss Heard, 18 Commonwealth Ave., Boston,
from Victoria West.

The date is probably 11 March 1886 since the letter is dated Thursday and it was found with the Sunday 14 March 1886 letter.

Government House
Ottawa

Jeudi

Ma bien chère Amy,

J'ai une minute à moi ce matin, aussi je me dépêche de vous envoyer un mot, écrit avec une plume à oie, car nous sommes dans une maison Anglaise. Les Lansdownes

sont tout ce qu'il y a de plus aimables pour nous; ils sont charmants. Les aides-de-camp aussi. Un d'eux a épuisé une nièce de Lady L., Lady Florence Anson; elle est très jolie, mais très timide.

J'étais fameusement intimidée quand je suis arrivée; mais maintenant, je me sens plus "at home."

Nous avons eu un grand diner de 24 personnes hier au soir; nous aurons un grand bal ce soir un autre diner demain, "a tobagganing and skating party" Samedi; et je ne me rappelle plus le liste. Vous voyez qu'on rend bien soin de nous ici; c'est si distingué; le tout ensemble; cela vs ferait plaisir à vois, vous qui aimez les choses grandioses!

Je ne sais pas jusqu'à quand nous resterons, je pense que nous partirons Mercredi ou Jeudi.

Maintenant, j'ajouterai un mot sur ma visite à Boston. Tout la monde a été très amable; nous avons diné avec Mr Guild et les Minot; j'ai rencontré une masse de monde dont je ne me rappellerai jamais les noms; J'aurait bien aimé rester là plus long temps. Quel dommage que je n'ai pas pu voir votre frère; il est venu quand j'étais sortie; Max et moi avons échangé deux mots et un baiser. She is such a fine girl, et un tint ravissant. – Je ne sais pas si nous resterons plus d'une nuit à N.Y. à notre retour; je vs tiendrai au courant. Dites à votre frère combien je regrette ne pas l'avoir vu, j'aurais bien voulu voir votre Maman aussi.

Au revior ma chère; on m'appelle pour partir en vaisseau; je vs quitte à regret.

Votre amie
Victoria

Government House
Ottawa

Thursday

My very dear Amy,

I have a minute to myself this morning, so I am hurrying to send you a word, writen with a goose plume since we are in an English house. The Lansdownes are as friendly as could be for us; They are charming. The aides-de-camps also. One of them married a niece of Lady L., Lady Florence Anson; she is very pretty, but very timid.

I was famously intimidated when I arrived; but now I feel more “*at home*” We had a grand dinner with 24 people yesterday evening; we will have a grand ball this evening, another dinner tomorrow, “*a tobagganing and skating party*” Saturday; and I forget the rest. You see how they take great care of you here; everything is so distinguished; you would be pleased to see it, you who love grandiose things!

I do not know how long we will stay, I think that we leave Wednesday or Thursday.

Now I will add a word on my visit to Boston: everyone was very friendly; we dined with Mr. Guild and the Minots; I met a mass of people whose names I never remember; I would have well liked to stay there longer. what I pity that I was unable to see your brother; he was busy when I left; Max and I exchanged ten words and a kiss. She is such a *fine girl* and has ravishing color. — I don’t know if we will stay more than one night in N.Y. during our return; I will keep you current. Tell your brother how much I regret not having seen him; I would have well liked to see your mother also.

Au revoir, my dear. I am being called to go. I leave you with regret.

Your friend,
Victoria

Notes:

Lord Lansdowne was the Governor General of Canada. Victoria went regularly in winters to visit them. They were well known for their love of sledding and tobagganing. In Victoria’s “Book of Reminiscences,” which she wrote in 1922, she remembers one of her favorite games which Lady Lansdowne had taught her—rubbing her bare feet in the thick rugs and then lighting a gas burner with her nose or shocking others with her touch. The Minot family is mentioned in both Mrs. Henry Adams’ letters and in Cleveland Amory’s *The Proper Bostonians* [4]. Max is Amy’s sister, Helen Maxima Heard.

Letter to Amy Heard at 18 Commonwealth Ave., Boston,
from Amalia West at the British Legation.

Dated 14 March 1886.

A.W.

British Legation
Washington
14 Mars 1886

Ma Jolaille,

J'ai parfaitement compris ce que vous m'avez dit dans votre lettre à propos du genre masculin, mais cela je crois ne me fera pas changer d'idée. Je suis entêtée pour ce sujet là. C'est moi qui étais étonnée de voir que vous étiez à Boston!

Voilà qui est ennuyeux d'être malade!

C'est comme la malheureuse Victoria qui a été aussi malade au Canada et là bas la maison est pleine de jeunes gens le plus terrible de tout c'est qu'il y avait aussi Hardinge qui a toujours soin de lui dire quand elle est malade "Je suppose que vous ne sortirez pas du tout aujourd'hui avec un air de garde malade. Cela agace Victoria. Oh! Les femmes! Je suis bien contente que votre bébé ne sait pas ce que c'est d'être triste c'est bien heureuse pour elle! La maman ne peut pas en dire autant! Nous nous sommes bien amusées cette semaine. Judic est ci charmante et gracieuse. Toutes les pièces qu'elle a jouées sont très jolies et ses rôles lui sont bien. C'est dommage que tout soit fini le seul plaisir que nous avons eu on est de revoir Papa et Victoria et Monsieur Hardinge aussi, je l'aime bien, il est très gentil pour moi. Ils reviennent tous Mercredi, jour que j'attends avec impatience.

Au revoir Jollaille. Mille baisers de votre petite amie.

Amalia West

p.s. Comment va votre père? S'est-il remis de ses fatigues?

British Legation
Washington
14 March 1886

My Jolaille,

I perfectly understood what you told me in your letter a propos the masculin gender, but I don't think that that will make me change my mind. I am stubborn on that subject. It is I who was astonished to see that you were in Boston! See who is said to be sick!

It is like the unhappy Victoria who was so sick in Canada and there the house is full of young men. The most terrible of all is that there was also Hardinge who always takes care to tell her when she is sick "I suppose that you will not leave at all today" with the air of a nurse. That irritates Victoria. Oh! Women! I am well content that your bébé does not know what it is to be sad. It is very happy for her! Her mother cannot tell her enough! We have had a good time this week. Judic is so charming and gracious. All of the plays that she has done are very pretty and her roles suit her well. It is a pity that all will be finished. The only pleasure that we

had known is to receive Papa and Victoria and Monsieur Hardinge also. I love him well, he is so nice for me. They all return Wednesday, a day I await with impatience.

Au revoir Jolaille. A thousand kisses from your petite amie.

Amalia West

How is your father? Has he recovered from his fatigue?

Notes:

Charles Hardinge was on Sackville-West's staff as a junior legation secretary in Washington and was reputed to be madly in love with Victoria. He later became Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. His grandfather was Governor General of India and Field Marshall, his father was a member of Parliament. Charles was later the head of the Foreign Office during the reign of Edward VII.

Letter to Miss Heard, 18 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass,
from Victoria West, Government House, Ottawa.

Dated 14 March 1886.

*Government House
Ottawa*

Dimanche 14 Mars

Ma bien chère Amy,

Quel dommage que nous n'allons pas nous rencontrer à New York à mon passage! Cependant ce qui me console un peu est de penser que vous avez "a good time" à Boston. Je regrette tellement que nous ne nous soyons pas rencontrés dans nos visites là; je vous ai déjà dis cela dans une lettre que j'ai envoyer à New York et que, j'espère, vous aurez reçu.

Dans cette lettre, je vous ai parlé de mes premières impressions qui ont été excellentes mais qui sont encore meilleures, car Lady Landsdowne est la bonté même, et son mmari est charmant ainsi que le reste du "household", comme on les appelle. Pendant notre visite, que nous terminons demain, cela n'a été qu'une succession de fêtes et de diners; cependant nous sommes beaucoup plus tranquils depuis le Mercredi des Cindres, car les Canadiens sont très strictes pendant le Carême.

Nous serons à Washington Mercredi soir, nous arretons à New Yourk pour passer la nui de Mardi. Je suis bien fâchée d'avoir manque Judic à Wash. Monsieur Roustan

m'avait gardé une place dans sa loge pour chaque représentation; mes soeurs sont allées chaque soir; c'est du joli! Mai je n'ai rien dit, car les pauvres petites m'ont écrit qu'elles s/ennuyaient tout sans nous; il leur faut bien quelque distraction.

Je serai vraiment bien contente de les revoir, quoique je termine notre visite avec beaucoup de regrets, car tout le monde a été si gentil pour nous.

Vous auriez beaucoup aimé la fête de ??? de Samedi le 13, c'était tout à fait féérique.

Dites mille choses très aimable de ma part à Miss Minot et a mes amis de Boston, j'aimerais tant retourner parmi eux, et cela est vraiment sincère, car on a été si aimable pour moi pendant notre visite. Est-ce qu'ils ont trouvé agreéable mon fidèle serviteur, Mr Hardinge? Il est aux anges ici, avec les vieux amis de collègue, les aides-de-camp! Mon Jolaille est de très-bonne humeur, car on a bien traité sa Vicky!

Au revoir, ma chère Amy, mille amities à votre frère; croyez toujours à ma bien sincère affection.

Votre amie
Victoria

*Government House
Ottawa*

Sunday 14 March

My very dear Amy,

What a pity that we did not meet in New York during my passage! Nevertheless what consoles me a little is to think that you had "a good time" in Boston. I regret so that we did not meet during our visits there; I have already told you that in a letter that I sent to New York and that, I hope, you will have received.

In this letter, I told you of my first impressions which were excellent, but which are still better, because Lady Lansdowne is goodness itself, and her husband is charming as well as the rest of the "household" as they are called. During our visit, which we end tomorrow, it has been nothing but a succession of parties and dinners; nevertheless we are much more tranquil since Ash Wednesday because the Canadians are very strict during Lent. We will be in Washington Wednesday night, we stop in New York to spend Thursday night. I am quite angry to have missed Judic in Washington; Monsieur Roustan had saved me a place in his loge for each performance. My sisters

went every night; isn't that nice! But I did not say anything, because the poor little ones wrote me that they were sad without us; they have to have some distraction.

I will be truly well content to see them again, however I end our visit with many regrets, because everyone has been so nice to us.

You would have really loved the party of ?? of Saturday the 13th; it was truly a fantasy.

Give a thousand good wishes from me to Miss Minot and to my friends in Boston; I would like to return among them; and that is truly sincere, because they were so friendly to me during our visit. Did they find agreeable my faithful serviteur, Mr. Hardinge? He is with the angels here, with his old college friends, the aides-de-camp! My Jolaille is in very good humor, because everyone has well treated his Vicky!

Au Revoir, my dear Amy. A thousand good wishes to your brother; believe always in my very sincere affection.

Your friend,
Victoria

Letter to Miss Heard, Commonwealth Ave., Boston.
from Amalia
Dated 27 March 1886.



British Legation
Washington
Samedi Soir
(27)

Ma Jolaille,

Voilà bien longtemps que je n'ai pas causé avec vous, on dirait que je deviens paresseuse! Mais cela n'est pas, j'attendais une lettre de vous tous ces jour-ci qui n'est pas venue à mon grand regret. Quand je vois votre écriture Jolaille, je suis bien heureuse, vos lettres sont toujours si gentilles.

Nous sommes de nouvelles tous ensemble, je suis joliment contente, je m'ennuyais à périr quand, tout notre monde était au Canada. Aujourd'hui, je suis gaïe comme un pinson je ne sais pas ce qui va m'arriver mais c'est mauvais signe avec moi que cette gaité folle. Tant pis j'en profite. Comment va votre petite santé Jolaille? Vous êtes vous amusée où vous restez?

Nous jouons tennis avec Bouton et Monsieur Hardinge toutes les fois que le temps nous le permet. Je m'en donne avec mon partner qui est comme de juste Mr. H. Tout nouveau tout beau! Terrible femme que je ferai si je continue!

Il est vrai qu'il est fort gentil pour moi et je ne sais pas pourquoi je ne lui rendrais pas la pareille. Ce soir Miss Meigs donne une partie de théâtre en l'honneur du Comte Leyden qui va partir pour Athens la semaine prochaine. Ses jeunes gens payent les loges et les jeunes filles le souper. Toutes ~~doivent~~ sont habillées soit en bleu ou en blanc les couleurs de la Bavière je crois. Chaque jeune fille lui a travaillé un petit ouvrage quelconque qui sera donné au souper. C'est assez gentil n'est-ce pas? Comte Sala s'est embarqué aujourd'hui pour l'Amérique de sorte qu'il sera ici bientôt. Je serai contente de le revoir. Avez vous lu dans les journaux que Secretary Manning est très malade et qu'on craint pour sa vie? Ne serait-ce pas terrible s'il venait à mourir? Toutes ces morts m'effrayent terriblement.

Demain soir nous avons 4 Anglais à dîner au grand ennui de Victoria je ne descendrai pas j'en suis pas fâchée!

Mme Boumy a été voir Dr Loring l'autre jour qui lui a dit que ses yeux allaient beaucoup mieux. Pauvre femme, je suis contente pour elle car elle venait à ne plus voir que deviendrait elle? Elle a demandé de vos nouvelles je lui en ai donné avec plaisir ça me faisait du bien d'entendre votre nom. Votre père est-il remis de ses fatigues?

Jolaille, vous devez m'écrire maintenant et ne pas tardez à le faire. Flora Victoria vous envoient un bon baiser et Mmme Boumy bien des choses. Le "Jolaille" qui est a coté de moi me charge to be remembered to you. il est toujours le même et me demande bien souvent si je reçois de vos nouvelles.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite amie
Amalia West

British Legation
Washington
Saturday Night
(27)

My Jolaille,

Well, here it is a long time that I have not spoken with you, one might say that I am becoming lazy! but that is not it, I was waiting for a letter from you all these

days which did not come to my great regret. When I see your handwriting, Jolaille, I am very happy, your letters are always so nice.

We are all newly together, I am extremely content, I was bored to death when everyone was in Canada. Today I am gay like a finch. I do not know what is going to happen to me, but this crazy gaiety is a bad sign with me. Too bad that I profit from it. How is your little health, Jolaille? Are you having fun or are you resting? We play tennis with Bouton and Monsieur Hardinge every time that the weather permits. I give myself some with my partner who is like the sharp Mr. H. *Tout nouveau, tout beau!* What a terrible woman I would be if I continue!

It is true that he is very nice for me and I do not know why I am not the same to him. This evening Miss Meigs is giving a theatre party in the honor of Count Leyden who is going to leave for Athens next week. His young men paid for the seats and the young women for the dinner. All were dressed either in blue or in white, the colors of Bavaria, I believe. Each young girl wrought some little work for him which was given at the supper. That is nice enough, is it not? Count Sala embarked for America today so that he will be here soon. I will be happy to see him again. Have you read in the papers that Secretary Manning is very sick and that they fear for his life? Won't it be terrible if he dies? All of these deaths frighten me terribly.

Tomorrow night we will have 4 Englishmen to dinner to the great worry of Victoria. I will not descend. I am not angry about it!

Madame Boumy saw Dr. Loring the other day who told her that her eyes were much better. Poor woman, I am happy for her because she was beginning to no longer see. What was becoming of her? She asked for news of you. I gave it to her with pleasure. It makes me feel good to hear your name. Has your father recovered from his fatigue?

Jolaille, you must write me now and not wait to do it. Flora and Victoria send you a big kiss and Madame Boumy good wishes. The "Jolaille" who is at my side charges me to be remembered to you. He is always the same and asks me very often if I receive news of you.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Your petite amie
Amalia West

Notes:

Miss Meigs may be a daughter of General Meigs of Washington. A daughter of General Meigs married Archibald Forbes, an English war correspondent who knew the Blaines and Oscar Wilde. Count Casimir von Leyden was a secretary in the German Legation who arrived in Washington in 1883. Daniel Manning (1831–1887) was the successor of S. J. Tilden as leader of the NY Democrats in 1877 and was

instrumental in gaining Grover Cleveland the nomination for Governor of New York and U.S. President. He was appointed secretary of the treasury in 1885 and resigned in 1887, supposedly because of ill health. The real reason, however, was reputed to be Manning's continued friendship with Tilden, who was trying to be the power behind the throne.

Letter to Miss Heard
 from Victoria West, British Legation, Washington.
 Dated 31 March 1886.



Washington
 31 Mars 86

Ma bien chère Amy,

Je me hasarde à envoyer cette lettre chez Mrs Dorr, quoique j'ai bien peur que vous ne soyez plus chez elle; mais enfin, je pense qu'on vo l'enverra.

J'ai été bien occupée depuis mon retour; je trouve toujours tant à faire à la maison. L'association reste beaucoup chez elle, mais je vois davantage nos amis; il y a encore pas mal de diners; on en a donné une masse au Comte Leyden. Vous avez peut-être entendu parler du souper Miegs; toute la ville en parle, car la pauvre fille a eu la maladresse d'inviter 6 jeunes filles (dont une et Mme Cameron) et 6 Messieurs à un souper chez elle pour le Comte Leyden en les priant de payer chacun leur part. C'est maladroit, petit et commun, n'est-ce pas? J'étais de cette partie.

Le souper était très bon et très gai; au dessert, on a fait une distribution de cadeaux au Comte Leyden qui est devenu très nerveux et a failli en renverser la table. Nous avons fait chacune une petite ouvrage comme souvenir; le mien était une petite pelote en pluche rouge, avec ses initiales, sa couronne et la date brodée dessus.

Une autre chose dont on a beaucoup parlé est le bal poudré de charité que Mrs Whitney devait donner demain pour le Mi-Carême. Il paraît qu'elle était dans tous ses états car personne de la bonne société ne voulait y aller; bien des personnes ne voulaient pas avoir l'ennui de se poudrer; les 5 dollars qu'on devait payer pour y aller passaient encore! Heureusement que la grand-mère de Mrs Whitney est morte hier, et qu'alors le bal n'aura pas lieu. J'en suis joliment content.

Nous avons eu un diner d'Anglais dimanche; parmi eux, un très jeune Lord Russell que vous verrez probablement à Boston, car il y va plus tard. Il était Samedi chez

Mrs Loring qui était dans la fou de pouvoir le présenter à tout le monde, car vous connaissez sa manie.

Voilà quelques-une des nouvelles; je suis bien contente de celles que vous m'avez données de vous, et qu'on soit si gentil pour vous à Boston. Je sais par experience commen on peut y être aimable; vous pouvez dire et redire pour moi à mes amis de Boston combien je leur suis reconnaissante de tout ce qu'ils ont bien voulu faire pour vous. J'ai écrit à Miss Minot pour la féliciter; ce n'est pas le coutume en Angleterre d'envoyer des fleurs comme à Boston; je vous le dis de la part de Mr Hardinge, avec ses respectieux hommages.

Je viens de recevoir à l'instant un joli paravent que Lord Lansdowne vient de m'envoyer comme cadeau; c'est bien aimable à lui, n'est-ce pas? On peut y mettre 3 douz. de photographies. J'aimerais tant en avoir deux de vous, chère Amy.

Au revoir, ma chère et bonne amie; croyez toujours à ma très serieux affection.
Victoria

Washington
31 March 86

My very dear Amy,

I am taking the chance of sending this letter to the house of Mrs. Dorr, however I fear that you will no longer be staying with her; but I think that it will be sent to you.

I have been very occupied since my return; I find always everything to do at the house. Society remains at the house, but I am seeing more of our friends; there are yet enough dinners; a mass of them were given for Count Leyden. You have perhaps heard tell of the Meigs supper; the entire city is talking about it, since the poor girl made the blunder of inviting 6 young girls (of which one was Miss Cameron) and 6 young men to a supper at her house for Count Leyden and asked them to each pay for their part. It is maladroit, petty, and common, is it not? I was with this party. The supper was very good and very gay; at dessert a distribution of gifts was made to Count Leyden, who became very nervous and knocked over the table. We each made a little work as a souvenir; mine was a little red plush ball, with his initials, his crown, and the date embroidered on the outside.

Another thing which has been much talked about is the charity powdered ball that Mrs. Whitney was supposed to give tomorrow for mid-lent. It seems that she is beside herself because no one in good Society wants to go; most people did not want

the bother of powdering themselves; the 5 dollars that one had to pay to go was even more! Happily the grandmother of Mrs. Whitney died yesterday, and hence the ball will not take place. I am very content.

We had an English dinner Sunday; among them, a very young Lord Russell whom you will probably see in Boston, because he goes there later on. It was Saturday at Mrs. Loring's who was in the madness of power presenting him to everyone, because you know her mania.

There you have several bits of news; I am very content with those that you gave me, and that people are so nice to you in Boston. I know by experience how friendly they are there; you can say and resay for me to my friends in Boston how much I recognize all that they wanted to do for us. I wrote to Miss Minot to thank her; it is not the custom in England to send flowers as in Boston; I tell it to you on behalf of Mr. Hardinge, with his respectful compliments.

I just received this instant a lovely folding screen that Lord Lansdowne just sent me as a gift; it is very friendly of him, isn't it? One can put 3 dozen photographs in it. I would so love to have two of you, dear Amy.

Au revoir, my dear and good friend, believe always in my very serious affection.

Victoria

Notes: Miss Mary Cameron was the daughter of Lizzie Cameron , a niece of General Sherman and a good friend of Victoria's.

Flora Paine Whitney was the wife of William C. Whitney, the Secretary of the Navy under Grover Cleveland. He was on the cabinet with Secretary of State Thomas Francis Bayard and Secretary of War William Endicott. The Whitneys were reputed to be the most fun-loving of an otherwise conservative and sober administration. They were elegant and rich enough to entertain lavishly. She was supposed to have entertained over 60,000 people during her stay in Washington. She, along with M. Roustan, was later to be one of the few to see the Sackville-West's final departure from Washington following the Murchison affair.

Letter to Miss Heard, 18 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass,
from Victoria.

The envelope is marked "urgent."

Dated 13 April 1886.



British Legation
Washington
13 Avril 86

Ma bien chère Amy,

Juste un mot pour vous demander un renseignement: ce serait de me faire savoir quand Miss Minot va se marier, si c'est vrai que ce sera la semaine de Pâques? Comme elle a été tout ce qu'il y a de plus aimable pour nos à Boston, et que je voudrais lui montre d'une manière ou d'une autre combien j'ai apprécié sa bonté, j'ai pensé lui faire venir une éventail simple, de Paris, comme "wedding present". Donnez-moi votre avis là-dessus, chère amie; vous savez combien j'aime faire quelque chose d'aimable pour les gens qui ont été gentils pour moi.

Continuez-vous bien vous amuser? Écrivez-moi ce que vous faites et quels sont vos projets.

Nous avons toujours l'idée d'aller en Europe au mois de Juillet; comme j'aimerais vous revoir avant notre départ!

Je viens de finir un livre qui peut-être vous amuserait: "nos grandes dames d'aujourd'hui"; cela parle des plus grandes dames chiques de Paris, la manière dont elles vivent, etc.; le tout ensemble est très distingué; cela va avec nos idées extravagantes; c'est si bon, le grand lux, n'est-ce pas? Nous nous entendons si bien là-dessus.

On me dit que le mariage de Miss Minot est plutôt un mariage de raison que d'indinclination; est-ce vrai?

Vous et moi ne voudrions pas nous marier ainsi! . . .

Et peut-être . . . peut-être que nous le ferons un jour!

Au revoir, ma bonne Amie; dites-moi que je vs demande pour le mariage et le petit cadeau.

Toujours votre toute dévouée
Victoria

British Legation
Washington
13 April 86

My very dear Amy,

Just a word to ask you for some information; it is to let me know when Miss Minot is going to be married, is it true that it is going to be Easter week? Since she has been as friendly as possible to us in Boston, and since I would like to show her in one manner or another how much I appreciate her good wishes, I thought to arrange for her to receive a simple fan, from Paris, as a "*wedding present*" Give me your opinion on it, dear friend; you know how much I love to do something nice for people who are nice to me.

Are you still having fun? Write me what you are doing and what are your projects. We still plan to go to Europe in July; how I would like to see you again before we leave!

I just finished a book which perhaps would amuse you: *Our Grand Ladies of Today*, it speaks of the grandest chic ladies of Paris, the manner in which they live, etc.; all together it is very distinguished; it goes with our extravagant ideas; it is so good, the grand luxury, isn't it? Underneath we understand it so well.

I am told that the marriage of Miss Minot is rather a marriage of reason than of inclination; is it true?

You and I would not like to marry so!...

And perhaps ... perhaps we will do it one day!

Au revoir, my good friend; tell me what I ask for the marriage and the little gift.

Always your devoted friend,
Victoria

The Misses West left Washington for England for the summer with their companion, Mademoiselle Louet. They returned to Washington in the early autumn.

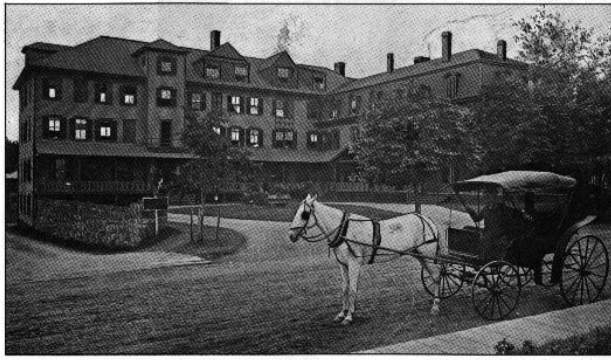
Journal entries.

Bar Harbor
Juillet 1886

V. 16 Juillet Quittai le Belmont aux instances de Mme Dorr, chez laquelle j'allai passer quelque temps. Mme A.A. Low, sa mère, y est.

F. 16 July Quit the Belmont at the insistence of Mrs Dorr, to whose house I went to spend some time. Mme A. A. Low, her mother, was there.

The Belmont was built in 1879 near the corner of Mount Desert and Kebo Streets. It burned down in the great Bar Harbor fire of 1947. Mrs Dorr was Mary Gray Ward Dorr, the wife of Charles F. Dorr of Boston and the mother of George B. Dorr, who later founded Acadia National Park. The Dorr house was called Old Farm, it was reputedly the first well-built house in Bar Harbor. The guest list of the house is in the Bar Harbor Historical Society. In addition to Amy Heard and Russell Gray, the list includes Chester Arthur, Julia Ward Howe, William James, and the elder Oliver Wendell Holmes, who wrote a poem memorializing the house [13]. The house looked out over what is now Dorr's point and its foundation is now Acadia Park land, a short work from the Nannau-Seaside Bed and Breakfast. The house was torn down by the Park Service in 1951, ostensibly because the wiring was bad.



The Belmont Hotel in Bar Harbor



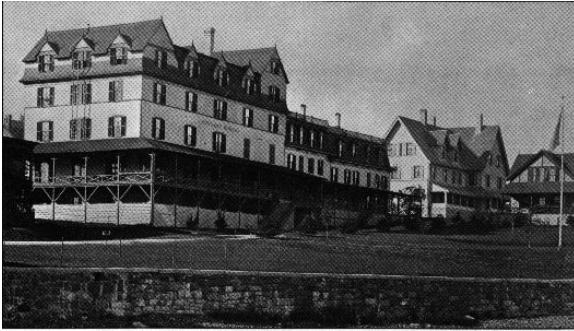
The Old Farm

Sam. 17 Arr. M. Russell Gray.

Sat. 17 Russell Gray arrived.

L. ou M. Arr. de M. Low qui emmène sa femme &
ses enfants ds un jour ou deux.

M. or T. Arrival of Mr Low who brought his wife and children for a day or two.



The Newport Hotel in Bar Harbor

According to the membership list for the Mount Desert Reading Room kept in the Bar Harbor Historical Society, Russell Gray joined on 19 July for one week with the sponsorship of G. B. Dorr. The club had been formed in 1881 from the old Oasis Club for the promotion of “literary and social culture,” but it was best known for its providing a means

for the visitors to evade Maine's prohibition on alcoholic beverages[13]. Members were reputed to sit around, sipping highballs while discussing the stock market and gossip. Writing in the *Boston Transcript* of 1896, Professor Barrett Wendell of Harvard described Bar Harbor as having the “best conversation in America” [9]. Russell Gray's brother John C. Gray, a Harvard Professor of Law and cofounder of the Boston Law firm of Ropes and Gray, also was a member for the summer. Amy Heard's father Augustine became a member in August, giving the Belmont as his address. The final location of the Reading Room is now subsumed by the Bar Harbor Motor Inn, and the restaurant of that establishment maintains the name.

Sam. 24 Ascension de “Newport” avec M. Gray.

Sat. 24 Went up to the “Newport” with Mr Gray.

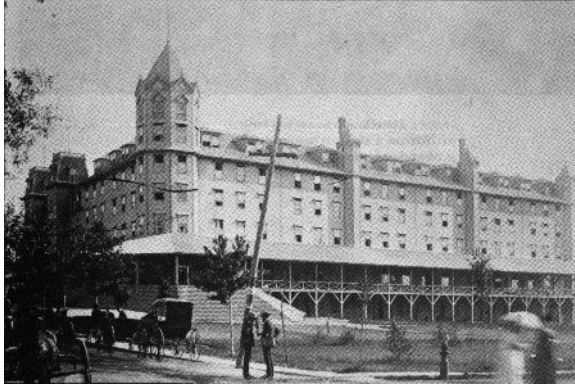
The “select Newport was built in 1869 on site just south of the present-day Agamont Park, near the parking area.” [13] It was torn down in 1938.

Mar. 27 Dép. de M. Gray. Mon retour au Belmont.

Tues. 27 Departure of Mr Gray. My return to the Belmont.

Jeu. 29 Tableaux vivants au Rodick pr l'église Catholique. Moi en Jeanne d'Arc au supplice. Souper Del Monte après.

Thurs. 29 Tableaux vivants at the Rodick presented by the Catholic Church. I was Jeanne d'Arc, supplicant. Dined at the Del Monte afterwards.



The Rodick Hotel in Bar Harbor

The Rodick House was the largest hotel in Bar Harbor (and Maine), housing some 600 guests at peak season. During the peak of Bar Harbor in the Gilded Age, reservations for high season were typically made two years in advance. The Rodick was particularly renowned for its lobby, called the "Fish Pond," where young people met members of the opposite sex. Contemporary accounts suggest that Bar Harbor gave young people a far greater

freedom from chaperones than did Newport [13]. It deteriorated into seediness in the 1890s and was demolished in 1906.

Sam. 31 Dr Longstreth me fait commencer une cure de lait. 2 cuillerées a ??? par heure exclusivement. Ds deux ???, double dose. Ds 8 hours, recommencer à manger nourriture simple & surtout très régulièrement. faiblesse extrême

Sat. 31 Dr Longstreth made me begin a milk cure. 2 spoonfuls per hour exclusively. After 2 ???, double dose. After 8 hours, begin again to eat food that is simple and above all very regularly. Extremely weak.

Août
August

Sa. 14 Retour de M. Gray fiancées.

S. 14 Return of Mr Gray engaged

M. 17 Dép. de Russell.

T. 17 Russell's departure.

Letter from Henry Cabot Lodge, East Point, Nahant
to Russell Gray, Esq, Bar Harbor,
Mt. Desert Maine
congratulating him on his marriage to Amy Heard

Aug – 17th
1886 –

East Point
Nahant

Dear Russell —

I cannot say I am surprised: Your extremely convivial manner when you were here awakened all my worst suspicions.

But I am greatly delighted & congratulate you most heartily & without stint.

From all I hear & know I should say that you were one of the luckiest of men of course most deservedly so.

Please give my kindest regards & warmest congratulations to Miss Heard also for although I would not flatter you I think she too is to be congratulated. I should also insist that without the tedious formalities of acquaintance Miss Heard at once place me among her oldest & most devoted of friends. That this will be strictly logical your philosophical mind however beclouded now will readily discover.

We are hoping to see you both very soon.

Always affectionately & Sincerely

Yrs

H. C. Lodge

Letter of congratulations to Russell Gray
 Barr Harbour, Mount Desert, Maine
 from Justice Oliver Windell Holmes
 Beverly Farms

Beverly Farms
 August 18 1886

Dear Gray

I am interested not only in Miss Heard but in you and I am delighted at the news you so kindly write me. If I could have played the matchmaker I would have done it and I congratulate you both on what I hope and believe will prove the most fortunate as well as greatest step in both your lives.

I look forward to the winter with greater happiness for what you tell her and congratulate myself as well.

????
 OWHolmes

Russell Gray

P.S. As I do not trust "Bar Harbor" — the only address you give — I shall send this to Boston.

Later Mrs Holmes says trust it — after my letter had been directed.

J. 26 A Nahant

Th. 26 To Nahant.

V. 27 Quitté Nahant rejoignant Papa & Mama à B.
& venant à N.Y. 28 W. 18th.

F. 27 Left Nahant. Rejoined Papa & Mama at B. Left for N.Y. 28 W. 18th.

Letters from Isabella Stewart Gardner
to Amy and Russell congratulating them on their engagement.
Letter addressed to Augustine Heard for Amy Heard
39 Nassau St, New York, from Vienna. Address crossed out and replaced by The
Belmont, Bar Harbor, Maine, which was in turn crossed out and replaced by the
original address.

Vienna
August 30

Yours, I have just received, Amy, very dear & altogether delightful cousin (that is
to be). ---

I want to write to you a few red hot & immediate words, althought in one moment
they must go to the post. I am so glad, that I feel you must know it, & my brain is
continually busy with fancies about the future, in all of which I see great happiness
for two people I care much for — you & Russell — & in which I hope I see that your
lief & mine will be much together. Please tell me your plans, everything. Not one
but will be of the greatest interest to

Affy yours

I.S. Gardner

My kindest regards to your friends.

My best love to Aunt Sarah

Vienna

Aug 30

Dear Russell

I am proud of you & so pleased. We have just arrived here & find our letters. Fancy my hands hoveing over you with blessings & good wishes.

I am awfully fond of her & it is a pure delight to me that you & she are of one mind. (At least in one sense!) and please be of one mind in affection for me — I deserve it. I am skipping all over the floor with pleasure & these polished floors make it almost dangerous to be so glad about anything. We sail Nov. 6; Please don't be married before I get there. And don't you ever think of anything but living somewhere in my immediate vicinity —

Always Affy yours and gratefully (for the new cousin)

I.S. Gardner

Please find a moment & pull Mr. Smith (???) out of that funny little Mrs. Amory Faurenar's clutches. I don't want to have him contaminated.

Letter from Geneviève Marshall.

Postmarked 4.IX.86 Bern, Switzerland.

Mailed to Amy care of Miss West, British Legation, Washington, États-Unis
d'Amerique

Forwarded to the Belmont Hotel, Bar Harbor, Mount Desert, Maine
then to 39 Nassau St, New York

Légation d'Angleterre
Berne 3 Sept 1886

My dear Amy

Sir Francis Adams tells me that he has heard from some friends that you are engaged to be married.

This news made me happy. I take a lively interest in anything connected with you and I am very, very glad to think that you have decided to marry. I am sure that your "fiancé" is very nice in every way. Your being engaged to him is a sufficient proof of it. I know you are not "banale" in your likes and dislikes, and a man chosen by you must possess many qualities.

I am most anxious to hear from you and I sincerely hope to get a letter soon.

My last letter, written about a year ago, and a christmas card, both sent to the address you gave me, never got an answer. This time I hope I may get a good “dédommagement.”

I was waiting to write again, since a long time, but life flies in such a way that putting off from one month to the next, a year has past between my letters.

Last year, in Paris, I talked a great deal about you with Mlle Nougiras. I was very glad to hear details about you. She likes you very much and always answered me most sympathetically.

I sang a great many duets with her, which was a great pleasure to me. She went back to Washington this summer.

If you have seen her, she will give me news about you. next month when we go back to Paris. I think she is going to “débuter” soon.

We are in Switzerland since a month and have had a charming time, staying principally with Sir F. Adams.

It is a great delight for me to be here, in the middle of this beautiful nature, and to rest thoroughly from the long Paris winter with its work and its worldliness.

I paint a great deal now, principally portraits and though I love to do it, still, I enjoy my holiday very much. How I should like to do you, when we meet again. I have sometimes very pretty models, amongst my friends.

Now, my dear Amy, write to me soon. Let me know when the marriage is to be and tell me all about your “fiancé.”

Papa and Mama send you their most affectionate “félicitations.”

As for me, dear friend, I rejoice at your happiness and hope it may be as great as you deserve. Je vous envoie un tendre baiser and I remain yours very affectionately.

Genevève Marshall

Sir F. Adams sends you many congratulations.

Letter from Thèrese,
probably Thèrese de Brazza
10 Sept. 1886
(88 rue de Varenne, Paris)

Ma chère Amy,

Je m'empresse de répondre à votre dernière lettre pour vous dire combien vous avez été gentille de m'écrire pour m'annoncer votre engagement, et aussi pour que vous sachiez la part et l'intérêt que je prends dans tout ce qui vous touche et tous les vœux que je fais pour votre bonheur.

Je suis bien fâchée qu'une si longue distance me sépare de vous car j'aurais bien aimé assister à votre mariage; quoique je n'aie pas abandonner tout espoir de revoir l'amérique cette année j'ai bien peur de ne pas y être avant l'hiver. Mais soyez en sure je penserai bien à vous. Votre lettre ma chère, est bien incomplète, vous savez qu'une amie curieuse a besoin de toute sortes de détails... mais il faudra que j'attende patiemment pour cela, que vous avez materiellement le temps d'écrire n'est-ce pas?

Ma mère me charge de toute sortes de bons souhaits pour vous, et me charge de vous feliciter de vous fixer definitivement dans votre pays. Voila une petite insinuation pour sa propre fille — Je suis dans ce moment à la campagne chez ma grand mère où je mène une vie des plus tranquilles — avant de venir ici j'ai de faire une charmante visite à une de mes cousines qui habite un superbe chateau en Normandie, là je me suis beaucoup amusée, la maison etait pleine de gens agréables et nous faisons toutes sortes de parties de plaisir.

Pierre est venu me chercher et nous avons visité Rouen ensembles; cette ville est pleine de choses superbes et interessantes de sorte que nous en avons beaucoup jouis. J'ai entendu dire par mes correspondentes que Victoria Weste avait passé par Paris, si j'avais été là j'aurais probablement su où la trouver car de la revoir avant été un vrai plaisir pour moi. Ecrivez moi ausstôt que vous en avez le emps ma chère amie. J'espère vous revoir bientôt, encore mille voeux bien sincere pour votre bonheur je vous embrasse bien tendrement.

Thèrese

Mes amities a votre famille.

Letter to
Miss A. Heard
Care of Augustine Heard Esq.
39 Nassau St. New York

The next letter is a bit of a mystery. I am guessing the date based on the Arnay-le-Duc postmark of 8 September. There is no indication of the sender on the envelope and the letter is signed simply Mary. The author is writing to congratulate Amy on her upcoming marriage and impart some wisdom based on her own marriage of nine months earlier. The date on the letter looks like 1 1 1886 or 7 7 1886, but neither makes sense since Amy was engaged in August. I hope eventually to track down the identity of the writer.

Coincidentally, I began the transcription and translation of this letter during a European trip, part of which was spent on a hotel barge on the Burgundy canal. The

Côte d'Or is an area in Burgundy, not far from Dijon Ville, where our barge trip began.

Chateau de
Thercey par Arnay-le-Duc

(Côte d'Or)
France
? ??? 1886

Chère amie, Je reconnais que je suis absolument coupable vis-à-vis de toi; voici tout à l'heure ou plutôt aujourd'hui neuf mois que je suis mariée et je ne t'as pas écrit une ligne. Tu es bien gentille et indulgente dans ta lettre et je l'en remercie du fond du coeur en te disant ma vieille affection.

Toi aussi, tu te décides à sauter le pas; c'est dur et très dur de prendre ton élan, et je sais que tu l'as senti comme moi — en fin ce que je peux te dire et maintenant par expérience personnelle, c'est qu'il vaut mieux, à tout prendre, en finir ainsi. On est d'une utilité efficace à un être auquel fatalement on s'attache, puis d'autres intérêts vraiment se mêlent à existence et on se dit alors que Dieu le voulait. Je ne te dis pas, ce serait mentir absolument, qu'il n'y a pas des heures où l'on regrette cette communion avec un "Ideal" qu'on aime d'autant plus qu'on l'a placé plus haut; mais d'un autre côté il en est d'autres où l'on a certaines jouissances — donc, pas de regards vers le passé, c'est évidemment ce qu'il faut.

Juste un an après moi, chère amie tu vas lier l'indissoluble. Tu verras ce qu'il en coûte au dernier moment, mais Dieu est là! et on a tout les énergies nécessaires —

Ce qui me déroute un peu c'est que tu ne me donnes aucun détail, ni sur la façon dont tu as connu M. Russell Gray. Comment il est physiquement et moralement. Si tu fais faire ta photographie et lui la sienne soit avant, soit après votre mariage, envoie moi un spécimen de chaque, tu seras bien gentille. J'en ferai autant dès que mon mari et moi nous serons fait faire, mais il m'en n'était pas question dans la situation dans laquelle je me trouve — j'attends un Baby dans un mois à peine, et c'est là l'immense soutien des heures lourdes, si il en est. — Je te souhaite d'avoir les mêmes espérances que moi —

Tu me demandes des détails sur ma vie, et je recule à t'en donner en un pareil moment, où tu dois être très absorbée. enfin comme tu devines tous les vœux que mon affection fait pour ton bonheur complet, absolu, si il y a moyen, je vais te parler quelque peu de moi — Tu sais que Mons Theurinhomme ??? avait une propriété d'agrément en Bourgogne, ou voici 3 mois que nous y sommes installés. C'est la campagne dans toute l'acception du mot, et pas d'autres ressources que celles qu'on a sous son toit. Mais nous ne sommes pas seuls, Maman est avec nous depuis deux

mois --- Mon père est venu passer 2 semaines--- Mes cousins Parrot dont l'ainé est sous Lieutenant de Cavalerie est ici pour 15 jours, et au milieu de cela des allées et venues perpétuelles d'amis de mon mari. La maison est très très grande, et j'ai de nombreuses chambres à donner de sorte qu'on me réjouit en venant. Le parc est très joli et tout très convenablement arrangé. Mon B Père aimait le confort et s'y entendait. Etant souvent très fatiguée, je trouve bien la tenue de la maison un peu lourde. Mais que pense-tu? Chaque oeuvre ici bas -- à son poids. à l'heure où je t'écris les ??? ont ??? à la gare, une série et rassurent une autre, pour une semaine encore, car dans 15 jours je regagne Paris, (6 rue de Thalsbourg) pour y attendre les événements, notre installations à Paris suffit amplement à mon bonheur; mais elle est très modeste; c'est une question bien secondaire; n'est-ce pas il s'agit que l'oiseau soit heureuse dans sa cage. Mon mari a des habitudes très sédentaires, il travaille beaucoup, tout en ayant pas une profession déterminée et ayant la vue extrêmement faible, qui ne lui permet pas d'écrire ou de lire à la lumière artificielle, je suis assez tenue, lui servant de secrétaire et de lecteur.

Il a des goûts fort peu mondains, et nos sorties de "vrai monde" ne sont pas très nombreuses; mais comme il a énormément de relations nous sommes néanmoins souvent de ci de là. Plustôt de l'intimité qu'autre chose. Cet hiver j'ai été très enrhumé, étant presque toujours malade. Mon père est ravi de son gendre; mais il prétend que c'est son gendre qui est son b père à lui, ayant beaucoup plus de sérieux que lui tu le reconnais bien là. Quant à Maman, elle est aussi heureuse que possible, elle a trouvé dit-elle l'Idéal , et il y a une entente parfaite, le sorte que même la vie en commun est rendue très agréable. J'ai pu le constater ici --- Tu penses si la perspective d'être grande-mère réjouit Maman, elle fait des tricots sans fin, et ??? une layette ???.

Mais finalement assez parler de moi; Je suis désolée de penser que tu ne viendras, même pas en cette circonstance en France.

M. Russell Gray ne peut donc pas distraire deux mois, il n'en faudrait pas plus --- Si par hasard vous voyez que les choses s'arrangent pour que vous puissiez le faire, préviens-moi d'avance pour que je me rejouisse.

Et maintenant chère amie et ??? aimée je t'embrasse comme je t'aime en te disant que Dieu est avec nous j'en ai la foi vive--- Il nous conduira. Encore des tendresse de ta

Mary

Maman me dit qu'elle décrit à ta mère pour les félicitations officielles, mais qu'elle me charge spécialement de t'embrasser tendrement et qu'elle pensera beaucoup à toi.

Dear friend, I realize that I am absolutely guilty vis-à-vis you; here it is immediately or rather today nine months since my marriage and I have not

Letter from Geneviève Marshall
from Thimmerhof (??), Switzerland

Thurs le 14 Sept 86
Thimmerhof

My dear Amy

Your letter reached me the day after I had written to you. I was very very glad that you told me yourself of your marriage, and indeed I was expecting it. I suppose you are very busy preparing for the great day, but but nonetheless I would have liked your letter to have been a little longer, and to contain more details. However, I must be content with what I get and hope in the future.... I cannot understand why you say: “Je ne peux m’empêcher de vous faire part de mon mariage . . .”. Why, my dear Amy, do you say that? I am, I know, a very bad correspondent, but I am also a very true friend, and I never forget, even when I do not write. This time, though, I have been waiting for a letter from you since a year, so that you must forget any past silence. I very often think about you and speak about you, and anything connected with you interests me to the utmost.

If you knew me a little more, you would never suspect me of forgetfulness. Unfortunately you principally know me through my letters, and I am afraid that they are not one of my good points. I hope, dear friend, that after this, you will sit down and write to me a long good letter.

Tell me all about your happiness. I am so glad to know that you are happy. There is so little real happiness about the world that I always feel delighted when some of it comes to my friends. It is so nice that a “fiancée” should speak of her joy; in France, you know, I don’t see much of that. In that respect, as in many others, I feel very thankful not to be a French girl.

I wonder if you will make a trip to Europe, when you are married? That would be so nice. If not, I am afraid our next meeting will have to be postponed for a long time.

I should think you would like living in Boton. After what I hear, there are many resources there, and society has a different cachet from the rest of America.

Anyhow you will enjoy having your own home. It must be so nice to arrange one’s house and one’s life for all the time to come, and to be able to think that it is all for ever.

If you are photographed now, as a fiancée, (which you ought to do) on account of distant friends, do not forget me.

I have just the one I have of you, in a very pretty malachite frame, and look at it very often tu revois. dear Amy, I send you un bon baiser and beg you to believe me always your attached friend.

Geneviève

Write to me to Paris.

I sent my last letter to you to the British Legation; care of Miss West, as I did not know where to address.

?.?. 17 Sbre 1886

Bonne année

Ma chère Amie

En arrivant à la Nouvelle Orlean, je ,’empresse de vous écrire, pour vous exprimer tout le bonheur que j’ai d’apprendre notre mariage, puisque vous avez trouvé celui, qui a été digne de vous épouser.

Depuis longtemps j’attendais votre visite ayant formé en secret des souhaits pour une personne de ma famille à votre égard. Dieu en a voulu autrement!

Je serais bien heureuse de vous revoir! quand aurai-je ce plaisir. Je n’ose pas espérer que ce soit bientôt. Car, je ne pense pas aller à Boston qui est, cependant la seule ville d’Amérique que j’aimerais habiter, tant j’admire ses rues, son architecture et le savoir faire des femmes charmantes que j’y ai connues.

Vous avez donc à venir me faire une visite! Qu’elle soit longue, alors. Nous serez certaine de me rendre heureuse.

Veuillez présenter mes compliments à Monsieur votre mari et réserver pour vous, Bien Chère Amie, l’assurance que de loin, comme de près je serai toujours

votre toute dévouée

M. V. Chaffraix

71 North Rempart

Amy Heard married Russell Gray (1850–1929) in Washington on 3 November 1886.

Nov. 4th 1886

Th. 4 Arr^d 39 Marlbor. St. after 6 PM.

Sat. 20 Eliza Glamlee entered as cook 12 AM at \$5 a week.

1r ou 2 Déc. Mary Endicott déj. avec moi.

1 or 2 Dec. Mary Endicott lunched with me.

4 Sam. Dîner Powell Mason (M, Mme, Mlle), Mme Whitman, Mary End., Mess. Whister, Percy Lowell, Johns, Whister me cond.

4 Sat. Dinner Powell Mason (Mr, Mrs, Miss) Mrs Whitman, Mary End., Mr. Whister, Percy Lowell, Johns, Whister took me to table.

8 Mer. Dîner John Gray avec les Jack Gardners., Amory G. & Swift.

8 Wed. Dined at John Gray with the Jack Gardners, Amory G. & Swift.

The Jack Gardners were Jack, Russell's mother's nephew, and his wife, "Mrs Jack," Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Fri. 10 Dined at the Dorrs. (Dr and Mamie Watson, the Barrett Wendells, Dr Wendell took me to table, Geo. Dorr on the other side).

Sat. 11 Morton Prince dined. (Clara Bayson, Peabody.) Aunt Alice to lunch.

Tues 14 First time at the Sewing Circle “Centennial” at Nora Lear’s.

Thurs 16 Dined at Roger Wolcotts. So invited by the Lowells. Mmme Vaughn, her brother H. Parkman, Mr and Mrs Cabot Lodge, Mr and Mrs Teddy Wharton.

Henry Cabot Lodge was the senator from Massachusetts and close friend of Teddy Roosevelt. As a small boy, my father broke into the Lodge compound in Nahant. When caught by the Secret Service and hauled before the Senator and President Roosevelt to be asked what he had come for, he replied that he wished to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and he was seeking an appointment. An amused President suggested he try again in a few years. He did, and was subsequently appointed to Annapolis by Lodge.

Mrs Teddy Wharton could be Edith Wharton, who married Edward Wharton of Boston in 1885. Often referred to as “the female Henry James.” I prefer to think of Henry James as the male Edith Wharton.

Fri. 17 Dined at the Cabot Lodges, Misses Mottey & Clara Payson, Miss Sargent & Hooper.

Dec. 21 Dined at Madame Lowell’s.

25 Sat. Dined with the John Gray family.

26 Sun. Lunch Frank Amory (the Cabot Lodges). Fanny Mason and Will Otis.

28 Tues. Dined with Arth. Robet at the Somerset. (Mme. Wil. Fay, Annie Rotch, Dr Bigels.

30 Lunched with Miss Jack Elliott, Mrs Geo Lee, Higgenson, Arth. Cabot.

31 Dined at Frank Lowell’s.

Chapter 7

1887

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray,
care of Mrs. Horace Gray, Nahant, Mass,
from Amalia in Paris.

Hotel de l'Empire
7, rue Dannon
Paris
19 Juillet 1887

A.W.

Voilà ma bonne Jolaille vos commissions de faites. tous vos gants sont achetés et j'esp'ere qu'ils sont exactement tel que vous le désiriez. Votre lettre m'a fait bien plaicir et je vous assure que vous êtes pour moi toujours ma Jolaille et pas autre chose. Je suis bien fachée d'apprendre que vous n'aimez pas les bébés, mais quand on se marie il faut s'attendre à l'amour maternel viendra ça j'en suis sure. Je ne puis m'imaginer ma bonne aimie mère de famille, quand je pense à vous étant à la maison comme jeune fille cela m'est impossible de croire que vous ne l'êtes plus. et pourtant, je suis la première à trouver que pour vous la meilleure chose était de vous marier. Oui, ma bonne Jolaille c'est ce qui vous fallait, car vous n'etiez pas heureuse quie est la personne qui le sache sache mieux que moi. Je meurs d'envie de vous revoir, mais je suppose que cet hiver se passera sans vous avoir vue, c'est bien triste pour moi, qui vous aime tant. En fin, c'est un plaisir en vue pour plus tard. Depuis que nous sommes à Paris, nous avons eu pas mal d'amusements tous nos amis et amies sont si gentils. Au garden party de "Lord Lyons" notre ambassadeur ici. J'ai vu cette jolie fille dont vous avez le portrait, je crois que son nom est Mlle Marshall. Je ne sais pas comment cela s'ecrit, mais en tout cas elle est bien jolie! Ce garden party était bien beau, c'était en l'honneur du jubili de la Reine, il faut dire aussi que la maison se prête si énormément à embellir n'importe quoi que se sont, c'est si beau et si grand.

C'est moi qui voudrait voir un jardin comme celui d'ici, à Washington. Vous me souhaitez ma Jolaille, d'avoir un jour un bon marie comme le vôtre, mais moi aussi je le souhaite. Mais ils sont si rares, pour le moment il'n y a pas question de mariage pour votre petite Malia, tout ceux qui m'ont fait un bien de coeur cet hiver sont si pauvres, qu'ils ne peuvent se marier, et pourtant ils feraient de bien bons maris, enfin c'est que mon temps n'est pas encore venu il faut avoir de la patience dans ce monde mais vous pouvez être sur que vous serez ma Jolaille la 1ere personne qui le saura, car à vous je vous dirai tout. Paris en ce moment est bien tranquille tout le monde est parti, nous n'avons pas l'intention d'aller nul part, il fait si frais ici, même un peu trop frais. Nous revenons à Londres le mois prochaine et le 19 Septembre nous nous embarquons pour l'Amérique. Papa devait venir avec nous au moins nous rejoindre, mais les fisheries et autre question l'ont em'éche, le pauvre Jolaille a été désappointé il s'était mis dans la tête qu'il viendrait ce qu'il ce quie est beaucoup pour lui, enfin l'année prochaine nous le ferons partir en même temps que nous , comme cela nous serons sure de l'avoir. Quel nom donnerait vous au nouveau petit ou nouvelle petite arrivée? Comment va Max? Cela sera bientôt son tour de se marier. Voilà aussi son frère qui se marie, et quant à bien cet evènement?

Et bien au revoir ma Jolaille. Je vous quitte car il faut que je sorte pour essayer mes robes, en voilà un ennui! Ecrivez-moi bientôt!

Mille baisers
de votre petite Malia

qui vous aime

Bien de chose à votre mari

Hotel de l'Empire
7 rue Dannon
Paris
19 July 1887

Voila, my good Jolaille, your errands are done, all of your gloves are bought and I hope that they are all exactly what you desire. Your letter gave me much pleasure and I assure you that you are always my Jolaille and nothing else.

I am really angry to learn that you do not like babies, but when one marries it is necessary to wait for them and as you say maternal love will come, I am sure. I

cannot imagine my good friend mother of a family, when I think of you being at the house as a young girl, it is for me impossible to believe that you are no longer there, and perhaps, I am the first to find that for you the best thing was to marry. Yes, my good Jolaille, you had to do it, because you were not happy. Who knows better than I. I am dying of longing to see you again, but I suppose that this winter will pass without having seen you, it is very sad for me, who loves you so. In the end, it is a pleasure postponed until later. Since we have been in Paris, we have had a not bad time, all of our friends are so nice. At a garden party of "Lord Lyons" our ambassador here, I saw this pretty girl whose portrait you have, I believe that her name is Miss Marshall. I do not know how that is written, but in any case she is very beautiful, it is in the honor of the Jubilee of the Queen. It is necessary to say also that the house encourages the embellishment of everything, it is so beautiful and so grand. It is I who would like to have a garden like the one here, in Washington. You must wish, my Jolaille, that one day I will have a good husband like yours, but I also wish it, but they are so rare, for the moment there is no question of marriage for your little Malia, all of those who have given me a bit of heart this winter are so poor that they cannot marry, and perhaps they would make good husbands. My time just has not yet come and I must have patience in the world. But you can be sure that you will be my Jolaille the first person who will know, because of us I will tell you everything. Paris at this moment is quite tranquil, everyone has left, we do not have the intention of going anywhere, it is quite cool here. Even a bit too cool. We return to London next month and on 19 September we embark again for America, Papa should have come with us or at least joined us, but the fisheries and another question prevent it. The poor Jolaille is disappointed. He got it into his head that he would be able to do what had become so important for him. Perhaps finally next year we will make him leave at the same time as us, like that we will be sure to have him. What name will you give to the new little boy or girl who is coming? How is Max? It will soon be her turn to marry. Voila also your brother who is marrying, and when does this event take place?

And well, au revoir my Jolaille, I leave you because I have to leave to try my dresses, and there, a worry! Write me soon!

A thousand kisses from your little Malia

who loves you

Good wishes to your husband.

Notes: Mrs. Horace Gray was Russell's mother, formerly Sarah Russell Gardner (1807–1893). Her sister, Elizabeth Pickering Gardner, married Horace's brother John Chipman Gray. Her nephew was John Lowell Gardner, whose wife was the noted "Mrs. Jack" Gardner or Isabella Stewart Gardner, the eccentric who collected art

and founded the Gardner Museum in Boston[24]. Mrs. Jack was also a friend of Mrs. Henry Adams & visited the Heards in Washington.

The Jubilee is the celebration of the fiftieth year of Queen Victoria's reign. The Fisheries Question was a long standing dispute between Britain and America on the rights of U.S. fisherman to fish in Canadian waters. V.'s father had struggled with the issue for several years. It was finally resolved by treaty in 1887–1888. The British negotiator for that treaty was Joseph Chamberlain, who met Victoria's friend Mary Endicott during the negotiations and later married her. Lord Lyons had been the British abassador to France in 1886 when Victoria's father was appointed Secretary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the embassy. Miss Marshall is Genevieve Marshall.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray care of Mrs. Horace Gray, Nahant
from Victoria West.

Forwarded to 39 Marlborough, Boston.

Hotel de l'Empire
7 rue Dannon
Paris
28 Août

Ma bien chère Amy,

Je me demande bien souvent comment vous allez, car il y a longtemps que nous n'avons pas eu de vos chère nouvelles.

Vous serez étonnée de nous savoir encore; mais commes nous avons remis notre voyage au Amérique, nous en profitons pour rester à Paris un peu plus longtemps. J'ai fait votre commision de gants, et j'espère que vous en serez satisfaite, chère amie.

Vous n'avez pas une idée comme j'ai été désappointée quand j'ai su par Lady Darby, que le Minstre des Affaires Etrangères ne pouvait accorder à Papa son conjé; car il a dû été médiateur dans des conférences allemandes-américaines. Je n'ai pas voulu aller à Londres sans lui; même pour la Jubili, quoique ma cousine, Lady Gal-loway, nous avait invitée chez elle. Mais je vous assure que nous ne nous sommes pas ennuyées ici; tout le monde a été d'une amabilité extrême, surtout Lord Lyons et les jeunes gens de notre ambassade. J'ai vu une fois la belle Miss Marshall dont j'admiraais tant le photog. que vs aviez; elle était à la grande partie de jardin que Lord Lyons a donnée pour le jubilé. Je la trouve bien belle.

Je n'ai pas vu Mme Outrey; elle viendra ici probalement vers le 15 Septembre.

Vous serez amusée de savoir que Mr Valera que j'ai vu à Bruxelles et ici, m'a chargée des souvenirs les plus aimables pour "les yeux de vélours"; il a toujours la

plus profonde admirations pour vous, ma chère. C'est du folie! . . . même maintenant que vs voilà femme mariée et presque mère de famille.

Comme j'aimerais jouer avec votre petit bébé qui, j'en suis sûre, sera charment; j'aime tout les bébés; et cependant je me sens de plus en plus éloigné du mariage! J'aime mieux rester avec mon Jolaille, que me manque énormément. Dire que'il y a environs un an, vs m'écriviez pour m'annoncer votre "engagement." Comme le temps passe.

Je ne vs raconte pas grand chose de ce que je fais; je laisse cela à Amalia; elle vs dira nos nombreuses parties de théâtre et pic-nics. Nous n'avons pas voulu aller dans aucun grand bal, sans avoir Papa avec nous, beaucoup de charmants petits diners ici. Nous nous embarquerons le 8 Octobre et nous serons à Londres le 15 Sept. Donc, chère amie, si vs avez encore d'autres commissions m'e faire faire, je m'en charge et les ferai toujours avec beaucoup de plaisir.

Au revoir ma bonne et chère Amy. J'attendrai la grande nouvelle avec beaucoup d'intérêt; je vous souhaite tout ce qu'on peut désirer en semblable occasion.

Miller baisers et amitiés de
Votre amie
Victoria

Hotel de l'Empire
7 rue Dannon
Paris
28 August 1887

My very dear Amy,

I wonder often how you are doing, because it has been a long time since we have had your dear news.

You will be suprised to learn, but as we have accomplished our voyage in America, we are profiting from it by staying in Paris a short while longer. I have done your errands for gloves and I hope that you will be satisfied with them, dear friend.

You have no idea how disappointed I was when I learned from Lady Darby that the Minister of Foreign affairs could not give Papa his vacation because he had to be mediator at the German-American conferences. I did not want to go to London without him, even for the Jubilee; although my cousin, Lady Galloway, invited us to her home. But I assure you that we are not bored here; everyone has been extremely amiable, especially Lord Lyons and the young people of our embassy. I saw once the

beautiful Miss Marshall whom I admire as much as the photograph of her that you have; she was at the grand garden party that Lord Lyons gave for the Jubilee. I find her very beautiful. I did not see Madame Outrey, she will come here probably towards the 15th of September.

You will be amused to know that Mr. Valera whom I saw in Brussels and here loaded me with the fondest memories for “the eyes of velvet”; he has always the profoundest admiration for you, my dear. Well! . . . even now that you are a married woman and almost the mother of a family. How I would like to play with your little baby who, I am sure, will be charming; I like babies enough; and nevertheless I feel further and further from marriage! I prefer to stay with my Jolaille, whom I miss enormously. To think that it is almost a year since you wrote me to announce your “engagement.” How the time passes!

I will not tell you of any great things that I am doing; I will leave that to Amalia; she will tell you of our numerous theatre parties and picnics. We did not want to go to any grand balls without having Papa with us. On the other hand, we have been to many charming small dinners, because we have not a few friends here. We will embark on 8 October, and we will be in London 15 September. Thus, dear friend, if you have still other errands for me to have done, I will do so with a great deal of pleasure.

Au revoir, my good and dear Amy. I will await the grand news with much interest. I wish you all that one can desire on such an occasion.

A thousand kisses and good wishes
from
your friend,
Victoria

Notes:

Lady Darby is the Countess of Darby, Victoria’s aunt, Lionel Sackville-West’s sister, and daughter of the fifth Earl de la Warr. Lady Galloway is the Countess of Galloway. Madame Outrey was the “winsome” wife of the former French minister to the U.S.A. (Outrey was minister in Washington in 1882.) The baby to come is Horace Gray, born 11 October 1887. His namesake was either Amy’s father-in-law or her brother-in-law, the U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice and former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Oddly enough, in another letter Justice Gray refused to be Godfather to his namesake. Valera was minister to Brussels in 1886–1887.

from Amalia West.
Dated 21 October 1887.



British Legation
Washington
21st October 87

Eh! bien ma bonne Jolaile qui est ce qui vous arrive? Voila une éternité que je n'ai pas eu de vos nouvelles. Etes-vous souffrante? Est-ce que l'évenement a eu bien? Nous venons d'arriver d'Europe il y a quelques jour, depuis lundi soir après une assez bonne traversée. Nous nous sommes bien amusées en Europe et nous avons été presque tout le temps à Paris. Cependant je suis content d'être retour quoique je trouve une fière difference. Tout est si tranquille. J'ai vos gants, et quant vous les voudrez vous n'avez qu'à le dire et je vous les enverrai. J'espère qu'ils sont tel come vous les désirez. J'en rassorti la couleur aussi près que possible.

Il me darde d'avoir de vos nouvelles. We all are so anxious!

Pensez-vous venir à Washington cet hiver? J'espère que oui, il y a si longtemps que je ne vous ai vue! J'ai vu Madame Outr'e /ou *Outrey!* à Paris cet été, elle m'a demandé de vos nouvelles. Sa fille est tout à fait jolie, Victoria me dit qu'elle me ressemble un peu, c'est flatteur n'est ce pas Jolaille?

Allons il faut que je vous quitte j'ai tellement à faire, mais je vous récrirai bientôt et plus longuement.

Mille amitiés de mes soeurs et mille baisers.

de votre petite Malia.

Quand est-ce que aurai-je une scène d'amour?
J'en ai tellement besoin d'une!

British Legation
Washington
21 October 87

Well! My good Jolaille, what has happened to you? It is an eternity since I have had news of you. Are you suffering? Has the event taken place? We just arrived from Europe several days ago, since Monday night, after a good enough crossing. We had a good time in Europe and we were in Paris nearly all of the time. Nevertheless I am

content to have returned however different I find things. All is so tranquil. I have your gloves, and when you want them you have only to say and I will send them to you. I hope that they are what you desire, I restocked the color as nearly as possible.

Your news is late. *We all are so anxious!*

Are you thinking of coming to Washington this winter? I hope yes, it is so long since I have seen you! I saw Madame Outrey in Paris this summer, she asked me about you. Her daughter is quite pretty. Victoria tells me that she resembles me a little, it is flattery, isn't it Jolaille?

I have to leave you now because I have so much to do, but I will write again soon at more length.

A thousand best wishes from my sisters and a thousand kisses from

your little Malia.

When will I have a love scene? I have so much need of one!

Letter to Amy from Victoria.

Dated 22 October 1887.

There is a note in English in the upperleft corner, likely written by Amy:

*Do not
return*

Washington
22 Octobre 1887

Ma bien chère Amy,

J'ai appris seulement hier au soir la grande nouvelle! Ah! Comme je vous envie! Tut mes meilleurs souhaits et qu'une bonne fée répande ses dons à profusion sur le cher petit bébé.

Nous lui envoyons une petite couverture bien chaud qu'Amalia et moi nous lui avons fabriqué. Flora aussi lui envoie son cadeau.

Tout cela est bien modeste, mais nous espérons que ce sera utile.

Nous venons de revenir d'Europe, après une assez bonne traversée.

Je ne veux pas vous fatiguer par une longue lettre, chère amie.

Comme j'aimerais être auprès de vous!

Mille baisers pour vous et la petit bébé qui doit être si gentaille,

Votre aimie sincere
Victoria

Samedi

J'espère que vos gant seront bien comme vs les désiriez.

*Now Lady Sackville-West
Mother of the writer V.S.W.
(Mrs. Harold Nickolson)*

*Do not
return*

Washington
22 October 1887

My very dear Amy,

I learned only yesterday the grand news! Ah! How I envy you! All my best wishes and may a good fairy shower his gifts in profusion on the dear little baby.

We are sending him a little coverlet that is very warm that Amalia and I made for him. Flora also is sending him his gift. All of that is very modest, but we hope that it will be useful.

We just returned from Europe, after a good enough crossing. I do not wish to fatigue you with a long letter, dear friend. How I would like to be close by you!

A thousand kisses for you and the little baby who must be so gentille.

(The text is gentaille with the "a" marked out.)

Your sincere friend
Victoria

Saturday

I hope that the gloves are as good as you hoped for.

Note: A note underneath Victoria's signature, likely written by Amy, reads: Now Lady Sackville-West, mother of the writer V.S.W. (Mrs. Harold Nicolson.)

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough St., Boston, Mass,
from Victoria West in Washington.
12 November 1887.

12 Novembre

My bien chère Amy,

J'ai reçu avec beaucoup de plaisir votre petit mot au crayon. Nous sommes bien contentes que les petits cadeaux que nous vous avons envoyés vous aient plu. C'était pour tant si peu de choses! Mais s'ils peuvent être utiles, ils auront atteint leur but. C'est si gentil à vous, chère amie, de nous avoir écrit si tôt. C'est bien drôle de vous entendre parler de votre fils!

Je voudrais tant te voir car il doit être "gentaille à Jolaille"! Hier matin j'ai été voir la petite fille de Mme de Reutershiöld. Elle est très mignonne, et j'ai joué avec elle. Du rest; vous savez combien j'aime les bébés. Je suis sûre que j'aimerais beaucoup le vôtre.

J'ai eu à faire ces dernières jours, pour préparer un e petite soirée dansante pour le jour de naissance de Flora. Enfin c'est passé! et bien passé! Elle a eu des masses de ravissantes fleurs et quelques cadeaux. Tous Jolies.

Je dis à Amalia de vous raconter la petite soirée et de vous parler de Miss Adèle Grant, qui est fort belle. Elle a la taille de Mrs Helyar.

Je crois que les "girls" ici ne sont pas très contentes de ce qu'elle vienne passer l'hiver à Washington.

Je n'est pas fait une note séparée de vos gants, mais je pourrais cependant le faire. Mais cependant, chère amie, comme je ne suis pa pressée pour le paiement, vous pourrez quand vous aurez un moment, les regarder et voir ce qu'ils coûtent car c'est toujours marqué dans les gants. J'espère qu'ils seront "satisfactory."

Je vois Miss Endicott assez souvent, car je la trouve charmante. Cette famille vous aime beacoup. Miss E. dinait avec nous hier au soir. Nous avons parlé de vous ensemble.

J'aimerai tant pouvoir aller à Boston cet hiver, si nous allons au Canada. Ce serait pour vous revoir, chère Amy, mai j'ai bien peur que ce ce cera si difficile, car le dernière fois que nous l'avons fait nous avons eu masses de désagréments et Jolaille n'aime plus cette route. Mais espérons tout de même que je pourrai le convaincre car je vous assure que j'aimerais beaucoup revoir ma bonne amie.

Je vous quitte en vous embrassante. Le petit bébé aussi.

Votre Sincère Amie
Victoria

Si vs entedez encore dire que je suis fiancée, n'en croyez rien.

12 November

My very dear Amy,

I received your little penciled note with a great deal of pleasure. We are very pleased that the little gifts that we sent pleased you. It was for such little things! But if they can be useful, they will have achieved their goal. It was so nice of you, dear friend, to write us so soon. It is really droll to hear you speak of your son! I would like so much to see him because he must be "gentaille a jolaille"! Yesterday morning I saw the little daughter of Mme de Reuterskiöld. She is very cute, and I played with her. Moreover, you know how much I love babies. I am sure that I would love yours.

I had much to do these last few days to prepare a little evening dance party for Flora's birthday. At last it happened! and happened well! She had a mass of ravishing flowers and several gifts, all pretty.

I am asking Amalia to tell you about the little party and to talk to you about Miss Adel Grant, who is very beautiful. She has the figure of Mrs. Helyar. I believe that the "girls" here are not pleased that she has come to spend the winter in Washington.

I did not make a separate note of your gloves, but could nevertheless do it. But nevertheless, dear friend, as I am not in a hurry for payment, you can do it when you have a moment to look at them to see what they cost because it is still marked in the gloves. I hope that they are "satisfactory"

I see Miss Endicott often enough, because I find her charming. This family loves you a great deal. Miss E. dined with us yesterday evening. We talked of you together.

I would so much like to go to Boston this winter if we go to Canada. It would be to see you again, dear Amy, but I am quite afraid that it will be so difficult, because the last time that we did it we had masses of difficulties and Jolaille no longer likes that route. But hope that all the same I will be able to convince him because I assure you that I would very much like to see again my good friend.

I leave you with an affectionate kiss, for the little baby also.

Your sincere friend
Victoria

If you hear again that I am engaged, do not believe anything.

Letter to Amy from Amalia.



British Legation
Washington
12 Novembre 1887.

Ma bonne Jolaille,

Je suis si contente que vous avez aimé les petits cadeaux, vous n'avez pas une idée comme votre petit mot m'a fait plaisir. Il y avait si longtemps que je n'avais pas vu votre écriture. Hier, nous avons eu une petite soirée dansante for Flora's birthday, elle a 21 ans, et je vous prie de croire qu'elle en est fière, à propos de cette petite soirée, je voulais vous dire que Miss Endicott m'a dit qu'elle avait reçu quelques lignes de vous, et que vous alliez de mieux en mieux ce qui m'a fait plaisir.

Je meurs d'envie de voir Bébé, et l'idée que ma Jolaille est une maman me fait rire, je ne peux me représenter Jolaille avec un Bébé cela m'est impossible. Ah! Je serai joliment contente le jour que je vous reverrai il y a eu un an le 4 Novembre que je vous ai dit adieu. Je me rappelle ce jour là si bien c'est comme si c'était hier. Je vous vois encore entrer dans la voiture suivie de Mons. Gray qui nous enlevait notre bonne Jolaille, je ne l'aimais pas à ce moment là. Comme le temps passe vite, c'est incroyable! Le prochain événement sera Max qui se mariera à son tour, et puis toute la famille sera casée.

Miss Endicott m'a dit que votre frère n'était pas encore marié j'étais sûre que cela avait eu lieu. Comment allez vous nommer bébé?

J'espère de tout coeur qu'il aura vos beaux yeux. Sala me le disait l'autre jour, et cela m'a fait penser à Mons. Valera qui disait toujours "ces beaux yeux dè velours." Son neveu Mesia est fou, on la ramenait de Chine avec la camisole de force. Voilà ce qu'on dit est-ce vrai, ou non c'est ce que je ne sais pas, mais je suis partée à le croire.

Au revoir ma bonne Jolaille bien des choses de ma part pour Mons. Gray et pour vous mille baisers.

Votre Petite Malia

qui vous aime

British Legation
Washington
12 November 1887.

My good Jolaille,

I am very pleased that you liked the little gifts, you have no idea how your little word gave me pleasure. It has been so long since I have seen your handwriting. Yesterday, we gave a little evening dancing party for Flora's birthday, she was 21, and I beg you to believe that she was proud. A propos this little soiree, I would like to tell you that Miss Endicott told me that she had received several lines from you, and that you were getting better and better, which made me happy.

I am dying of envy to see Baby, and the idea that my Jolaille is a Mama makes me laugh, I cannot picture Jolaille with a Baby, it is impossible. Ah! I will be incredibly happy the day I see you again. It was one year on November 4 since I told you goodbye. I remember that day so well, as if it were yesterday. I still see you entering into the carriage followed by Monsieur Gray who took our good Jolaille away from us, I did not like him at that moment. How the time passes quickly, it is incredible! The next event will be Max who will marry in her turn, and then all of the family will be broken. Miss Endicott told me that your brother was not yet married, I was certain that that had taken place. What are you going to name the baby? I hope with all my heart that he will have your beautiful eyes. Sala was telling me the other day, and that made me think of Monsieur Valera who always said "These beautiful eyes of velvet."

His nephew Mesia is crazy, he was brought back from China in a straight jacket. That is what is being said. I don't know if it is true or false, but I am inclined to believe it.

Au revoir my good Jolaille. Best wishes from us to Mr. Gray and for you a thousand kisses.

Your little Malia

who loves you

Letter to Amy from Amalia.

26 November 1887.

Amalia

*Amalia**BRITISH LEGATION*26 Novembre
1887

My Jolaille,

Un petit mot puisque j'ai le temps. Je sais que vous en serez contente. Quant à moi, j'attends avec impatience le jour où vous pourrez m'écrire quelques lignes. J'ai causé longtemps l'autre soir avec Miss Endicott à propos de vous, et moi qui ne l'aimait pas dutout je l'aime beacucoup maintenant. J'en était si jalouse, c'était effrayant. La sison a deja commencé ici, nous sortons tos les soirs de cette semaine, des theater parties, des diners, une petite dance, et pour le boutquet une réception que nous donnons Samedi le 26 pour Chamberlain. Il est ici, et dine ce soir à la maison. Notre Jolaille st fort occupé et cela m'ennuie de le voir sortir tous les soirs à cause de tous ces vilains Irlandais qui détestent Chamberlain Je ne suis pas dutout rassurée. Comment allez vous Jolaille faites-vous des progrès? Et Monsieur Bébé? Comme je voudrais le voir, il doit être aussi Jolaille et gentaille. Dites moi s'il a vos yeux! Ces beaux yeux dès velours. Que pensez-vous du mariage de Suzanne Bancroft? Je crois que vous la connaissez? Elle s'est mariée en secret à jenuue homme de 21 ans. Mons. Carroll, unte très bonne famille de Baltimore. Cela a crée une sensation à Washington. Je ne vous dis que cela, on n'en a parlé, du reste c'était le sujet de conversation de tout le monde pendant toute une semaine. Elle a eu ce qu'elle voulait se faire parler d'elle. La Légation a été toute refaite cest été, c'est magnifique maintenant et votre chambre est remplie de robes de cartons etc. achats que nous avons faits à Paris.

Au revoir Jolaille

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite Malia qui
vous aime beaucoup

Mes scènes d'amour ou sont elles? Mons. Gray me les a prises.

 British Legation
26 November
1887

My Jolaille,

A little word because I have the time. I know that you will be content with it. As for me, I wait with impatience the day when you can write me several lines. I chatted a long time the other evening with Miss Endicott a propos you, and I who did not like her at all. I like her a lot now. I was so jealous of her, it was frightening.

The season has already begun here, we go out every night this week, *theater parties*, dinners, a small dance, and for the bouquet a reception which we give Saturday the 26th for Chamberlain. He is here, and dines this evening at the house. Our Jolaille is very busy and that saddens me to see him leave every evening because of all these Irish villains who detest Chamberlain. I am not at all reassured. How are you doing Jolaille? Are you making progress? And Monsieur Baby? How I would like to see him, he should also be Jolaille and gentaille. Tell me if he has your eyes! These beautiful eyes of velvet. What do you think of the marriage of Suzanne Bancroft? I believe that you know her? She was married in secret to a young man of 21. Monsieur Carroll, a very good family of Baltimore. That caused a sensation in Washington. I tell you only what I have been told, the rest is the subject of everyone's conversation during the entire week. She has had what she wanted to be spoken of her.

The Legation has been completely redone this summer, it is magnificent now and your room is full of dresses of cartons etc. purchases that we made in Paris.

Au revoir Jolaille.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Your little Malia who
loves you so much.

My love scenes, where are they? Mr. Gray took them from me.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray fom Victoria West,
postmarked 30 November 1887.

B.L.
Mercredi



Merci beaucoup pr l'argent (9.78) que j'ai fait toucher à matin. Vous êtes toujours la bien venue pour toute espèce de commissions et je tâcherai toujours de les faire de mon mieux.

Je voudrais beaucoup beaucoup voir votre “Marc”. Celle de Mme de Reuterskiöld est tres “gentaille”, quoique pas jolie. Elle ressemble à sa mère! La pauvre femme a l’air assez malheureuse que Whitney la d’élaisse. Je trouve que c’est mal de flirter ainsi quand on est mariée, mais elle est tout de même à plaindre car on dit qu’elle l’aime vraiment. Aimez-vs toujours autant votre mari? On doit être bien heureuse dans son ménage quand on est très aimé

Ne croyez pas, chère aimie, que je sois fiancée sans que je vs le dise moi-même; ne ne l’ai jamais été!

Je reçois assez souvent des nouvelles des nouvelles de Mr. Hardinge. Mr H.B. vient de me dire qu’il a obtenu son divorce (gardez cela pour vous.) Je l’ai vu a Paris; il était toujours la même. Il paraît que jeun Tyson est fiancée depuis quelques jours à une très jeune et très jolie fille de Baltimore. Il ne me l’a pas dit, mais je crois que c’est vrai. Jesse Browne est toujours en Europe; son retour est incertain! . . .

Nous sommes très occupés en ce moment de Mr Chamberlain, à qui nous avons donné une grande reception Samedi dernière.

On dirais que la saison est commencée tellement il y a des diners. On a aussi organisé la “Dancing Class.” La première réunion a eu lieu chez Emily McLean (Beale) qui a une très belle installation.

Je vs quitte, chère Amy, pour aller au mariage d’une des Miss ???.

Les petits sont très occupées aujourd’hui avec une caisse de robes de Mme Laborde qui vient d’arriver; elles vous envoient mille baisers et vs écriront bientôt.

On parle encore beaucoup de Suzanne, personne n’a l’air de l’aimer et on ne sait pas si elle va venir ici cet hiver; il est question d’un voyage en France; irait-elle avoir son autre fiancé?

Au revoir, ma très chère amie

Votre affect Victoria

B.L.
Wednesday

My very dear Amy,

Thank you very much for the money (9.78) which I got this morning. You are always welcome to request any sort of errand and I will always try to give them my best efforts.

I would like very, very much to see your “Marc.” That of Madame de Reuterskiöld is very “gentaille,” however un-pretty. She resembles her mother! The poor woman has an unhappy enough air this year. It appears that Whitney has deserted her. I find that it is bad to flirt so when one is married, but she is all the same to be pitied

because it is said that she really loves him. Do you still love your husband as much? One should be very happy a home when one is well loved.

Do not believe, dear friend, that I am engaged without hearing it from me myself. I have never been!

I receive often enough news of Mr. Hardinge. Mr. H.B. just wrote me that he has obtained his divorce (keep that to yourself.) I saw him in Paris; he is always the same. It appears that young Tyson has been engaged for several days to a very young and very pretty young woman of Baltimore. He has not told me, but I believe that it is true. Jesse Brown is still in Europe; his return is uncertain!...

We are very busy this moment with Mr. Chamberlain, for whom we gave a grand reception last Saturday.

One would say that the season had begun there are so many dinners. Also a "*Dancing class*" has been organized; the precious gathering took place at the house of Emily McLean (Beale) who has a very beautiful installation.

I leave you, dear Amy, to go to the marriage of one of the Misses {?}

The little ones are very busy today with a chest of dresses from Madame Laborde which just arrived; they send you a thousand kisses and will write to you soon.

Suzanne is still talked about a great deal; no one seems to like her and no one knows if she is going to return here this winter; it is a question of a trip to France; is she going to see her other fiance again?

Au revoir, my very dear Amy.

Your affectionate Victoria

Notes: Emily Beale is often mentioned in the Adam's letters and the Alsop book. She was a close friend of Lizzie Cameron. The dancing class that she organized is described in Alsop's book (p.68). It was to teach the Washington men the latest steps. It took place in the legation ballroom or in the Whintney ballroom or the McLean ballroom and became a Washington institution. Jesse Brown is referred to by Alsop as an old suitor of Victoria's.

The word "marc" is an old unit for measuring gold and silver, when the context suggests a word for boy, baby, or infant. So I suspect I am misreading it, it is some invented word like "gentaille," or a combination of the two.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough, Boston,
from Victoria West.

Dated 22 December 1887.



Washington
22 December

Ma bien chère Amy,

Mille bons souhaits pour Noël et la nouvelle année de la part de votre sincère amie.

Euillez faire tous mes compliments à votre frère à propos de son mariage; il a choisi une charmante femme et elle m' beacoup plu l'amie quand elle était ici à l'époque de votre mariage. Je regrette encore aujourd'hui que je n'ai pu assister à cette cérémonie. Et j'aimerais tellement voir votre "gentaille Marc". Boston est si loin, chère Amy. Mrs Cameron pense aller à Boston au commencement de Janvier; je lui donnerai mille commissions pour vous. Elle est si jolie cette année avec ses cheveux coupés courts et tout frisés!

J'ai eu beacucoup à faire dernièrement, car nous avons beaucoup reçu en l'honneur de Mr chamberlain et de la "Fisheries Commission", ce qu ne nou empêchera pas d'avoir un bal le 4 janvier! Ah! Ma chère, comme cela m'ennuie, de donner un ball ... J'aime bien mieux passer ma soirée avec mon vieux Jolaille que j'aime toujours la même chose et avec qui je fais des scènes d'amour.

Mr Chamberlain a fait une excellente impression sur les Washingtoniens; il a beacoup de tact et de charmantes manières.

Il est à Ottawa en ce moment, mais il reviendra bientôt. Et la corvée recomencera pour moi.

Veillez dire bien des choses de ma part à Mrs Lan??? (Grace Minot) et à votre mère.

Il n'y a rien de vouveau dans mes petites affaires personnelles. J'ai de temps en temps de bonnes nouvelles de Mr H, qui est encore à Sofia. Il me dit que sa vie y est bien triste.

Mon Jolaille qui me voit vs écrire à son bureau, me ??? de ne pas l'oublier auprès d'Amy. Qu'est-ce que votre Mari di de cette familiarité.

Au revoir, ma très-chère.
Je suis toujours votre amie.

Victoria

Washington
22 December

My very dear Amy,

A thousand good wishes for Christmas and the new year from your sincere friend.

Please give all my compliments to your brother a propos his marriage; he has chosen a charming woman and she was very friendly to me when she was here for your marriage. I still regret today that I could not attend that ceremony. And I would so like to see your "gentaille husband." Boston is so far away, dear Amy. Mrs. Cameron is thinking of going to Boston at the beginning of January; I will give her a thousand errands for you. She is so pretty this friend with her hair cut short and all frizzy.

I had a lot to do finally, because he has a great deal of tact and charming manners. He is in Ottawa at this moment, but he will return soon. And the drudgery will begin again for me.

Please give my regards to Mrs. Lan?? (Grace Minot) and to your M.

There is nothing new in my little personal affairs. From time to time I get news of Mr. H, who is still in Sofia. He tells me that his life there is quite sad.

My Jolaille who sees me writing you at his desk asks me to not forget him to Amy. What does your husband say of this familiarity?

Au revoir, my very dear. Always your friend.

Victoria

Note: I have not been able to find anything out about Grace Minot except that there is a picture of her in the Mrs Henry Adams photograph archive at the Massachusetts Historical society. In her *Letters*, Clover Adams mentions the Minot family but does not provide any specifics.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough,
from Victoria.
Dated 26 December 1887



Monday

Chère Amy

Merci mille fois pour la jolie “Xmas card”; cela nous a fait bien plaisir.

J’ai eu des masses de jolis cadeaux, surtout de Mrs Hitt qui m’a donné un encrier et un “sealing-set” en argent. J’ai eu 32 cadeaux! C’est tout comme si je me mariais! Nous avons pass’e un bon Noël.

Je suis occupée à finir les invitations du bal, mais je ne voulais pas laisser passer la journée sans vous envoyer quelques lignes pour vous dire combien nous avons trouvé jolis les 3 petites têtes d’anges.

Samedi, Mr de Lavenörn (l’ami de Mme d R) a ue une espèce de tombala où on gagnait de jolis objets; tos ceux qui y étaient invités devaient apporter quelque chose. Cela s’est fort bien passé et a été très amusant.

Au revoir, ma bonne amie. Je suis contente que votre soeur vienne, mais j’aimerais bien mieux que vous veniez aussi.

Parle moi un peu du mariage de votre frère. Je suppose que les jeunes gens étaient et sont fort épris.

Mille baisers et remerciements de nous trois.

Votre amie
Victoria

J’embrasse les petits mains du Mioche

Monday

Dear Amy

Thank you very much for the pretty “Xmas card”; we liked it very much.

I had masses of pretty presents, especially from Mrs. Hitt who gave me an ink bottle and a silver “sealing-set”. I received 32 presents! It was as if I were getting married! We had a good Christmas.

I am busy finishing the invitations for the ball, but I did not want to let the day pass without sending you several lines to tell you how beautiful we found the three little angel’s heads.

Saturday, Mr. de Lavenorn (the friend of Madame de R) had a sort of tombala where one won pretty objects; all who were invited brought something. It went very well and was a very amusing evening.

Au revoir, my dear Amy, I am happy that your sister is coming, but I would like it much better if you were coming also. Tell me a little of your brother’s marriage. I suppose that the young people were and are quite infatuated.

A thousand kisses and thanks from us three.

Your friend
Victoria

Kiss the little hands of Mioche for me.

Notes:

Mrs. Hitt may be Mrs. Robert Roberts Hitt of Illinois. He was the Secretary of the U.S. Legation in Paris in 1877, the Assistant Secretary of State before 1881 (a Blaine appointee), and a member of congress from 1882–1892. In Henry Adams's eye he was "rich, but socially of little use." de Lavenörn was the Danish Minister.

Chapter 8

1888

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough St., Boston,
from Victoria.
Postmarked 23 January 1888.

Victoria

BRITISH LEGATION

Lundi

Ma bien chère Amy,

Je viens de me faire faire quelques photos et quoique j'en ai promis des masses, je vous en envoie deux pour faire votre choix; Vous seriez bien tentille de me renvoyer celle que vous ne garderez pas; j'en ai tout à donner que je ne peux vous en offrir qu'une, et de bon coeur. Vous êtes la première servie. Je n'ai pas été très bien depuis notre bal qui a bien réussi, aussi n'ai-je pu que dîner en fille, et s'occuper peu de Max. Je vais la voir aujourd'hui et lui demander de me venir un jour pour que je puisse lui donner un petit lunch en son honneur. Elle est si gentille. Je m'oublierai jamais la charmante manière dont elle m'a aidée à mettre mes overshoes l'autre soir chez un de ces "lively receptions" des Loring. Là, j'ai pu eu le plaisir d'entendre parler de vous par Mr Arthur Rotch qui m'a paru charmant garçon, fort sympathique. Je l'ai chargé de vous dire bien des choses. Miss Gray que j'ai été vu ??? m'a aussi donnée de vos nouvelles, et du petit bébé, que j'aimerais tant voir; j'aurais voulu faire le voyage de Boston rien que pour faire sa connaissance; quel dommage que votre maison ne soit pas encore meublée et que je ne puisse pas vous faire une petite visite.

Voyez comme je vs parle franchement chère amie, mais vs ne vous en fâchez pas, dites?

Vs me demandez si quelqu'un fait la cour à Mary Endicott. Mr Chamberlain est extrêmement assidu auprès d'elle; mais Miss E. ne veut pas qu'on en parle. Quel sera le résultat de cette flirtation? Quien sabe?

Le pauvre Walter King a été fort malade et près de mourir; mais je ne crois pas que Mary ni lui était épris l'un de l'autre.

Mme Cameron a-t-elle eu du succès? C'est dommage qu'elle flirte tant avec Cte Sala! Je ne l'ai pas vue depuis son retour. Moi je ne flirte avec personne; Roustan me supplie toujours de l'épouser, mais je lui ai déclaré que jamais je ne me marierai avec lui.

Mr. Jesse Brown est malade à Paris; on ne me taquine plus à son sujet, mais on m'a bien taquiné au sujet de Mr Rotch parceque nous avons parlé deux soirs de suite ensemble. On est si bête a Washington! On en a dit qu'il est très flirte. Moi, je ne m'en suis pas perçu, car nous avons causé sur toutes sortes de sujets. Comme je vs dis, je l'ai trouvé extrêmement sympathique. Vous plait-il? Il paraît beaucoup aimer votre mari. Je vs en prie, chère Amy n'en soufflez un mot à personne, car on fait des montagnes d'un rien.

Vous me connaissez trop bien pour savior que je ne suis pas flirte, mais comme il a de la fortune et qu'il ne m'a pas quittée deux soirs de suite, vs comprenez comme les gossips on marcher leur train; autant plus que l'on disait que Miss Grant faisait énormément de frais pour lui. Elle est ravissante.

Répondez-moi bientôt au sujet des photos; j'espère qu vs en aimerez une.

Les Reuterskiöld sont nommés à Constantinople. On ne sait pas encore qui les remplacera.

Je m'occuperai de Max ce soir au german, dont le monde la trouve très gentille.

Avec mille baisers ??? les petits, je suis toujours

Votre amie dévouée
Victproa

Monday

My very dear Amy,

I have just made several photos for myself. Although I had promised many, I am sending you two to make your choice; it would be very kind of you to return to me the one that you do not keep; I have so many to give that I can only offer you one,

and that willingly. You are the first served. I have not been very well since our ball, which was a great success. Also I have been unable to dine in town and spend time with Max. I am going to see her today and ask her to fix a day when I can give her a little lunch in her honor. She is so nice. I will never forget the charming way in which she helped me put on my overshoes the other night at one of these "*lively receptions*" at the Lorings. There I had the pleasure of hearing you mentioned by Mr. Arthur Rotch, who seemed to me to be a charming boy, very nice. I charged him to give my best regards to you. Miss Gray, whom I had seen, also gave me news of you and of little baby, whom I would like to see; I would like to make the voyage to Boston just to meet him; what a pity that your home is not yet furnished and that I cannot visit you. You see how I speak frankly to you, dear friend, but it does not make you angry, does it?

You asked me if someone is courting Mary Endicott. Mr. Chamberlain is extremely attentive close by her, but Miss E. does not want anybody to know about it. What will be the result of this flirtation? Who knows?

Poor Walter King has been very sick and near death; but I do not believe that either he or Mary is in love with the other.

Has Madame Cameron been successful? It is a pity that she flirts with Cte Sala! I have not seen her since her return. Me, I do not flirt with anyone; Roustan begs me always to marry him, but I have declared to him that I would never marry him.

Mr. Jesse Brown is sick in Paris; I am no longer teased about him; but I am much teased about Mr. Rotch because we talked two nights in a row. People are so stupid in Washington! I am told that he is quite a flirt; I did not see it, because we chatted about all kinds of subjects. As I told you, I found him very nice. Do you like him? He seems to like your husband a great deal. I beg you, Amy, to not breath a word to anyone because people make mountains out of nothing! You know me well enough to know that I am not a flirt; but because he is rich and did not leave me for two nights in a row, you understand how gossip spreads, all the more because Miss Grant was making a great effort to please him. She is ravishing.

Write me soon on the subject of the photos; I hope that you will like one.

The Reuterskiölds were named to Constantinople. We do not yet know who will replace them.

I will spend this evening with Max tonight at the german. Everyone finds it very nice.

With a thousand kisses for the little ones.

Your devoted friend,
Victoria

Notes:

Arthur Rotch was born in Boston in 1850 and died in Beverly in 1894. He was an Architect and a descendent of seventeenth century whaling merchants. He graduated Harvard in 1871; studied architecture at M.I.T. and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He was a benefactor of the achitectural departments at Harvard and M.I.T. The Rotch family and the Gray family would connect years later, the mother of my cousin Francis Calley Gray (his great-great-great-grandfather is my great-great-grandfather) was a Rotch and he has served on the board of directors of the Rotch House in New Bedford, a house occupied for a time by the whaling ancestors of the family.

In the book *Mrs. Jack* there is a reference to the marriage in 1896 of one of Mrs. Jack's admirers, Ralph Curtis, to to a beautiful young widow, Mrs. Arthur Rotch, whose first husband had died after only a year of marriage, leaving her a fortune. She was Lisa Colt, heiress to a firearms fortune of her own. She was said to have been the recipient of much attention from Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1895. In the small world department, Edward's long term and semi-official mistress, Alice Keppel, was the mother of Violet Keppel, who would have a torrid affair with Victoria's daughter Vita that would become the subject of Nigel Nicolson's book *Portrait of a Marriage*[19].

The "bachelor's german" was an elaborate cotillion in which men and ladies alternated choosing partners, giving a favor to their choice.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Amalia.

British Legation
Washington
29 Janvier 1888.

Ma bonne Jolaille,

Je n'ai pas encore repondu à votre lettre du 16 qui m'annoncé une si grande nouvelle, ne ne l'ai dit à personne pas même à mes soeurs elles n'en savent absolument rien. Quand est-ce que pensez vous venir? Comme je serai heureuse et contente de vous revoir de vous embrasser encore une fois! Je n'ose ye penser il me semble que c'est trop de bonheur pour que cela arrive. Max vient nous voir souvent, elle est bien gentille plus je vois plus je m'attache à elle.

Nous faisons tout ce que nous pouvons pour elle, mais n'est-ce pas ennuyeux, nous voilà en deuil pour 15 jours. Une de nos tantes est morte mais une tante par alliance. Elle aurait pu attendre presqu'à la fin de la saison. Cette mort a dérangé tous nos plans. Nous avons un gentil petit déjeuner, donné en l'honneur de Max, qui nous a

fallu remttrre, mais pour réparer notre désappointement au lieu d'un déjeuner nous avons un tant petit diner Mercredi auquel Max viendra.

Nous restons encore tranquilles pendant toute cette semaine et nous reparaissons dans le monde lundi le 6. Je n'en suis pas fâchée surtout que nous connaissions fort peu cette tante. Hier après midi nous avons Max en traineau, il fait un temps admirable pour cela, mais un froid qui vous pénètre jusque dans la moëlle des os. Je crois qu'elle s'est bien amusée. Dans le monde, à vous dire vrai je crains qu'elle ne s'amuse pas beaucoup, les hommes cette année à Washington sont si peu aimables qu'il nous est difficile même pour nous d'avoir un good time. Ils sont tous terriblement gâtés par ces bêtes de filles qui leur courent après cependant chez Mme B. Davis Mardi dernier elle s'est bien amusée, c'était un gentille petite danse auquel très peu de monde y était invité. "Very select and quite right too." Les James sont de bien braves gens si distingués. La plus jeune des filles est bien jolie! J'attends une visite de Max cette après midi, je vais lui faire un petit cadeau. L'autre jour chez les Endicott elle avait une superbe boucle en grenat, que votre frère a désignée lui même, elle m'a dit qu'elle adoré cette pierre, pour lui faire plaisir je vais lui donner un petit bracelet de même qui ira fort bien avec sa boucle. N'ayez pas peur Jolaille quoique j'aime beaucoup. Max, ce n'est bien à comparer avec vous. Si j'étais un homme et avec la façon dont je vous aime on dirait que je suis "in love". Gare à Mons. Gray! Un grand secret Jolaille. Je crois Chamberlain fort pincé de Miss Endicott, il ne la quitte pas d'une semelle dans le monde, quant il n'est pas avec elle, il est distrait, ennuyé comme tout pour la personne qui lui parle en un mot, il est tant à fait épris, surtout ne dites rien car je ne voudra pas que cela se repète. Je ne sais pas si elle est épris.

Je ne la comprends pas Mary dutout même. Les noms de mes deux flirts sont: Commandant Lottin le français, et l'american Lieut. Babcock. Ils sont tous deux bien gentils.

Au revoir ma Jolaille à bientôt

Je vous embrasse de tout mon coeur

Votre petite Amalia

qui vous aime

Excusez ce papier mal coupé.

Max est venu déjeuner ce matin avec nous, elle prie de vous embrasser de sa part ce que je fais de grand coeur.

British Legation
Washington
29 January 1888.

My dear Jolaille,

I have not yet responded to your letter of the 16, which announced such great news, I have not told anyone not even my sisters. They know absolutely nothing. When do you think you are coming? How happy and content I will be to see you again, to embrace you once more! I dare not think of it, it seems to me to be too much happiness for that to happen. Max comes to visit us often, she is very nice. The more I see her the more attached to her I become.

We do all that we can for her, but isn't it tiresome, us being in mourning for 15 days. One of our aunts died, but an aunt by marriage. She could have waited until the end of the season. This death has upset all of our plans. We were having a nice breakfast in Max's honor, which we had to put off, but to repair our disappointment in place of a breakfast we are having a little dinner Wednesday to which Max is coming. We remain tranquil during this week and we reappear in the world Monday the sixth. I am not angry about it above all because we hardly knew this aunt. Yesterday afternoon we even had Max for a sleigh ride, it was admirable weather for that, but a cold which penetrated to the marrow. I believe that she had a good time. In the world, to tell you truly, I fear that she is not very happy, the men this year in Washington are so little likeable that it is difficult even for us to have a good time. They are all terribly spoiled by these stupid girls who chase them. Nevertheless at the house of Mme. B. Davis last Tuesday she had a good time, it was a nice little dance to which very few were invited, "very select and quite right too!" The James, all good people and so distinguished. The youngest daughter is very pretty! I am waiting for a visit from Max this afternoon, I am going to give her a little gift. The other day at the Endicotts she had a superb garnet buckle, which your brother himself had designed. She told me that she adored this stone. In order to make her happy I am going to give her a little bracelet of the same stone which will go very well with her buckle. Have no fear Jollaile, however much I love Max, it is nothing compared with you. If I were a man and with the fashion which I love you, one would say that I am "in love." Mr. Gray beware! A grand secret Jolaille, I believe that Chamberlain is quite stricken with Miss Endicott, he does not leave her for a second in public. When he is not with her, he is distracted, boring as everything for the person who says a word to him, he is completely in love. Above all don't say anything because I would not like that to be repeated. I do not know if she is in love. I do not understand Mary, not at all. The names of my two flirts are: Commandant Lottin the Frenchman and the American Lieutenant Babcock. They are both very nice.

Au revoir my Jolaille, a bientôt.
Je vous ebrasse de tout mon coeur

Your little Amalia
who loves you

Pardon this poorly cut paper.
Max had breakfast with us this morning. She asked me to kiss you for her, which I do happily.

Notes: Major Lottin was the Military Attaché to the French Ministry in 1997.

Letter to Amy from Amalia.
Postmarked 20 February 1888.

Hotel Britanique
Cannes

Ma bonne Amy,

j'étais si contente de revoir de vos nouvelles et de voir que vous allez beaucoup mieux, maintenant en voilà pour quelque temps j'espère. Vous allez reprendre toutes vos forces et vous serez plus forte que jamais!

Je m'amuse beaucoup à Cannes, je n'aurais jamais pensé que je m'y serais tellement amusé, tout le monde est charmant pour moi. Je sors énormément et je viens d'avoir eu un succès énorme dans une petite comédie française qu'on a jouée chez une dame ici, si je croyais tout ce qu'on me dit je serais joliment orgueilleuse!

Je rejou la comédie le 23 de ce mois et encore plus tard pendant le Carême. Flora va dix fois mieux et peut même sortir dans le monde le soir elle me mène dans les bals et les soirées, c'est si drôle d'être chaperonné par elle.

Je vois rarement les Outrey, Madame est à Paris suprès de sa mère qui est fort malade. Adeline va beaucoup dans le monde mais sans vouloir vous faire de la peine, je vous dis tout franchement que je ne l'aime pas elle fait trop d'embarras une vraie petite Américaine dans un genre, du reste je crois qu'elle ne ni a pas eu odeur de sainteté. Monsieur Outrey est charmant c'est lui qui j'aime le mieux. C'est tout une autre vie que celle que je mène ici, mon entourage a gagné au change, j'ai beaucoup d'amies les jeune filles sont si gentilles pour moi.

Victoria marche aussi de sont coté, je ne suis jamais avec elle. Je vous dirais en secret que maintenant je me suis fait une règle de ne jamais aller dans le monde avec elle, car j'ai toujours remarqué qu'en étant avec elle je ne m'amuserais jamais. Ce

n'est pas histoire de jalousie mais c'est histoire de ne pas s'entêter comme une crouûte de pain derrière une malle. Quand je suis seule cela marche beaucoup mieux, donc, je vis avec Flora et je sors avec elle de notre coté.

Il y a un monde fou ici, le 14 il y a la bataille des fleurs, il parait que cela est très jolie je me réjouis d'avance, ne ne sais pas si j'y prendrai part en tous cas je la verrai.

Il y a beaucoup de bals et de soirées mais pas de diners, du moins on m'invite rarement. Pourvu que je danse c'est ce qu'il me faut et ça j'en ai assez.

Nous allons à Nice pour deux bals le 14 et le 1er Mars. À vrai dire je n'ai pas une minute à moi. Nous avons un temps splendide. Voilà 3 semaines que le soleil s'est montre tous les jours, c'est un climate superbe.

Je connais presque tout le monde, mais ce qui m'ennuit le plus est que les français font bande à part ainsi que les Anglais c'est si sot je trouve! Votre villa Alabama existe encore. Je ne sais pas qui est ce qui l'habite. Le 28 de ce mois je vis à un bal costumé. Je serai en bergère de Wathau. Cela m'ira je crois, et Flora en "Folie". À propos de Flora, ce n'est pas ce que je pensais. Je m'

'etais trompée quoiqu'elle en avait tous les symptômes. J'ai reçu une longue lettre de Max qu'a l'air d s'amuser elle était encore à la campagne. Il parait que Washington est très gai que Miss Leiter est la belle et que Barclay notre nouveau secrétaire flirte avec elle. Est-ce vrai de "l'engagement" de Willie Endicott?

On fête sa soeur en Angleterre on l'aime beaucoup.

Au revoir ma bonne Jolaille. Je vous quitte pour aujourd'hui en vous embrassant bien fort. Amitiés à votre mari.

Votre petite amie qui vs. aime.

Malia

Hotel Britanique
Cannes

My dear Amy,

I was so pleased to receive your news and to see that you are much better now and will be for some time I hope. You are going to regain all of your strength and you will be stronger than ever. I am having a wonderful time in Cannes. I never would have thought that I would be so happy there, everyone is charming for me. I go out a great deal and I just had an enormous success in a little French play that was put on in some woman's house here. If I believed everything people told me I would be wonderfully proud! I replay the play on the 23rd of this month and again later during

Lent. Flora is ten times better and can even go out. Each night she takes me to balls and soirees, it is so drole to be chaperoned by her. I rarely see the Outreys, Madame is in Paris close to her mother who is quite sick. Adeleline goes out a great deal, but without wanting to cause you pain I tell you quite frankly that I do not like her. She does too many embarassing things, a true little American of the genre. What's more I believe that she does not live like a saint.

Monsieur Outrey is charming, it is he whom I love the best. It is a completely different life that I lead here, my entourage has gained much from the change, I have many friends. The young women are so nice to me. Victoria is also well in her way; I am never with her. I will tell you a secret that now I have made a rule for myself to never go out with her, because I have always noticed that when I am with her I never have any fun. It is not a story of jealousy but it is a history of not tormenting myself like a crust of bread under a hammer. When I am alone it goes much better, thus, I live with Flora and I go out with her in her way.

It is a crazy world here, the 14th there is a battle of flowers, it appears that it is very pretty and I am already happy. I do not know if I will take part, but in any case I will see it. There are many balls and soirees, but no dinners, at least I am invited rarely provided that I dance. That is what is required and what I have had enough of.

We are going to Nice the 14th for two balls. And the first of March I truly will not have one minute to myself. We have splendid weather, for 3 weeks it has been sunny every day! It is a superb climate.

I know almost everybody, but what bores me the most is that the French keep to themselves as well as the English. I find that so stupid! Your villa Alabama still exists. I do not know who lives there. The 28th of this month I am going to a costume ball. I will be a shepherd of Watteau. That will do me, I think, and Flora in "Folie." A propos Flora, it is not what I thought. I was fooling myself however much she had the symptoms.

I received a long letter from Max who seems to be amusing herself. She is still in the country. It appears that Washington is very gay, that Miss Leiter is the belle, and that Barclay our new Secretary flirts with her. Is it true the "engagement" of Willie Endicott? His sister was feted in England, she is much loved.

Au revoir my dear Jolaille. I leave you for today with all my love. Good wishes to your husband.

Your petite amie who loves you.

Malia

Notes:

Miss Leiter is Mary Victoria Leiter, who later married George Nathaniel Curzon, the future Viceroy of India, and became Baroness Curzon of Kedleston. Her biography may be found in *Famous American Belles of the Nineteenth Century* [21] and in *Lady Curzon*[20]. Her father was Mr. Levi Z. Leiter, who aquired a great fortune in the dry goods business. The Leiter family moved to Washington in 1881. The lived for several years in the house on Dupont Circle that James G. Blaine had lived in.

Letter to Amy from Amalia.

British Legation
19th March 1888



Ma bonne Jolaille,

Qu'est-ce que vous devez penser de moi? Je vous avais promis de vous écrire le plus tôt possible et je ne l'ai pas encore fait, vous m'excuserez du reste vous avez vu Victoria pas mal à Boston, elle est revenue enchantée de sa visite et de son cottage à Beverly, ce nom ne me plaît pas énormément. Je n'aime pas l'idée d'y passer l'été, mais enfin du moment que Papa est content c'est tot ce qu'il faut, et puis nous faisons les deux, L'Europe et Beverly.

Je me console en pensant aux deux mois que je passerai à Paris. Papa en revenant m'a parlé de vous, et quant à Victoria ce n'était "Comme il est gentille le bébé d'Amy!" toute la journée. Elle me dit que la maison est si jolie si confortable. En un mot elle nous en a peint un charmant tableau.

Voulez-vous dire a Max que j'attend un réponse à ma dernière lettre, et embrasse la bien pour mo moi! Quel aouragan nous avons eu ici! Comme je me suis donc ennuyée pendant trois jours, pas moyen de sortir pas de lettres, de journaux enfin nous etions en prison et vous savez que cela ne me convient pas dutout, il me faut de la vie autour de moi et il n'y avait pas un chat dans les rues.

C'était une ville morte. Victoria n'a pu revenir avant Vendredi soir elle était "snowed up" in New York, Papa était content tant de chose l'attendaient ici! Imaginez vous la Baronne de Rosen qui va avoir un Bébé, elle a pris du temps. C'est tranquille ici c'est horrible le monde semble dormir, ils sont assomant. Max et mieux. Où elle est elle s'amuserait ici j'en suis sure.

Au revoir ma bonne Jolaille Mille baisers de votre petite amie

Amalia

Ecrivez bientôt n'est-ce pas?

British Legation
19th March 1888

My dear Jolaille,

What must you think of me? I promised you to write as soon as possible and I have not yet done it, please excuse me. Moreover you saw Victoria recently in Boston. She returned enchanted with her visit and with her cottage in Beverly, this name does not please me enormously. I do not like the idea of spending the summer there. But in the end if Papa is content it is exactly what is necessary, and we will do them both, Europe and Beverly.

I console myself a little thinking of the two months that I will spend in Paris. On returning Papa spoke to me about you, and as for Victoria, it was "How gentaille he is, Amy's baby!" all day.

She tells me that the house is so pretty and so comfortable. In a word she painted for us a charming tableau.

Would you tell Max that I am waiting for a response to my last letter, and kiss her for me! What a hurricane we had here! How I was bored for three days, no means of leaving, no letters or newspapers. We were imprisoned, and you know that that does not suit me at all. I need life around me and there was not a cat in the street. It was a dead city.

Victoria could not return before Friday night. She was "snowed up" in New York. Papa was content, enough things awaited him here! Imagine the Baroness de Rosen who is going to have a baby; she took her time. It is tranquil here. It is horrible, the world seems to sleep, they are boring. Max is better. Wherever she is she has fun. Here I am sure of it.

Au revoir my dear Jolaille. A thousand kisses from your petite amie.

Amalia

Write soon, yes?

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Victoria West,
9 April 1888

*Victoria**BRITISH LEGATION*

Lundi

Ma bien chère Amy,

J'ai reçu ce matin votre petit mot, et je ferai vos commissions avec le plus grand soin. Dites à Mrs Amory que je serai enchantée de la voir ici.

J'ai une grande nouvelle à vs dire, ma bonne amie. Flora est vraiment fiancée à Mr. Salanson et le mariage se fera à Paris au mois de juin; naturellement sans grande cérémonie, puisqu'il vient de perdre sa mère.

Elle vs écrit un mot à ce sujet. Vous pensez ce que nous avons à faire et à écrire avant notre départ. L'engagement sera annoncée aujourd'hui; vous êtes, comme de juste, une des premières à le savoir. Flora a l'air enchanté.

Dites la à votre maman dans votre prochaine lettre.

C'est toujours la même chose, vous le savez bien, avec le bel Arthur. Je l'ai vu il ya une quinzaine, car il a passé pour Washn pour aller en Floride. Il n'y a rien ma chère. Je trouve que c'est déjà bien assez qu'une se marie; moi je reste avec mon Jolaille.

Au revoir, chère amie. Nous nous embarquerons le 21 du mois.

C'est donc aurevoir. Donnez moi de vos nouvelles à Paris.

Nous vous revenons à Nahant, j'espère.

Toujours votre amie

Victoria

 Monday

My very dear Amy

I received your brief note this morning, and I will run your errands with the greatest care. Tell Mrs. Amory that I will be enchanted to see her here.

I have great news to give you, my dear friend. Flora is truly engaged to Mr. Salanson and the marriage will take place in Paris in June; naturally without a large ceremony, because he just lost his mother. She is writing you a note about it. Think of what we have to do and write before our departure. The engagement will be

announced today; you are, justly, one of the first to know it. Flora seems enchanted. Tell your mother in your next letter.

It is always the same thing, as you well know, with the beautiful Arthur. I say him a fortnight ago, because he passed through Washington on his way to Florida. There is nothing my dear. I find that it is already quite enough that one gets married; me, I will remain with my Jolaille.

Au revoir, dear friend.

We are embarking on the 21st of the month.

It is therefore goodbye. Send me your news in Paris.

We will see you again in Nahant, I hope.

Always your friend,
Victoria

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Flora West,
9 April 1888.

9 Avril

Chère Amy,

Il faut bien que je vous annonce moi même la bonne nouvelle. Je me marie cet été avec un diplomate français Monsieur Salanson. Je suis sûre que vous serez contente n'est ce pas? Je me marie à Paris, mais très tranquillement, car comme vous savez il vient de perdre sa mère, et cela aura lieu en Juin.

Ecrivez moi bien vite pour me dire ce que vous en pensez. Je suis très heureuse.

Mille baisers
Flora S. West

P.S. Excusez la demie feuille mais j'ai tellement de lettre à écrire.

9 April

Dear Amy.

I have to tell you the good news myself. I am getting married this summer to a French diplomat, Monsieur Salanson. I am sure that you will be pleased, yes? I am getting married in Paris, but very quietly, since as you know he just lost his mother, and that will happen in June.

Write me soon to tell me what you think. I am very happy.

A thousand kisses,
Flora S. West

P.S. Forgive the tiny note, but I have so many letters to write.

Letter to Jane Heard from Victoria. Sent care of Mrs Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough Street, Boston, Mass from the British Legation in Washington

British Legation
11 Avril 1888



Bien Chère Mrs Heard,

Notre courrier vous rapportera votre broche lundi, et si vous avez quelques commissions à lui donner pour moi, n'hésitez pas à le faire.

J'avais écrit à Amy que je me faisais le plaisir de lui offrir les quelques paires de gants qui sont venus dernièrement pour vous comme un petit cadeau pour Pâques. J'espère bien que vous ne me ferez la peine de me les refuser.

Je regrette tant que ma chère Amy soit partie. Si, au moins, je pouvais espérer qu'elle reviendrait bientôt!

On l'aime tellement à Washington; moi je me mets en tête, et je vous assure que je serai toujours une amie bien dévoué à votre fille.

Avec mille bonnes aimités, Croyez-moi aussi, Votre petite amie

V.S. West

British Legation
11 April 1888



My dear Mrs Heard,

Our courier will bring back your broche Monday, and if you have anything to give him for me, don't hesitate to do so.

I had written to Amy that I would give myself the pleasure of offering her the several pairs of gloves which came lately for you as a little gift for Easter. I hope that you will not refuse them.

I very much regret that my dear Amy has left. If only I could hope that she would return soon! People in Washington love her so; I am at the front of the line, and I assure you that I will always be a devoted friend to your daughter.

With great friendship, believe me also, your petite amie.

V.S. West

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Amalia.

Amalia

BRITISH LEGATION

19 Avril 1888

Ma Jolaille,

Quelques lignes avant que je quitte Washington, pour vous dire au revoir. Vous ne m'avez jamais répondu à ma dernière lettre et si je ne savais pas que vous etiez encore souffrante je me serais fchée. Nous partons demain après midi et Samedi matin nous nous embarquons à une heure. Pensez à nous ma Jolaille quand nous serons sur l'eau.

Je ne puis m'imaginer que Flora va se marier, comme elle va me manquer, moi qui a toujours été élevée avec elle. Elle a deja pas mal de cadeaux mas c'est à Paris qu'elle en aura.

Je suis plus excitée qu'elle et il faut voir quand des paquets arrivent. L'autre jour en défaisant une boîte je me suis cassée 2 ongles, imaginez vous que c'était une boîte

clouée et que je l'ai défaite avec mes mains tant j'étais pressée de voir ce qu'il y avait dedans. Je vous écrirai en arrivant à Paris et je vous donnerai toutes les nouvelles au sujet de Flora.

Au revoir ma Jolaille. Je suis très pressée. Mille baisers de votre petite Amalia.

Kind regards to Mr. Gray.

19 April 1888

My Jolaille,

A few lines before I leave Washington, to tell you Au Revoir. You never responded to my last letter and if I did not know that you were still suffering I would be angry. We leave tomorrow afternoon and Saturday morning we embark at one o'clock. Think of us my Jolaille when we are on the water. I cannot imagine that Flora is going to be married, how I am going to miss her, I who was always raised with her.

She already has quite a few presents, but it is in Paris that she will have them. I am more excited than she is and it is necessary to see them when the packages arrive. The other day when undoing a box I broke two fingernails, imagine that it was a nailed box and that I was in such a hurry to see what was within that I undid it with my hands. I will write you when we arrive in Paris and I will give you all of the news on Flora.

Au revoir my Jolaille. I am very rushed. A thousand kisses from
your little Amalia

Kind regards to Mr. Gray.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Amalia,
forwarded to Bar Harbor, Maine,
care of Miss Bowles.

Beverly,
Cove Hill
18th July 1888

Ma bonne Jolaille,

Je sais que ne n'ai pas été gentille en ne vous écrivant pas pour vous donner tous les détails du mariage de Flora, mais si vous saviez comme j'ai été malade vous ne diriez rien. C'était bien mon intention de vous écrire, et de vous donner tous les détails mais je n'en ai vraiment pas pu le faire. Flora s'est mariée le 18 Juin à la Chapelle des Passionistes Avenue Hoche la cérémonie était bien simple à cause que Mons. Salanson était en deuil, personne n'était invité excepté la famille. Quant aux lettres de faire part, Jolaille, nous en avons envoyé seulement qu'en France pour faire plaisir aux Salanson, n'étant pas la mode anglaise d'en envoyer nous ne l'avons pas fait ainsi, Jolaille, ne pensez plus que c'était un oubli. Le jeune couple pour leur lune de miel sont allés en Suisse où ils n'ont pas fait long feu car Flora était un peu souffrante et de trambaler d'hôtel en hôtel l'a fatigué trop ils sont donc restés juste quinze jours. Y'en étais bien contente car je croyais bien ne pas la revoir avant notre départ, elle est revenue juste trois jours avant cela fait que je l'ai vue installée dans sa maison, j'ai arrangé son salon avec elle et je me suis embarqué le 7 Juillet le cœur content de l'avoir revue.

Elle doit être en ce moment à la campagne à Villers-Cotterets. Son beau père à une maison de campagne et c'est là qu'elle passera l'été. Ensuite elle restera l'hiver à Paris et au mois d'avril prochaine je m'en vais la rejoindre et rester jusqu'au mois d'Octobre. Elle était si jolie le jour de son mariage. Sa robe était très simple mais si jolie, elle était en peau de soie (un nouveau genre de faille) et tulle avec des bouquets de fleurs d'oranger. Son beau-père lui a donné pour cadeau une encre étoile en diamants et le jour de son mariage elle retenait son voile. Nous n'étions pas demoiselle d'honneur à cause du deuil ma robe était bien simple, et elle de Victoria aussi.

Nous voici à Beverly depuis Lundi soir, nous sommes arrivées à New York Dimanche matin après une traversée assez désagréable pourtant je n'ai pas été malade.

Je crois bien que j'irai à Nahant vous voir! et je serai bien contente de vous revoir.

Beverly est bien joli et notre petit cottage tout en étant petit est fort joli et la vue est superbe. Nous dominons la mer c'est bien joli, nous resterons ici jusqu'au mois d'Octobre de là nous rentrerons à Washington.

Victoria vous explique tout de sujet de vos laines j'espère que vous en serez contente. Je me suis bien seul sans Flora et j'ai eu tant de chagrin quand je m'en suis séjournée qu'après j'ai été malade pendant près d'une semaine cela fait que mon séjour à Paris n'a pas été assez agréable qu'il aurait dû.

Ne soyez plus fâchée, Jolaille. Je suis pardonnée, n'est ce pas? Je vous écrirai souvent maintenant et je vous raconterai toutes les nouvelles. Pauvre Jolaille encore souffrante, je vous plains, voilà ce que c'est que de se marier cependant c'est bien bon d'avoir un bon mari qui vous aime.

Au revoir ma bonne Jolaille.

Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Votre petite amie qui vous aime]]
Amalia

Beverly,
Cove Hill
18th July 1888

My dear Jolaille,

I know that I have not been nice in not writing you to give you all the details of Flora's Marriage, but if you know how sick I had been you would say nothing. It was truly my intention to write you and to give you all of the details but I was truly unable to do it. Flora was married the 18th of June at the Chapel of the Passionists on Avenue Hoche. The ceremony was quite simple because Mons. Salanson was in mourning, no one was invited except the family. As for the announcement letters, Jollaile, we sent them only in France to give pleasure to the Salansons, it not being English custom to send them. That was why we did not do it Jolaille, think no longer that it was something forgotten. For their honeymoon the young couple went to Switzerland where they did not stay long because Flora was suffering a little and to cart around from hotel to hotel tired her too much. Hence they stayed only fifteen days. I was quite contented since I had believed that I would not see her before our departure, she returned just three days before, with the result that I saw her installed in her house. I arranged her living room with her and I embarked the 7th of July, my heart contented at having seen her again.

She should be at this moment in the country at Villers-Cotterets. Her father-in-law has a country house and it is there that she will spend the summer. Afterwards, she will stay the winter in Paris and next April I will join her there and stay with her until October. She was so pretty the day of her marriage. Her dress was very simple but very pretty, she was *at peace* with herself (a new genre of fault) and dressed with bouquets of orange flowers. Her father-in-law gave her as a gift an enormous star of diamonds and the day of her marriage she wore her veil. We were not maids of honor because of the mourning. My robe was very simple and that of Victoria also.

We have been here in Beverly since Monday night, we arrived from New York on Sunday morning after a rather disagreeable voyage, even if I had not been sick. I do believe that I will go to Nahant to see you! And I will be quite happy to see you again.

Beverly is quite pretty and our little cottage even being so small is very pretty and the view is superb. We look over the ocean. It is very pretty, we stay here until the month of October and after we return to Washington. Victoria will explain to you everything regarding your woolens. I hope that you will be content with them. I am really alone without Flora and I was so sad when I was separated from her that after I was sick for nearly a week my sojourn in Paris was not so agreeable as it should have been.

Don't be angry any longer, Jolaille. I am pardoned, am I not? I will write you often now and I will tell you all of the news. Poor Jolaille still suffering, I am complaining to you, voila, that is what it is to marry. Nevertheless it is very good to have a good husband who loves you.

Au revoir my good Jolaille. Je vous embrasse bien fort.

Your little friend who loves you
Amalia

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Victoria,
forwarded to Bar Harbor.

Postmarked 19 July 1888.

Hence likely Wednesday, 18 July 1888.

Cove Hill
Beverly Mass.

Mercredi

Ma bien chère Amy,

J'ai votre laine et j'espère que les nuances sont bien rassorties. Je ne peux pas vs dire combien il nous a été difficile de trouver les laines!! L'adresse de la dame que vs m'avez donnée a été inutile. J'ai dû aller dans plusieurs magasins qui en ont envoyé toute espèce de couleurs accepté celles que je voulais. Les laines ne sont pas encore déballées car nous venons d'arriver. Je vous les envoi immédiatement, et je vous prie de les accepter comme un petit cadeau; c'est un bagatelle. J'ai plusieurs choses pour votre Maman, entr'autres une pendule qui est lourde. Où est votre frère à présent? Je ne sais pas où lui envoyer ses affaires.

Beverly a l'air si joli et si tranquille. C'est bien agréable ce tranquillité après le bruit de Paris et de Londres. Le lendemain du mariage de Flora, je suis partie immédiatement pour Londres où je suis restée jusqu'à mon départ chez ma sousine,

Lady Galloway.. Je suis beaucoup allée dans le monde; j'ai déjeuné et diné en ville tous les jours except deux fois; une de ces fois, c'était parceque Lady Galloway donnait un grand dîner en l'honneur du duc d'Aumale. Vous comprenez si j'ai besoin de repos!

J'ai peur que Amalia ne s'amusera pas beaucoup ici; et cependant nous avons déjà des invitations!

Amalia vs donnera les nouvelles de la petite marieée! Elle a l'air très heureux; on la gâte beaucoup chez les Salansons. Son mari est si épris d'elle!

J'espère que votre mari et votre gentaille marc son bien. Et vous-même, ma bonne amie!

Jolaille me demande à qui j'écris; je liu dis que c'est à vous. Alors de suite: "Dis bien des choses à Amy! de ma part".

Au revoir, ma très chère Amy. Mille baisers de votre sincère amie.

Victoria

J'ai vu Mme Outrey qui m'a beaucoup demandé de vos nouvelles. Adeline est devenu très Jolie.

Cove Hill
Beverly Mass.

Wednesday

My very dear Amy,

I have your yarn and I hope that the tints are well restocked. I cannot tell you how difficult it was to find these yarns. The address of the woman which you gave me was useless. I had to go to several stores which sent me every sort of color except those which I wanted. The yarns are not yet unpacked because we just arrived. I will send them to you immediately, I beg you to accept them as a little gift; it's a trifle. I have several things for your mother, among others a pendulum which is heavy. Where is your brother at present? I do not know here to send her things.

Beverly has an atmosphere so pretty and tranquil. The tranquility is very enjoyable after the noise of Paris and London. The day after Flora's marriage, I left immediately for London where I stayed until my departure at the house of my cousin, Lady Galloway. I went out a lot; I lunched and dined in town every day except two times; one of those times it was because Lady Galloway gave a grand dinner in the honor of the Duke of Aumale. You will understand if I have need of rest! I fear that Amalia will not be very happy here; and nevertheless we have already many

invitations! Amalia will give you news of the little wife! She seemed very happy; she was very spoiled at the Salansons. Her husband is so in love with her!

I hope that your husband and your gentaille child are well. And yourself, my good friend!

Jolaille asks me whom I am writing to; I tell him that it is to you. There follows: "Say good things to Amy on my behalf."

Au revoir, my very dear Amy, a thousand kisses from your sincere friend.

Victoria

I saw Mme Outrey who asked me often about you. Adeline has become very pretty.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray, 39 Marlborough.
from Amalia



Cove Hill
Beverly
Mass
22 Septembre/88

Ma bonne Jolaille,

J'ai reçu votre dernière lettre à Lenox. Cela va vous étonner n'est ce pas. Eh bien oui Jolaille je suis allée à Lenox pendant une semaine.

Je vous assure que je me suis bien amusée et que je m'en suis donnè après la tranquillité de Beverly le monde m'a paru charmante et quoique tout le temps de mon s'éjour j'ai souffert du mal de dent je me suis tout de même amusée. J'ai été à trois bals dans l'un était un bal poudré tellement joli, j'étais si drôle avec les chevreuse poudrés mais cela m'allais joliment bien ainsi qu'à Victoria, il y a eu aussi un petit cotillon qui était joliment gai Dieu que je me suis amusée j'ai dansé comme une petite folle toute la soirée jusqu'à 4 heures du matin. J'ai été aussi à plusieurs diners et déjeuners et tous les jour Mrs Whitney chez qui V. était (moi j'avais des cambres dans un cottage avec Mme Cameron) m'envoyait son phaïton avec une jolie paire de chevaux pour conduire moi-même j'étais si contente et très chic. Mme Whitney a

donné une si jolie fête champêtre mercredi matin on a eu le déjeuner sur la pelouse à des petites tables et il y avait trio bands of music. C'était bien reussi, en un mot. Je me suis bien amusée et suis redevenue la même. Nous pensons rester ici encore trois semaines et puis no filerons Victoria et moi nous nous arrêterons à New Your et irons faire visite à Mrs Trevar pendant quelques jours sur le Hudson River j'en suis enchantée je deviens tout à fait gaïe. Flora m'écrit et me dit de vous envoyer son love ellee est très heureuse et devient tout à fait femme de ménage.

C'est si drôle pour Flora. Comment va votre mioche je le plains pauvre petit de souffrir des dents. Je me rends compte un peu de ce qui c'est.

V. et Mme Boumy vous envoient bien des choses et moi ma bonne Jolaille je vous embrasse bien fort.

Je suis si fachée de ne pas vous avoir revue.

Votre petite Malia
qui vous aime

Cove Hill
Beverly
Mass
22 September/88

My dear Jolaille,

I received your last letter in Lenox. That will astonish you, will it not? Really, Jolaille, I went to Lenox for a week. I assure you that I had a good time and that I gave it to myself. After the tranquility of Beverly the outside world was charming and even though I suffered from a toothache during the entire time of my visit, I was nonetheless happy. I went to three balls of which one was a pretty enough powdered ball, I was so funny with my powdered hair, but that went quite well for me and for Victoria. There was also a little cotillon which was wonderfully gay. God did I have fun. I danced like a little fool all night until 4 AM. I also went to several dinners and lunches and every day to Mrs. Whitney at whose house V. was (as for me, I had rooms in a cottage with Mme Cameron). She sent me her carriage with a beautiful pair of horses to conduct me, I was so pleased and very chic. Mme Whitney gave such a pretty rural party Wednesday morning. Lunch was served on the lawn at little tables and there were three bands for music, it was a great success. In a word, I had a great time.

We are thinking of staying here for three more weeks, and then we take off. Victoria and I will stop in New York and we are going to visit Mrs Trevor for several days on the Hudson River. I am enchanted with the idea. I am becoming quite gay.

Flora writes me and tells me to send you her love. She is very happy and is becoming quite a housewife. It is so funny for Flora.

How is your mioche? I pity him his suffering with tooth aches, I understand a little what it is like.

V. and Mme Boumy send you good wishes. And I, my good Jolaille, je vous embrasse bien fort. I am so angry at not having seen you again.

Your little Malia
who loves you

Letter to Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray,
39 Marlborough Street, Boston Mass.

From Victoria

Postmarked 31 October 1888

Victoria

BRITISH LEGATION

Mercredi

Ma bien chère Amy,

Vous verrez dans les journaux ce matin la jolie conduite du Président; il a tellement peur de la presse et de perdre son élection qu'il a envoyé à Papa son passeport.

Lord Salisbury ne voulait pas rappeler Papa pour une bêtise parielle; aussi le gouvernement anglais va être content! ... J'espère que cette acte inconsidéré du Président n'amènera pas des conséquences graves, car c'est comme une insulte qu'il fait à l'Angleterre, ne renvoyant son ministre plénipotentiaire pour avoir écrit une lettre privée et confidentielle qu'on a eu l'infamie de publier et d'interpréter d'une manière différente. Vs connaissez trop bien mon Jolaille pr savoir combien il est un "gentleman" — dont le monde est furieux ici de cette décision; je reçois des marques de sympathie de tous côtés. Je regrette beaucoup de quitter ce pays que j'aimais sincèrement; vous le savez. Quant à me marier, ma bonne amie, je n'ai pas le courage de le faire! (J'ai encore eu dernièrement un excellent parti!

Je ne sais pas encore quand nous partirons, car nous avons tant de préparations à faire! Nous irons tout droit à Paris voir Flora, puis ensuite en Angleterre, mais nous n'habiterons pas Knole pendant l'hiver. Amalia veut rester à Paris avec Flora; Papa

et moi voyagerons probablement, ou nous irons tous passer l'hiver à Cannes. C'est peu probable que Papa acceptera un nouveau poste qui lui sera certainement offert, car avant ce malencontreux incident, il parlait de se retirer.

Knole ne rapporte que 35.000 dollars par an au lieu de 50.000 comme on lui attribue et pendant 2 ans, à cause des droits de succession à payer à la couronne, nous n'aurons que très peu. Après nous serons "all right"! Je déplore beaucoup notre départ subit et inévitable. Mais vous serez toujours ma bonne amie, chère Amy; je vous donnerai souvent de mes nouvelles, car je ne veux pas que vous m'oubliez.

Croyez à ma très sincère affection. Baisers d'Amalia et souvenirs de Boumy et de Jolaille.

Votre amie Victoria

Je me suis occupée de vos cartes.

Wednesday

My very dear friend,

You will see in the papers this morning the pretty conduct of the President; he is so afraid of the press and of losing his election that he has sent Papa his passport. Lord Salisbury does not want to recall Papa for such foolishness; so the English government is going to be content! I hope that this inconsiderate act of the President does not lead to grave consequences, because what he does is like an insult to England, sending back his minister plenipotentiary for having written a private and confidential letter which someone had the infamy to publish and to interpret in a different manner.

You know too well My Jolaille to know how much he is a "gentleman." Everybody here is furious with this decision; I receive notes of sympathy from all sides. I very much regret leaving this country which I sincerely love; you know it. As for my marrying, my good Amy, I do not have the courage to do it! (I have lately had an excellent suitor!)

I do not yet know when we will leave, because we have all of the preparations to do! We will go straight to Paris to see Flora, then next to England, but we will not stay at Knole during the winter. Amalia wants to stay in Paris with Flora; Papa and I will probably travel, or we two will go spend the winter at Cannes. It is not probable that Papa will accept a new post which will certainly be offered to him, because before this inopportune incident he was talking about retiring.

Knole brings back only 35,000 dollars per year in lieu of the 50,000 attributed to it and for two years we will have only very little money because of having to pay the

rights of succession to the crown. After we will be “all right.” I very much deplore our sudden and inevitable departure. But you will be always my good friend, dear Amy; I will often give you my news because I do not want you to forget me.

Believe in my very sincere affection. Kisses from Amalia and remembrances from Boumy and Jolaille.

Your friend,
Victoria

I am occupied with your cards.

Notes:

This letter was written as the so-called Murchison affair was breaking. Victoria’s father, Lionel West, was British minister to the U.S. (There was not yet an embassy.) He had the bad judgment to reply to a personal letter seeking advice in the upcoming election. The letter was supposedly written by a former British citizen in California, but it was apparently actually written by the then Editor of the Los Angeles Times. West replied that he thought that Cleaveland was more sympathetic to British interests and therefore was the better choice. The letter was published and in the ensuing scandal the U.S. government demanded West’s removal. Diplomatic relations between Britain and the U.S. were temporarily suspended. Cleaveland lost the election. Diplomatic annals of the time refer to West’s “meddling” in U.S. politics, but it looks more like entrapment and poor judgement than active interference.

Lionel West had just become Lord Sackville on the death of his brother Mortimer and returned to England via France to live the rest of his life at Knole, the family estate. Knole was at that time the largest English estate still in private hands. Victoria later married her cousin Lionel Sackville-West and became Lady Sackville on the death of her father. The rights of succession are the British death duty or inheritance tax on major estates.

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray at 39 Marlborough
from Amalia.

Amalia

BRITISH LEGATION

6 Novembre / 88

Ma bonne Jolaille,

Je suis si contente de trouver un petit moment pour vous écrire. Voilà déjà plus d'une semaine que je vis dans un excitemment complet. Je ne me suis jamais vu à la pareille. Je ne puis m'imaginer que je vais quitter l'Amerique pour de bon, au première abord j'étais complètement broken-hearted mais maintenant j'en ai pris mon parti et je me sens presque contente de m'en aller rejoindre Flora. Ne trouvez-vous pas que toute cette affaire est ridicule et combien mon Jolaille a été maltraité? Je n'en reviens pas, j'en suis encore toute indignée. Maintenant que je vous ai un peu ouvert mon coeur, je vais vous parler un peu buisiness. Victoria me prie de vous dire que vos cartes et les plaques sont envoyées chez Mme Amory Lawrence avec un tas d'échantillons donc Mme Amory Lawrence vous les enverra, ces échantillons sont pour elle et Victoria a pensé mettre vos cartes et les plaques dans le même paquet n'ayant pas de messenger ici pour les porter à la poste et avoir le postage payé par le gouvernement. Nous sommes un peu en l'air; le moyen le plus sur était de les envoyer en même temps que cette boîte d'échantillons comme cela vous n'aurez rien à payer. La petite facture est aussi envoyée Mme A. Lawrence vous donnera tout cela.

Ou est Max? Il faut que je lui écrive pour lui annoncer notre départ cela m'ennuit de quitter toutes mes amies mais le monde est petit On se retrouve toujours du moins je me console ainsi. Comment allez-vous ma bonne Jolaille?

Ecrivez-moi dès que vous aurez un petit moment vous ferez plaisir

à votre petite amie
bien affectionnée

Amalia

6 November / 88

Ma bonne Jolaille,

I am so content to find a moment to write you. It has already been more than one week that I have lived in complete excitement. I have never seen anything like it. I cannot imagine that I am going to leave America for good. At first I was completely broken-hearted, but now I have taken my part and I feel almost content to go away to rejoin Flora. Do you not find this whole affair ridiculous and how badly my Jolaille has been mistreated? I will never return, I am still completely indignant. Now that I have opened my heart to you a little, I am going to discuss a little business with you.

Victoria asked me to tell you that your cards and plaques were sent to Mme Amory Lawrence with a few samples which Mme Lawrence will show you, these samples are for her and Victoria thought to put your cards and placques in the same package not having a messenger here to carry them to the post office and have the postage paid for by the government. We are a little in the air, the most sure means was to send them at the same time as this box of samples. That way you will have nothing to pay. The small bill was also sent. Mme A. Lawrence will give you all of that. Where is Max? I have to write her to announce our departure. It moves me to to leave all my friends, but the world is small. We will always find each other again. At least so I console myself. How are you my good Jolaille? Write me as soon as you have a moment. You will give pleasure

to your petite amie
bien affectionée
Amalia

Chapter 9

1889

Letter to Mrs. Russell Gray from Victoria.

Dated 1 March 1889

Hotel Britannique

Cannes

Alpes-Maritimes

11 Mars 89

Ma bien chère Amy

Vous n'avez pas une idée quel hiver agréable nous passons ici; et l'amabilité que nous avons rencontrée chez tout le monde. Cannes a été très gai surtout pendant la visite de trois semaines du Prince de Galles. Il a été la bonté même pour nous, surtout, je crois, à cause de la lalencontreuse affaire Murchison. Papa et moi avons été ivités à tous les diners qui ont été donnés en l'honneur du Prince. Je l'ai donc vu presque tous les jours; on dit qu'il est tout à fait rangé maintenant; je l'ai trouvé parfaitement correct pas du tout flirt et plutôt paternel qu'autre chose à mon égard. Il m'a invitée 3 fois d'aller à Nice avec sa "party" pour les Batailles de Fleurs et la Bataille des Confetti. Nous étions 8 chaque fois, et nous sommes énormément amusés, surtout pour les confetti, ou Bataille de Bonbons. Nous étions tous défuisés en dominos rouges, avec des cornes sur la tête, dans une superbe char rouge. Le Prince est si populaire.

Cela me semblait assez drôle, le soir du Mardi Gras de me promener à son bras dans la foule à Nice, comme de simples bourgeois. Il nous a donné de bien jolies broches comme souvenir et sa photographie.

S'il avait essayé de flirter, je me serais bien gardée, mais la manière dont il m'a traitée ne peut que faire beaucoup de bien à ma position social. — Vous voyez, chère Amy, comme je vous donne des détails. Je crois que nous resterons encore un mois

dans ce beau pays dont Papa raffole; les fleurs et le soleil sont magnifiques, ainsi que le paysage. Nous connaissons tout le monde et dînerons presque tous les soirs en ville. Mme Outrey a été appelée précipitamment à Paris par une grave maladie de sa mère qui est bien âgée; c'est une congestion des poumons; Adeline est très jolie. Elle (Mme O.) m'a beaucoup parlé de vous et d'une manière très affectueuse. Comment vont votre mari et vos petits mioches?

Nous nous partons tous très bien, même Flora qui s'est tout à fait rétablie; je n'ai pas l'espoir de devenir tante. C'est si dommage! Mais ce sera pour plus tard!

Faites mes amitiés à votre Mère aux Rotch, Mrs A. Lawrence, Mrs F. Amory et à mes bons amis de Boston. Vous pouvez m'écrire ici, car je ne peux pas être à Paris avant la fin d'Avril. Comme je serais contente si je pouvais vous y voir. — Au revoir tout de même.

Chère amie, Amalia doit vous envoyer sa petite botte de nouvelles, c'est pour cela que je ne vous parle pas d'elle. Mille baisers de la part de mon Jolaille pour vous et pour votre mari.

Je suis toujours votre aimie

Victoria

Hotel Britannique
Cannes
Alpes-Maritimes
11 March 1889

My very dear Amy,

You have no idea what an agreeable winter we are passing here; and the friendship that we have encountered in everyone's home. Cannes has been very gay, especially during the three week visit of the Prince of Wales. He was kindness itself to us, especially, I believe, because of the unfortunate Murchison affair. Papa and I have been invited to all of the dinners which were given in honor of the Prince. I therefore saw him almost every day; it is said that he is completely domesticated now; I found him perfectly correct, not at all a flirt, and more paternal than anything else in my regard. He invited me 3 times to go to Nice with his "Party" for the the Batailles de Fleurs and the Bataille des Confetti. We were 8 each time; and we had an enormously good time, especially for the Confetti or Bataille de Bonbons. We were all disguised in red clothes, with horns on our head, in a beautiful red chariot.

The Prince is so popular. It seemed so droll to me, the evening of the Mardi Gras, to walk in his arms in the crowd in Nice, like simple Bourgeois. He gave us some very pretty broches as souvenirs along with his photograph. If he had tried to flirt, I would have been very guarded, but the manner in which he treated me could only do great good to my social position—you see, dear Amy, how I give you details.

I believe that we will stay one month more in this beautiful country that Papa adores; the flowers and the sun are magnificent, as is the countryside. We know everyone and we dine almost every evening in the city. Mme Outrey was suddenly called to Paris by the grave illness of her mother, who is very old; it is a lung congestion. Adeline is very pretty. She (Mme Outrey) spoke to me a great deal about you in a very affectionate manner.

How is your husband and your little mioches?

We are leaving everything very well, even Flora who is completely reestablished; I do not have the spirit to become an aunt. What a pity! But that will be for later!

Give my good wishes to your mother and to Rotch, Mrs. A. Lawrence, Mrs. F. Amory, and to my good friends in Boston. You can write me here, because I will not be in Paris before the end of April. How content I would be if I could see you there. Au revoir, anyway.

Dear friend, Amalia should send you her little bit of news, it is for that reason that I did not write about her. A thousand memories from my Jolaille for you and your husband.

I am always your friend.

Victoria

Chapter 10

1891

From Victoria, postmarked 28 March 1891.

The final letter in the collection.

28 Mars

**KNOLE,
SEVENOAKS,
KENT**

Ma bien chère Amy,

Je viens vous demander de vos chères nouvelles.

Les miennes sont excellentes et je continue à mener la vie la plus heureuse. Nous n'avons guère bougé de Knole cet hiver, malgré le froid rigoureux; mais nous sommes si confortables dans notre vieille maison que nous y sommes restés malgré beaucoup de projets de voyage. Amalia est la seule qui ait pris son vols vers le midi; elle a passé 6 semaines à Cannes avec des amis; du reste, elle vous a peut-être écrit. Elle vient juste de retourner à Paris, où elle passera quelsque temps avec flora dont le petit Lionel croit en âge et en sagesse! — Moi, je n'ai pas de petit Lionel en vue, et je ne m'en fait pas d'ennui pour le moment; je suis tellement heureuse avec mon mari que je ne désire bien de plus en ce monde.

Nous venons de passer 10 jours à Londres chez Mr. et Mrs Cheston (Miss Howell, de Washington.) J'ai toujours été liée avec elle, maintenant plusqu'autrefois, et c'est une bonne aimie d'Amérique, ce pays que je n'oublie pas. Nous avons été au théâtre tous les soirs et nous nous sommes vraiment bien amusés à Londres; mail il n'y a pas de danger que ns allions à Londres pour la "Season".

Je deviens de plus en plus sauvage et n'aime guère le monde; ce qui est agréable est d'avoir nos amis en visite à Knole, et nous en avons presque toujours des Samedi au Lundi. De cette manière, nous avons revu beaucoup d'amis d'Amérique, des diplomates aussi.

Mrs Amory Lawrence m'a donné des nouvelles de Boston dernièrement; j'ai toujours le plus grand plaisir à recevoir des lettres me donnant des "news". Donnez-m'en de vos enfants; comment vont vos parents en Corée? Sous seriez bien gentille de m'envoyer des timbres de Corée, chère aimie; j'ai commencé un collection quand j'étais toute petite et je n'ai pas un seul timbre de ce pays-là; quand Vs en aurez des Américaines à m'envoyer même des timbres de 1, 2, 3, etc ents, donnezles moi; voulez-vous? Ceux-là ne seront pas pour ma collection; j'en ai besoin de beaucoup pour autre chose. Ainsi, veuillez me mettre de côté tous ceux que v. pourrez, Américaines ou autres?

Papa me demande de le rappeler à "Amy"; il fs appelle toujours comme cela.

Bien des choses aimable à votre mari, et "much love" from me.

Votre sincère amie

Victoria Sackville West

28 March

**KNOLE,
SEVENOAKS,
KENT**

My very dear Amy,

I recently asked you for your cherished news. Mine is excellent and I continue to enjoy the happiest life. We have scarcely budged from Knole this winter, in spite of the rigorous cold; we are so comfortable in our old house that we remain there, in spite of many planned voyages. Amalia is the only one who has taken flight to the South; she spent 6 weeks in Cannes with friends; she has perhaps written you of the rest. She has just returned from Paris, where she spent some time with Flora whose little Lionel grows in age and in knowledge! - Me, I do not have little Lionel in view, and I am not bored for the moment; I am so so happy with my husband that I desire nothing more in this world.

We just spent 10 days in London with Mr. & Mrs. Cheston (Miss Howell of Washington.) I have always gotten on with her, now more than formerly, and she is a good friend from America, this country that I will never forget. We went to the theatre every night and we were very happy in London; but there is no danger that W will go to London for the "season."

I become more and more savage and scarcely like the world; what is agreeable is to have our friends visit us at Knole, and we have them nearly always from Saturday to Monday. In this manner we have seen again many friends from America, some diplomats also.

Lastly, Mrs. Amory Lawrence gave me news of Boston; it is always the greatest pleasure to receive letters giving me "*news*." Give me some of your children; how are your parents doing in Korea? You would be very nice to send me some Korean stamps, dear friend; I began a collection when I was quite small and I do not have a single stamp from that country; when you have some American stamps to send me, even the 1,2,3, etc. stamps, give them to me, will you? Those will not be for my collection; I need many for something else. Thus, would you please set aside for me all that you can American or others?

Papa asks me to remember him to "Amy"; he remembers you always like that—
Best wishes to your husband, and "*Much love*" from me.

Victoria Sackville West

Notes:

Also refers to visits by Victoria's American friend Molly Cheston in January 1890, before the announced engagement of Victoria to her Cousin, Lionel Sackville-West, her father's namesake and heir. She refers to another visit by Cheston in early 1891 (as well as to visits by Mrs. Cameron and the Joseph Chamberlains.) Her sister Flora's son Lionel was born in March 1890. Victoria and her Lionel were married on 17 June 1890 at Knole. Amalia and Victoria became increasingly estranged as Amalia became more bitter at being unmarried and unloved.

In a letter to the London Times dated 31 January 1956, Victoria's daughter Vita wrote that Victoria during her pregnancy with Vita in 1892 amused herself by papering a small room at Knole with stamps arranged in strips and patterns. During a 1985 visit to Knole I inquired if the room still existed with Victoria's stamps, but I was told that the stamps had been removed when the room had been renovated a few years earlier. It is somewhat sad to consider the destruction of bits of history with a personal connection. I would have varnished the stamps to preserve them!

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