

23 Feb 1865

Dear Mr. Dickinson

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> / 1865

Dear Hollis

I was in my surprise and pleasure  
when a friend from "F." called at the office this afternoon  
and handed me your letter from the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Many  
thanks to you for being so thoughtful of my pleasure.  
And the compliments paid to me for letter writing. Whatever  
may have been my efforts in the past, as to length and  
interest. The present must undoubtedly be a complete failure  
as to the latter. As it is now after 10 o'clock at night. And I  
have continually been all day, reading over 200 pages of fine print  
and been writing "Och Leusid" since 4 o'clock. Yet after this, time  
can be pleasantly spent in perusing your few scattering thoug-  
hts, for in this way and reading your interesting letters comes my  
only real pleasure. And must while we are debased the pleasure  
of association. I hope the time not much longer. Long has  
been the time, at least to me, since I first thought of and hoped  
to enjoy your interesting society as a companion. Many times  
I think that I am asking, and demanding too much of you.  
Keeping you in suspense too long. Be assured that the suspense  
is great for me to endure. Perhaps greater. Your letter caused  
in addition a unusually serious of the matter. You say that you  
can't help being homesome without me. I have always thought  
you could and did spend the time more pleasantly than you  
could ever measure, under the present circumstances. Of this  
I have frequently written and then did not send the letters

And without any prejudicial reason. This time I am just on the  
point to disclose everything. Remember a remark you made  
the last evening I was there. "I can't understand you" And you  
must. The Compliment you pay & paper concerning "Green  
Backs" wounded your feelings. I did not intend such a thing.  
And must be a thousand pardons for being so cruel.

Thinking of the way I have always talked. Can't wonder at your  
not understanding me, And many times hurting your feelings  
wounded. Sometimes my talk would induce you to believe that  
I was anxious to leave immediately and in the same breath perhaps  
to the contrary. The discrepancy was caused by my giving  
away to my feelings for a moment. The next prompted by what  
I deemed better reason. Mollie & I wish we were married now.  
then I would be happy, how far from it now. But there are  
some demands requisite, of a pecuniary nature that I fear I  
could not meet at present. You know that I am a poor boy  
having had some misfortunes in early life, from which I have  
just recovered. And am now released from them.

Yet, this matter may seem idle to some. to me it is very grave.  
My ideas of a home are somewhat extravagant. And having  
such exalted feelings for you. And determine some day should  
we live to realize my expectations if application to my profession  
and honorable means will gain it. Many times I think  
that there is no better time than the present. And that there  
will be nothing gained by delaying this matter thereby cheating  
our selves out of many happy days. But to the fact, at the  
present I have not the means to meet the demands for  
anything of an extensive outfit for living as I would desire  
and here beside a surplus to ensure a support until

my practice would furnish that. And ample means to  
care for you in the way you are deemed worthy of. Could there  
be any means by which these requirements could be obtained  
how gladly would I embrace the opportunity. I am well  
assured that in many respects you are far better cared for  
now than you could be in my humble home. Though there  
"There would be two souls as but a single thought. I do heart  
that beat as one" I only ask for a start and if the realization  
of my understanding equal half the flattering inducements  
there would be no difficulty of making a living. The time  
may not be long until by my practice here a sufficient  
amount may be gained to ensure every thing. Don't under-  
stand me to think you have any very extravagant ideas  
of the life. I know something of the sacrifices you would  
have to make at present even with money. And those I would  
not have you make if it can be prevented. Though you might  
think you would be far happier with me in an humble home  
than at present. Don't flatter myself that such would be the  
case. You have often spoke as though you would be a burden  
to me during my studies. This would not be so. but would  
be of a great benefit because I would then be contented cheer-  
ful and happy. And could study with more energy feeling  
that indeed I had something to live and work for. Somebody  
to be anxious for. Now this is all an expectancy. And of  
course gives many pleasant thoughts. Though I have long  
are the hours that I am too tired to study. for instance this  
could this evening have been spent with you how much  
more I would feel like reading tomorrow. The people  
here are very good but at present your companions to me

I have been here several days though I have quite a number of  
very famous in town have spent every evening in the office  
finding more pleasure there than in their gub.

If you should come home I will be there very soon after  
learning of his arrival if my business does not prevent. I am  
grieved that the time that I can be spent visiting hereafter  
will have to be stolen. Don't you say too trouble for me to visit  
you. But every day spent out of that business delays so  
I am deep. And don't forget that it can't be distant  
that please. Did you intend that for mine or me. I will  
send it to you if so intended. You said you had to see it.  
Don't say what I did.

Mollie. I am ashamed of this letter. I have  
to sum up all courage to send it. Please give me your  
opinion - 12 And poor boy sleep.

Many sweet dreams to you

Good by "Dear one"

Yours "Henry"



Mrs. John E. ...  
New York