A Letter from Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Jewett

Hats and things...

[Nd, np – but apparently from Boston MA in the spring when nephew Theodore was at prep school (1896-97) or Harvard (1897-1901)]

(in sleeve marked G-2)

Saturday morning

Dear Mary,

I had such a nice time with dear Alice Howe after I wrote you yesterday. I have been meaning to go again, but she has been laid up and had to stay in the house so she couldn’t get here until yesterday. We had such a good talk — it was a great comfort to see her. Stubby was also calling between ten and eleven with funny particulars of meeting Pilla [?] Howells at his boarding house and great friendship being at once renewed. She was here in the afternoon but I didn’t see her. A.F. thought she was looking remarkably well and saw no marks or wounds left by the broken engagement!! I believe that nothing else happened worthy of note. We both declined to go out to dine — it has been hot and dusty though Alice said the air was quite different yesterday. A.F. is deeply obliged for the kind cannas and is in this moment deep in the Farquhar catalogue having called to me to know my inner feelings about coreopsis reds [?]. The double flowering cherry is in bloom Mary. it will be all out by the time you come and Mrs. Fields says she shall be delighted to see you. She

[2]

seems nicely yesterday & this morning but the hot weather was rather depressing to each of us — chiefly in spirits. I do hope that Davis has got the water cart going by this time. The dust must have been very trying after all the digging up of the street. I shall try to get to Mrs. Cabot’s today or Monday — Yes, to bring [?] a trunk for there are some books and I shall not wear my green dress any more [ - ] it is far too wintry. Mrs. Little [?] who “does” A.F.’s hats took my feather hat away day before yesterday and sent it home looking so nice – flattened out a little and

[3]

freshened up so that it looks much more in the fashion! I want a common one, some sort of lighter straw hat to drive in — when you come I’ll get Miss Howard to send over some. I don’t think of any that I can use my gifts on at home to retrim! I really felt lost when the old French one was deemed too far gone last summer, but it had worn well. Now don’t you start with the blue one this year! but perhaps I can take it and deck it like new for me!! Oh what a great thought. It might be blackit [?]! You see my thoughts have been centered on clothes this morning. Others have written to

[4]

Miss Bolger to make a new thin silk tea gown like the New York one, which seems like a real step. I wish that Spring would last a little longer. — I keep thinking of Cousin Alice and Lizzie and wishing I were not losing the conversation. Tell Liddy to see all she can of Jotie. I wish they could stay till I can get there.

[5]

It was very pretty to hear of your day at the shore, and I am glad you found everything in such good ease. Mrs. Fields sends kindest remembrances to Cousin Alice and Lizzie. I shall be looking for your letter more than usual today, to hear about their coming —

[6]

I got another letter from the Atlanta people saying nothing about the letter you wrote for me — and dunning me — and I just asked Becca to write on Bank paper! that I was absent but had left word that I must hear first from Vigrand [Vignand ?] & his back debts! as they had been told before. (Don’t forget to take the May [?] money!)

With best love
Sarah