

A Letter from Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Fields

(nd but late summer 1881 – AF has written 1881 in pencil at the top. James T. Fields died in April of 1881 – and Annie, devastated, cut herself off from friends and family for a time. This letter indicates an earlier intimacy than most scholars assume. See Paula Blanchard, pp. 134-135.)

(in sleeve marked K-1)

Thursday

Oh my dear darling your two letters have come and I don't know what to say. It fairly stung me to have my own dear love say that nobody would keep her out of it – Dear Fuffy if I had thought that this summer would have been easier and happier for you anywhere else I would have helped you go there. It can't be that you think I might have been more thoughtful of you – but

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indeed this seemed best and does seem best – And in a few days I shall be with you not to leave you alone again except for a few days while you stay there. Won't it make you more contented to know that really I have been looking forward to being with you there in a way I never have before – besides fairly longing now for the rest and quietness. I have more care than I ever have had before this

[3]

summer – and it has made me get through it all and be glad – because I know that afterward I am going to be by the sea with you. When I think of you it seems wrong that I can't always be with you to take care of you and love you and not let you be lonely – but dear darling so long as I really must be away part of the time it does make a difference that we belong to each other in a sweet way – and can keep

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the thought of it in our hearts when we are apart. So let us try to wait the rest of the time and know that it will be all the dearer when we are together. It is hard to write for I could so much more easily tell you this if I were with you – indeed I should not need to tell you at all. It makes my heart ache to think of your sadness and loneliness, but oh my darling don't let us forget that there is a great blessing sent with it all – and that God does not mean to punish us

[Cross-written on p. 1]

or torment us but to bless us and make us more and more his own dear children. I only hope that this note will carry you a little of that great love that fills my heart for you.

Your own
Pin

[Cross-written on pp. 2 and 3]

I send you Lilian H's [Horsford ?] letter. How touching it is about the Longfellows. I knew too that they wanted so much to go to you. No – the letter got spoiled – but she only said beside that other's [?] wishing to go to Manchester that Ole was there & it was about my coming down & c by and by