

Hyde Park Place, Chicago.

July 17th 1865.

My Dear Dr. [Henry]

I had hoped, to have sent this letter, by today's steamer, but have been so seriously indisposed, this week, that this is the first day of it. I have been sitting up. General Todd, called to see us, ten days since, said he had a conversation with Sec Harlan, the day, before leaving, that was the Monday, day after you sailed. He expressed great regret, that you had so, suddenly left, said he had intended, doing something for you. Robert, immediately wrote to him and insisted, that it was not too late & that he, considered it due, his Father's memory, that you should be provided for, in W. - Although it has been over a week, since this was written, not a word, have we heard from him. I see, by the papers, this week, that some man, from Iowa, has been put in Dole's place, and that Holloway, has resigned. Much, doubtless, to old Newton's delight, another, this last is, of the selfish ones. Mr. Harlan, has acted in the most contemptible way. It has become so much so with every one, that when I write to Washington, on any subject or business, I receive no reply, it is so with Robert also. No such sorrow, was ever visited upon a people or family, as when we were bereaved of my darling husband, every day, causes me to feel still more crushed & broken hearted. If it was not for dear little Taddie, I would pray to die, I am so miserable. I still remain closeted in my rooms, take an occasional walk, in the park & as usual see no one. What have I, in my misery, to do, with the outside world?

I must not fail to thank you, for your most interesting

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letter from New York, it is well for us, that you passed a day or two there, & saw those you did. Mr. Bentley wrote me from Detroit, one day, this week, said he would probably be in Chicago, next week. He appears, to be a very kind hearted man. Judge Davis, has been holding court in Chicago, called out & said very complacently, I am glad, to see you are so well situated out here & remarked, that there was not the least indication, that C - or any other place, would bestow a house & we must have to content ourselves, with boarding. I replied, "I board no longer than next spring in Ill, after that, if we have still to be vagrants, I prefer being so, in any state, rather than where every man in the state, owes, my Husband a deep debt of grattitude." He said, will you take Rebt with you too? I replied, most certainly, he goes where I do" -There is no doubt he Judge D, enters entirely into the feelings of the S. clique. I mentioned, that I had understood, that Smith, had been making himself, as silly & malicious as ever, by endeavouring to turn my best friends in N. Y. against me. He said "not at all, he could not believe it." I told him very emphatically, "it was so." I did not mention any names to him. With all our overwhelming sorrows, what enemies, we do, have to contend with. - I can assure them here, that it is from no feeling of gratitude or love, for them, that I have returned here - Judge D. is intensely selfish, and would rather, I really believe, prefer to see us, as we are, without a home, or the prospect of one, rather than have us comfortable - it is endurance vile.- I assure you - and no prospect of a remedy. I believe in my heart

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that you are really, the only disinterested, sincere friend, left us. I trust for all your kindness, I will be enabled to repay some of it. It was very painful to us, I assure you, to find that you had to return home. I had fondly hoped, that you, would have been settled in W. and we would have received frequent visits from you & Mrs. Henry, whom I remember with much affection. Alas, alas our families, are both situated alike, nothing but disappointments before us - and if myself & sons, are specimens, of American justice, God Help, other people.

I have written to Sen. Williams, and have as yet, had no reply - I have requested him, to inform me, of the first safe means, of sending some articles to you - our poor boxes. I fear, are long destined, to remain, in the warehouse. I thought it best, not to send, for the present, those claims to Mr. Brooks. Some months later, perhaps, it would be better. Any thing we do is seized on - An especial way, of "Being cared for, by the American people". Robert is so worried, that I am sick so much, that he has purchased a neat covered buggy, in which he can drive his horse, otherwise he says he would sell the horse. As it was his Father's last gift, I could not consent to this, although, I expect, we will hear remarks, about our purchasing a buggy - I do hope, dear Doctor, you will write to us very frequently, - what would I not give, to have one of our old chats together again. R.- often remarks the same. I cannot express, how lonely & desolate we are. And you have been almost our only friend in our deep, deep affliction. Please present much love to Mrs. Henry, who must indeed be rejoiced to see you. I will write you again in a few days, after seeing Bentley, if he calls. Do write at least once a week.

Robt & Ted send much love.

Your truly attached friend

Mary Lincoln.

