

Roxbury, July 19, 1874.

Dear Fanny:

I was not aware, when Frank wrote to you, that he gave you cause to expect that I should join you at Old Orchard; and so you will doubtless be disappointed in receiving this letter, instead of seeing me. I should indeed like to go down to the beach, that I might judge of its claims upon summer tourists, have the companionship of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and return with you and Freida and the little ones to Boston; but such a visit is quite out of the question, as I am more crippled than ever. And it has happened in this wise. You know that I have been thinking of trying the efficacy of the Turkish Bath for my rheumatic ailment. So, on Friday afternoon I made my first trial at Dr. Lewis's establishment, and had a powerful sweating in three rooms successively — the temperature of the first having been 135, the second 150,

and the third 175 degrees above zero. Probably I was too long subjected to such intense heat, but I had no one to give me any instructions, and I had no means of judging as to the lapse of time. Still, I enjoyed the bath, after having been well rubbed and manipulated; but I had scarcely got home before my left knee became cramped and intolerably painful, giving me the worst night I have had since I was taken a year ago last spring. I am somewhat relieved by the application of Kerosene oil and cotton batting, but still can only badly limp, suffering at every step. This illustrates the efficiency of jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire. At least, it is not the entertainment to which I was invited. However, I shall make another trial on Tuesday, hoping for a different result. But <sup>you</sup> will understand why I am unable to enroll my name among the visitors at Old Orchard.

The weather has been brilliant and warm, sometimes oppressive, ever since you left. As you have had — for one day at least — the thermometer at 90, you have hardly gained much by an exchange of places; but I doubt not that you are having a very enjoyable time.

The place will present some novelties to the children, who have already seen many notable places and things.

I see that I was somewhat redundant in addressing you as at the hotel; but, for the moment, I labored under the delusion that there was but one hotel at Old Orchard, worthy of such a special designation. I sent on Saturday, in the same vague manner, to your address, two letters for Harry from Germany, and one from him, <sup>for you</sup> and hope they will not miscarry.

Your mother is quite comfortable, saving the heat. She has taken her ride to Cambridgeport, daily, with Frank and myself, as usual.

George is passing the day with us. Anne did not feel well enough to accompany him.

Yesterday Charlotte Coffin spent the day with your mother.

To-morrow morning, William and Ellie, with their children, take their leave for Auburn. William will probably return by Friday or Saturday.

We shall expect you on Wednesday by noon, and will meet you with our carriage on your arrival. Should you remain till after dinner Wednesday, the hotel charge will be considerably enhanced. It will be well not to exceed the week.

Give our affectionate regards to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis.

Your loving father

W. L. G.

Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 8, p. 52 B