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Swains Alley any Co
New York.



Long Branch New Jersey.
July 14.

My Dear Husband.

You can never tell how glad I was to get a letter from you. Cousin Debbie's husband went to the P.C. last evening & I thought I would sit up till he returned, but I was so afraid I should be disappointed & not get a letter I went to bed. & got up early & found the letter awaiting me. We came down here to Long Branch last Tuesday. I have been down to the beach every day & had some good dips in the ocean. Grace is delighted with sea bathing she screams with delight every time we put her in the water. We can sit here on the stoop & see the great ocean steamers sloops &c go by. Jennie came down here from Red Bank on the 4th It was very quiet here, we did not leave the house except to go & bathe. They are very busy here ^{hauling} their grain. Their haying is all done. The hay crop was very light on account of the drought. They had a fine shower on the night of the 4th. I never saw such a storm in my life. I was so frightened I went to bed.

The thunder storms are terrible here, on account
of its being so near the sea you know. Grace
is getting fast & I never saw a child bat as she
does. I think the sea air has done me good,
but your letter done me more good than all the
sea baths I have taken. We are about three miles
^{down the beach} from the principal Long Branch hotels, but there
is one large boarding house close by here on the south
& two miles down the coast is a new watering place
called Ocean Bure. We are going there to church this
P.M. Aaron took the girls in the carriage to Long
Branch villas this morning to church. I thought I
would rather stay & write to you & not go to church
till this P.M. You know the President has a cottage
here on the beach, the family are there now, we rode
past it once & are going to see it again before we
leave. They say the people at Long Branch miss Fisk
this summer. He made such lively times here.
They think here that Stokes will be hung.
We shall leave here for Middlesex Co the first
of the week. nearly all of our relatives are living
there. The girls say they are going to keep me here
as long as they can, but I don't think they will
be able to keep me longer than just to get
around & see our relatives. I would like to see

them all as I never expect to come again
I felt some home sick before I got your letter
but that has cheered me up so much. You say I
must not think of home more than I can help
Well I won't think of home my dear only all the time
I can enjoy myself here & think of home if I know
all is well there. Will I think this trip will do me
worlds of good, I have made up my mind that home
is the best place in the world especially with such a
dear good husband & such sweet babies as I have got.
No matter where the home ~~is~~ if the heart's treasures are
only there, I never shall leave home again...
without you. My trip here has cost me more
than I expected. It has cost considerable to
have our baggage carted around. I have only
about a dollar left of what you gave me.
I have felt bad & worried a good deal because
I am here spending money when you are
working hard at home. But I think I shall
get the worth of all I spend, if you can spare
it. I would like to have thirty or forty dollars
as I wish to make some purchases in New
York before I come home. But if it will
embarrass you to send it let me know &

I will not ask so much. It has made
me feel so good to hear you are getting along
so well. Time flies fast I will soon be home
to help you. I think ~~the~~ luck has turned
& we shall get along nicely & come out all
right before the year is out. Be careful about
fires. I think this trip to Jersey will make me
a better wife than I have ever been,

Our P.O. will be at Jamesburg when we are
in Middlesex Co & we shall stay there the
longest of any place so if it will not be inconvenient
please send the money as soon as you can.

I think you will see our faces coming along soon
as we get somewhere I can get them taken cheap.

We had made up our minds to come home
on the Erie road. we shall have to come up
on number one & stop in Howellville all night.
I can go to Annie Campbell's you know. I must write some
little letters to Hattie & Ray. As I sent my last letter on
Monday & received an ans Saturday. I shall look for one
from you by Saturday night. Write all you can get time
to any thing well interest me coming from home. I think
you had better take Thastie out of school. it is so far to go in
the hot sun. If the girls have not written before you get this
tell them to send the letter to Jamesburg. With much love
I am your ever true loving wife. Essie M. Van Nortstrand.

Will you can send money by Express to
Jamesburg Middlesex Co New Jersey in care
John S. Selover also your next letter,
remember John S. for there are two John
Selover. Love,