

Mr. De la Roche
Madison N. H.
June 27
Friday Eve:
July 1/84

My dear Frank, I have seen
Frank's fiancée - She came to Bridg-
-ton on the morning of the Fourth
- drove over from Cumberland Ter-
-race where she lives - I met her on
the grounds - The Grove where the 4"
was celebrated - she is not hand-
-some but very elegant and dis-
-tinguished - slender, good height &
perfectly poised - a little too ma-
-nèrèe for American tastes, but
not too much so for high bred
English & French - I liked her
it was like enjoying a fine cameo

or some nicely executed work of
art - You know I have always had
a little fancy for that sort of style
Pattie Frist in her uppish days, my
Aun with her Duchess airs and so:
-Phie Buck who breathes the very
air as if her beautiful nostrils
honored it by receiving its currents
- These three women have always
given me infinite satisfaction and
so I felt while listening to Miss Sharp
and looking at her light, well-pole
person, her quiet but delicate ex-
-quisite toilette and her perfectly
self possessed elegant manners
Had I been alone with her I should
have kissed ^{her} but I would not take

a liberty with her before any one
for fear of encouraging others
in going too far - She seemed like
an exquisite bit of Cellini silver
work that free touches might injure
I don't wonder Frank talks so rarely
and reverentially of her - No indeed
he should not write to any woman
not even an artist Dalilah like you
he should hold himself apart from
all other feminines for such a woman
She "reposed" me she was cool and
refreshing - I'd like to have her
near me when I had a hot feverish
head ache - her hands look calm
and capable, her eyes have soul
but no passion in them and her

skin looks dewy and pure. Such
a contrast as she forms to Frank!
It just satisfied me to see them to-
-gether they make such a lovely whole
Miss Sheppard's theory of a happy
marriage as she tries to instruct us
in "counterparts" about it will be
fully carried out in their union
She talks very prettily and naturally
too about Frank - some compliment
was paid to him in our little circle
when he arose to speak and she was
in a measure appeased so as to
be forced to say something in reply
I felt a slight tremor but it was useless
for she answered without any false
shyness and with the quietest calmness

^{from -} sweetest smile ^{she is} ^{bracketing} ^{a nugget} ^{the price} ^{she - she} ^{in look} ^{she said} ² ^{her love} ^{somebody} ^{healthily} ^{little} ^{members} ^{venture} ^{rather} that
assented to our remark ~~and~~ that
of course she thought so "but then"
she added with a little dignity
that was very becoming & not at all
put on "I cannot expect every one
to see him with my eyes" Yes
my dear she is just delicious and
I can love her just as well as I do
dear Frank - You can imagine how
glad I am that she is so lovely
A whole sheet about this fiancée
But indeed she has been a comfort
to me all the week since I saw her
for I have been quite ill, feverish and
headache and languor and I have
thought of her while tossing on my

bed and wished for her as I wish
for cool, quiet, calm Stan. Kennard
so you are at last at Newport. I am
very glad to feel you are there - How
wondered you will be - Chester Jones is
to be with Mrs White (nee Ridgely)
in a few weeks - he is to call on you
and you must be gracious to him
for my sake for I like him -

My home is deliciously still - I
enjoy my music, books and dogs &
space and ^{absolute} sovereignty - I have just
been playing Bach's Gavotte & trying
to hear your divine fingers in one
of its passages - No I did not see your
éloge in the Press - send it to me &
I will return it by mail immediately
after I read it - I wish very much
to see it - so gratify me.

My love to Mrs Tiers - I am sorry I
produce such a Miss Plimber ef-
fect on her - You should be able to
correct such a false impression - I am
no Yankee school marm "proud of
my parking powers" but simply
a feminine Bert that has "done and
been and suffered" nearly old enough
to be her mother but as full as Mme.
de Sévigné of tender indulgence and
admiring love for such a beautiful
imperious young woman as she is.
If I were as handsome & young as
Mrs Tiers I am afraid I should
go straight to the "demintion bow-wow"
old & ugly as I am I hardly keep
out of the broad path especially
when nice little widowers & capti-
-vating little married men come
across my solitary ~~path~~ way -

Write to you! To be sure I will. I shall like nothing better - I'll try & give you a paper shot weekly if you choose to ask for it through the mail I've lots of nice things to tell you bookish and otherwise - not to day however for I am far from well my head aches fiercely and my nerves are trembling all over my body We are having one of our sultry mid-summer heats hanging over us I feel a little like Scarriana in the moated grange at "The hour when the thick moted sunbeam lay athwart the chambers, & the day was sloping toward his western bowers"

Oh! for your music, or a beautiful cool calm woman's presence & soothing hand touch! Charlotte Taylor writes me about

articles in the Revue Permanique full of Renanisms and Humboldtisms & unbeliving isms but equally full of thought & information - And the Revue des Deux Mondes with superb Art Etudes - I have been enjoying lately some evenings with Soppie Buck's husband he was here three days and gave me two long visits He is very intelligent, cultivated has travelled abroad, is fond of the play lives in New York is stylish, uppish & charming, handsome too of course with superb eyes and talks well - We have taken to each other hugely He will be here again in a fortnight I am happy to say - He is young only 30 or so and 35. but not young in manner God Bye - my Washington Correspondance flourishes and so shall I when I get over this headache - with love your Anne

Barbara's History³ - Her friend Miss
Philp (that English lady who was in Wash-
-ington last year Charlotte's Cousin's
' friend who wished to meet me because
' C.C. had talked so lovingly of me
' to her (will your brother hear her say
' "Whew! what a parenthesis!") knew
' the writer of "Barbara" a Miss
' Edwardes and she told Charlotte
' Taylor so much about the writer
' that it interested her more in the
' book "more" Charlotte I says "than
' the book by itself would have done"
' I must read it however - Mr Smith
' is to send it me in the next parcel
' of books also the "Small House at Allig-
' -ton" I am reading Truck Reeves
' outrageous irreligious God forsaken