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My Own Darling Wife

Your letter of yesterday morning as to the cottage at Monmouth Beach was very promptly received. I got it at 1902 by 2 o'clock. I was unfortunately physically incapable of thinking the matter over and giving an answer. The fact is that I was so prostrated by the intense heat that I had to leave the office about one o'clock and spend the afternoon with ice bandages, chloroform liniment, mustard leaves and other little pleasantries. Today I feel much better and as there is a fair breeze coming in my window have no doubt that I shall do very well.

I do trust, my darling, that as to the cottage matter you will not consider me crooked if I look at it in a different light from you. I assure you that I appreciate very highly the kindness of the offer but there seem to me to be some very serious questions which perhaps you have not considered.

As to expense, there would be as you point out extra cost for our table. But this is not all. The charges for fuel would be extra and in addition the cost of railroad fares including that of servants and of myself, especially if I traveled much to and fro, would be considerable. Our summer expenses now mount up to \$950 and I confess that I feel much hesitation without very good cause in augmenting them further.

Again would it be prudent or would you feel very well content to leave 1902 in charge of a makeshift—particularly if we had to get the silver out of the Fidelity to get what would be necessary for us to have at Monmouth in such case we would have to leave the bulk of our silver at 1902.

Again, do you think it very wise to go down to the sea again when we were all so sick and weary of it at Narragansett. I know that it would be cooler because later in the year, but the sea is the sea in September as it is in August.

It seems to me besides, dear, that there is not sufficient reason for us to do this. Within a week we may certainly look for the autumnal equinox after which all analogy teaches us to expect seasonally cool weather. You know we agreed that after the 15th there would be no material discomfort to be suffered and that we might safely bring Tots home.

Suppose it gets cold and stormy—as it is very likely to do after the equinox, would you not be very lonely all by yourself down at the sea? Perhaps, dear, I am swayed in this matter by a selfish feeling. I have been obliged to live alone so much this summer and have been so lonely that I cannot tell you with what pleasure I have been looking forward to next week when I should have both my dear ones back again. If you do take the cottage, I shall after all see very little of you. The utmost would be Sunday and one evening in the week besides. In order to accomplish this I should have to leave the office early two days in the week and arrive late two mornings after a railway journey which is not the best preparation for a day's work. I confess, darling, with the present rush of work, I do not see how I can spare all this time.

However, darling, I will leave this matter to you. If you honestly think that taking the cottage would make you happier and be better for Tots, do it. I agree in advance I will try my best to get to you on Saturday but have been so much put back in my work by the heat that I cannot certainly promise. If you should conclude not to go to Monmouth I hope you will stay at Summit until the cool wave comes. Nettie tells me that your aunt presses you to remain as long as you will

God bless you, darling. My dearest love to both of you

Your own Loving

Larry