

Wauventon Va
Acc. 137)

Oct. 10th 1885-

My dear Lady Dawson,

I feel sure you know the reason why I have been so slow in answering your very welcome letter which came to me in the summer. It found me trying to do all that I could for my dear child whose health has been worse instead of better during our sojourn in America. I now

think - now that it is
all over - that her state
of mind had much to
do with her health &
I regret having prevented
the marriage before we
left England last Dec.

Since that has been
accomplished her health
both of mind & body
has shown an upward
tendency & had you seen
her on her wedding day
so bright & cheerful. you
would never have dream-
ed of her being otherwise
than well. Up to the day
before she had been so

miserable, that her Brother
had said it must be post-
poned - but that again only
made things worse & she
was married the day that
had been fixed upon
some time before. I wish
you could have seen her
in her dress & that you
could have witnessed
the ceremony. It took place
in the Episcopal Church
& was a real country
wedding - willing hands
& loving hearts made
all the preparations - dec-
orating & lighting the pretty
little church etc. It was ab-
out past three in the afternoon

& only that morning had
we decided - so that no
invitations were sent out,
& there was no Reception.

We only informed our most
intimate friends & they again
mentioned it - so that the
church was full & every
thing passed off very pleas-
antly. They left the same
evening & arrived in New
York to breakfast the next
morning, & on to Cloverley,
where they have been a
month - all to themselves.

Kelley preferred it to going
to a Hotel or Summer
Resort, as she did not
feel strong enough to

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go through the fatigues of
such a life. My son left
me at the same time &
sailed on the 12th for England.

He will return next month.
And so you see I
am alone. Nelly will
leave for her future home
very soon & I am expecting
to go to see her at Cloverley
& say-farewell. It is a
sore trial to anticipate
& my poor head shrinks
from the suffering. I
hope & pray that I may
be willing to part with
my precious child the
companion & friend of

so large a portion of
my life. But "our wills
are ours to make them
thine" - & I would gladly
overcome all these wishes
that things could have
been different - that my
child had married one
of her own countrymen
& not an Englishman -

For I must admit, that
however good they may
be, my impression is that
they lack much in tender
feeling & sympathy - qualities
so necessary to our happiness
in their changing experiences
of our lives. If it were
the fashion or custom, I
have no doubt the English

would cultivate such virtues.

As far as I know them, I think my Daughter's plans are to live at Oxtou where it is considered more healthy than it is in Rock Ferry.

My own plans for the winter are to return with my son to Florida to my dear old home, in November.

I am wished for there.

There are many things in that new country to interest & call me out from myself. the Church Sunday & week-day schools - all claim my time & attention.

My son will be near & with me very often. His business is henceforth

in Pensacola - much to
my comfort & satisfaction.

And now, my dear friend
that we shall be on the
same side of the world - &
my country is so much
warmer than yours in the
winter, why will you not
come - or will you not come
& make me a visit. We
rarely have frost in the
form of snow - there is
never a day when you
can not be out walking
or riding or driving. There
are no tropical fruits or veg-
etation in our part of Florida.

But you would see many
things or places of interest.

I wish you & Eva & Sir William
would think seriously of my
proposition & come down to see
us.

I would also include
your dear son Rankin
for whom I entertain
such a warm friendship.
I should be so happy
to see him again.

My son would be
most happy to see you
all & you would soon
feel at home with
us in our little home
in the Pine Woods.

I have a strong wish
to keep up the intercourse
so pleasantly begun
in England & so congenial
& improving to me.

This summer I was
visiting one of my Brothers
in North Carolina.

He showed me what
I considered a great cu-
riosity - a flexible stone.
The piece he had was
about eight inches long. two
wide & half an inch thick.
but it had been wrought
out of the rough Rock.

If Sir William has
not a specimen, I will
try to procure one for
him. I should have
added that it was
yellowish grey in colour.

Small-foot

I hope this will find you all well - we see such accounts of an epidemic in Canada, that one can not avoid feeling anxious for those who may be exposed to it.

But perhaps we hear more of it than those on the spot - as is not unusually the case.

do excuse this very long letter & I promise ^{again} not to follow my example, if you will write to me. Please remember me most warmly to Sir William & Rankin

& with my love for
yourself & Eva, believe
me as ever yours sincerely

H. S. Keyser

My address is—

C/o. Mrs. Willard

205. West 56th St.,

New York,

Nelley's is the same.