

Mr. Pitt Coll. August 21.

Dearest Rankine

Papa & I

returned home on Saturday
& to our surprise found Corie
Crow, Mr. Keyser, (a friend who
had brought her from Florida),
& William already settled in the
house. This at once threw us into
the hustle of town life, especially
as Belle (who has been table maid
for the past year) had in my ab-
sence gone to take the charge
of her mother's children & I have

found it all but impossible
 to find any one to take her place.
 now I have the prospect of getting
 a girl tomorrow. The overfatigue
 of Saturday resulted in one of
 my attacks during Sat: night -
 but ^{she} got wonderfully quickly
 over it & I have been everywhere
 today making arrangements
 for everything. The amount
 of cleaning & freshening up in
 & around the buildings is quite
 exciting. Pans paper tipped as
 a crossing on Sat: falling & striking
 one eye on a stone, which has suf-
 fused blood over the eyelid mak-
 ing ^{it} almost black. Today it is bright

Magenta tomorrow I suppose
it will be green & blue. So it
will be very important.

I was gone when interrupted
last night. Lybil Wilson
arrived this morn. & Prof. & Mrs. Gray
we expect tonight; this fills our
house quite full. My servant
has come & I am greatly pleased
& fit like a Grand General when
I marshaled them ^{all} up & detailed
my orders to each. A great many
visitors for the meeting, have come
today - our hall rings almost
incessantly & tomorrow my hall
will be thrown open to Papa's
public. The girls ^{Lybil, Carrie & Rosa} are already fully

in the spirit of the thing & are
 flying around willing to oblige
 every body. & to shoulder & if strength
 would hold out.

William is surveying the ground
 for the new Bailey's tracks at Louisa
 & comes over before dinner, disappear-
 ing at dinner each day. He hopes
 to be ready to return to Louisa tomorrow
 but we are trying to get him to stay
 to our entertainment on Thursday.

Perry wrote me a long letter
 from Larchon & since that a postal
 Bayonne-de-Bigorre. Haut Pyrenees.
 He goes on to Bayonne. &c.

The weather is warm & getting
 warmer. We can only hope that
 there will be one week more of dry
 weather. Your loving Mother.