

Pittsburgh June 17th 1867

Dear Brother William

#39 Diamond Street

I was the glad recipient of a letter from you dated at Jefferson on the 7th inst. Containing a very kind and cordial invitation to visit you this summer which I fear I can't accept on account of my helplessness. and my family are of such an age I (and our two boys at work (Chas at the Bank) and Alack at a trimming store on 5th st) would rather if spared watch over them and try to teach them to be useful and happy. But I would like dearly to see any of you this summer especially Sister Mary and I hope you or Joe may have a business trip to this city and bring her along it would give me pleasure to talk to her once more I should like to have a talk with you or Joe in fact with any of you but I fear I would not interest the Nieces very much but I will promise to do all I can. with a hearty welcome to boot to make a visit pleasant.

I also got a paper from you containing a descriptive and humorous letter dated at Deer Island Me. I don't think Joe was very sick when he wrote that, at least on his return when he laid comfortable and coolly heard the "acrobat" reversing sides inside for out side But I hope he has been fully restored and can do and enjoy plenty of one of the greatest ^{mercies} on Earth. Work. I delivered Mrs paper to him he is obliged to you and

Thanks and love he has gone to day to Cincinnati to look
after his steam boat interest he and his family are all well
George is at home now on a visit for a while he soon
goes back to La. to his cotton he thinks his prospects thus far
for a good crop fair. Ben has gone in an ^{US} Engineering Corps to the
Northwestern Counties of Minnesota bordering Dakota to measure
land. Brother Saml is at present on the River at St Louis
with Sam Jr who having nothing to do at present is taking
a pleasure trip they are all well and doing well (at home)
Sister Lizzie Barnes was up here for six or seven weeks this
spring she is not as hearty ~~was~~ when she lived at
our house the asthma and age has begun to make inroads on
her. Jesse took ^{him} with me the other day I have not seen for
three or four months before he being between Cincinnati and N.O.
Since last March he is well and looks well he reports all
well at home. My relations in Martinsville are well when last heard
from Alice is up here on a visit she is at Goldings who are all
well except Sarah who is very delicate but about the same
as she has been for a year or so Catherine Lewis and her family
that is herself and two girls her boys I don't know much about Dean
is in Jemison with good prospects if he is steady. Frank Barnes is
painting at Bell's Station Tenn on the Memphis & Charleston RR
Will Barnes has left here when he left the Post the
Arran told me he started for Chicago via Wheeling
and Toledo to stop at either of the places he could
get work in when the last letter was written from
Martinsville he was there I believe this about all
the family news I think of just now

I am truly sorry to hear of Marys affliction and hope she
may be spared the cross of being confined to much extent to
the house but if otherwise ordered I pray she may find
His face sufficient and be profited by all His dealing with her
Poor little (as he was when I last saw him) Henry I am glad to
hear he is less troublesome than he was sometime ago

Remember me to Victoria Aurika & Annie I would love to
see them I hope Annie had a pleasant trip to the "Hub"
I think she had from her letter.

Our Mary has just got in
from school with a very creditable report the Pitts Female Col
closes next week until September and she is glad of it for she
is very tired We are all in excellent health at
home Chas & Aleck are two fine big boys in fact
Alecks physique for his age is extraordinary (Not quite
Eleven years old yet) and larger than most boys at 14 or 15
but not quite as staccious nor as far advanced as
Charles was at his age

Mother has very good health and sends her love to
all of you and joins me in inviting you to try and
give us a visit soon We wish equally to be remembered
to Joe and his wife & Children - tell to try and come over
if only on a business trip I would like to see him
very much and I think with the present R Rs and
passes or if you keep such things about your clothes
yet I am not asking too much ^{for} One of you to come
and bring Mary if Will or any of ~~one of you~~ ~~the~~ ~~one~~
his family or Sam and family are in Jefferson give our love
to them

I think this letter is long enough to warrant an
answer at least it seems pretty long the Mercury being
too far up the tube for comfortable writing

I wish you success in the Convention if you
want it

Write soon our love to all

I am as ever yours

affectionately

Alex^r Dean

News of Mary Dean Howells' family -