

Cherbourg, France

July 25. 1893

My dearest Helen. I have begun my
letters with excuses for no news, for in the
way of personal experience I have nothing to
record beyond confinement to the cabin &
a sorrowful failure to get any letters from
home. My last date is still the 7th, others
have them of the 14th and I am at a loss to
account for it. It will be two weeks now -
now that I have not been out of the cabin -
but the doctors think I have really progressed
very far, and today for the first time I
am in spirits. I myself recognize a very
decided improvement and hope to be around
partly freely in a week. We left Kingston
Sunday morning early, and arrived here at
11 p.m. last night, having had a very

pleasant passage with a minimum of pay, the
great drawback of the English Channel. It is
thirty years this summer since I was last here,
in the old sailing ship *Macdowian*, of which Wm.
Luce was then Captain; and it is a quaint feeling
& see still the same old mole with its fortification
which will doubtless be here thirty years hence
when I shall likely have gone the way of all
mankind. I have little association with the place
although I was also here in 1858. I only landed in
163 & so to Paris and thence by land to Cadiz. The
country side as I see it from the ports is truly
"the pleasant land of France" - were were
true words written. We will remain till
Saturday or Monday and then to Southampton.
From the latter place the Adm^l tells me he
means to cross to Harve, remain there till
about Sept 1 - then to Lisbon - Gibral-
tar the end of September, and Sicily in Oct.

over. Then he will tie up for the winter

I am greatly interested in your poetry - for I cannot but think that an intelligent reading of it will tend to develop you all round. I would like you for instance to compare the following sonnets 9, 18, 217 which have all the same motive, and as in my judgment pitched upon a false key, because a half truth - the impermanence of the dearest love between man and woman. Study them, so as fully to apprehend their meaning, and then contrast them with ~~two~~ ^{three} others 57, 190, 247 whose theme is fidelity and constancy. See which rings truest to your truest self. Compare with these again in the Broken Masque, 194; and again the words on the enclosed slip, written by an English lady one two hundred years ago to her husband, a woman who was without doubt the most charming woman of her generation and who had been twenty years married when she wrote. To my mind, despite the 20 years of married life it is the sweetest love letter I ever read. When does truth lie with the first thus - expressed as they are - or with the sentiment that inspired the other. I have been very much struck with the way study upon this volume of sonnets repay - for in truth it is not the new things that feed the soul, but those which often reading has made familiar friends

Tell mamma that I have read and dispatched the proofs of the article for the Atlantic and I find that between you you have avoided any mistakes. I had to make more than my usual corrections, due I think to the distance amid which I wrote. Home is well forward I hope I may finish this week before evening after the last or reaching the distractions of race week at Cowes. With dearest love for our sweet mamma and very much for yourself and Nell and Kyle

Your devoted father
A. F. Maban

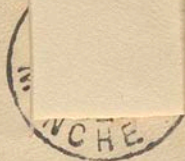
x x x x x x

Mr. Seladine comes in with your letter, whom I am engaged to entertain a little; besides it is supper time, or else I should bestow one side of this paper in writing love to you! and since I am with modesty express it, I will say that if it be love to think on you sleeping and waking, to discourse of nothing with pleasure but what concerns you, to wish myself every hour with you, and to pray for you with as much devotion as for my own soul - then certainly it may be said that I am in love; and this is all that you shall at this time hear from you

D. Lycester

Here's my boy Algernon from, who sent me a very pretty French letter.

July 25 - 1893



Miss Helen Evans Mahan

Duquesne

Long Island

N. Y.

Etats-Unis d'Amérique