

1894

Gibraltar, April 19.

My darling Helen: We received two
or more mails upon our arrival here
yesterday - were having been sent to Al-
geris. Along with two or more from
maama I have yours of Easter Day &
April 1 - but where are Miss Miller's?
Lyle also has sent me two, for which
I thank him very much, as I do you.
You seem to have been having a famous
succession of spruces - it does me
good to hear of them - and I am
glad to know that this little burst
of innocent & healthful dissipation
was enjoyed before poor Grannie's
death came to put a temporary stop

to your gaieties - not that I believe
that these incidental ornaments should
be allowed long to cloud the lives of
survivors, but there is a certain ele-
ment of decent observance which
underlay the exaggerated mourning of
our ancestors. I should be sorry to
see you give to large entertainments
or masked parties during the short
residence after spring. It will be
also much satisfactory that you can
see the humor of things. Your description
of our dear McCarty little was ex-
cellent & brought him right before
me - you caught the characteristic
traits very well, and 'hit him off'
to perfection. A person without a lord

course of humors is not half developed, and is seen to be deficient
in sympathizing the most Christianlike of all the natural traits of
mankind - not to speak of the absurdities into which one is often
betrayed by the want of humors. You are quite right in saying
that most people are more or less funny if one only has an eye to
the fact. I have very little news for you - in fact I may say
none at all. Nothing has happened nor seems likely to happen.
We are to leave here to-morrow night for Lisbon, where we are
likely to remain a fortnight & I hope even then ready
for these modern ships, with their coal and their many
requirements, and an occasional long visit, and we have
been on the steady so here since we left Naples. From
Lisbon it is intended that we go to England - I suppose
called Grassend, on the Thames, about 35 minutes by
rail from London. It is my intention then to ask for
two weeks leave - for so only do I see my way to any rest.
If I go away for the better part of a day, I don't get the
ship off my mind, and simply find abreas of work on
my return - whereas when I am away for a spell my
daily work is done by others. A disgusting rumor has
reached us that the ship is to be sent to Rio Janeiro
and thence to the U. S. to be home in June. The latter

of course would² delight me - but I have
no mind to the Southern trip. I scarcely
expect it to happen, but it is a case of
who knows. It certainly would be most
improper, for the Russians are in no
state for so long a trip. If this does not
come off, and we go to England, we will
after a stay there of probably not less
than a month, go to Antwerp where there
is an exposition this year. I don't
care much for the latter, but I should
much like to visit the Low Countries,
where I have never been. The drawback
is that, although I have read Motley's
famous works, I have no associations
with the Republic & little sympathy
with the Dutch character. I cannot or

yet help you & a name for the League
Cottage - and can only suggest not to be
in too great a hurry. Like some infants
it might have a temporary name & settle
pending the final settlement. A delay is
far better than fastening upon it some ap-
pellation we should afterwards regret.

I wish, my dear Child, you could just con-
ceive the hurry and dear I am always in
hurry, and particularly since leaving Nice.
It has been ever so much harder for me to
write letters, not only on account of want
of brain, but from sheer distraction of spirit.
When I have anything to say - business - I
can sit down & write it, but for an ordi-
nary chit-chat letter the difficulty grows
from day to day. Mary Eager for my
pleasure from one of the most disagreeable
and arduous duties that I have ever known.

but I shall have to possess my
 soul in patience for some time still.
 A letter from dear mamma has come
 since I began this. It is dated April
 6, and mentions Franck's increasing
 weakness, but without immediate
 apprehension. Must Rosie go home
 before her death. As I said - no news.
 I had a very nice letter from Dr.
 Woolvarten by the mail. I recollect
 our I reced. her from Genl. Nicholson
 of the British Army, in Malta. I sat
 by her on my visit at dinner there &
 liked her very much. He is probably
 there a few years older than I. He
 had then, though I knew it not, recd.

a triumph of his daughter's dangerous
illness. She died two days later, leaving
a little baby - she herself was yet
sensitive. I sent him a short note
of condolence, which I enclose
enclosed. And now good bye, dear
child - Love & all from your
humbled and devoted but always
loving father

A. J. G.

April 20. Well

April 29 - 1894 -

Mrs Helen Evans Mahan
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New York

United States of America