

Southampton

Oct 9. 1894

My dearest Helen:

I must leave

behind me I might a letter for you, as I go tomorrow to Devonport, near Plymouth to spend a few days with an English naval officer who was in the Pacific with me ten years ago. He had more than once asked me and last year I had "named the day," but Erskine went to London and with his curious wrong-headedness in such matters objected to my being away while he was. However, all seems for the best, for I am nearly tired to death now yet wd. have nowhere to go but for this. London is

the foggy season now upon us, in back-
elms quarters and without friends w^old be
very different place from May last, in
the height of the fashion, and with all
the halo of distinction with which I was
then greeted. The Schiffs are breaking
up for the winter - going back to the
Riviera - and not even a club is now
open to me. But tomorrow I want to see
my old friend, and his wife whom I have
never met. I doubt it will be for the
last time for I scarcely think I shall
ever again see England after this leaving.
Desampart is near Plymouth & the ad-
miral who then commanded was also
in the Pacific at that time. We
were to have seen them before leaving the
Channel, but have been so long delayed

that we shall not be able. I purpose staying till Monday
morning next. I received letters from mamma & from you last
night for my birthday. I wish you did meet some of my friends
but you are mistaken in thinking of the men as young. Those of
whom I spoke as being at Lady Jennie's were mostly well on in the
forties - one or two approaching at least my own age. The two staid
girls - Lady Jennie's daughters - are sweet; not insipidly so,
but very attractive. The elder, my favorite, quite disputes the
ground with Rosci Schiff. In truth my reason and better judg-
ment is all in her favor, but Rosci certainly has that rare soft
colored charm. We are all getting bored & death with Southampton
We have been here two months with the exception of the short trip
to Havre, and are bored & death with Southampton
all gone away. I go ashore at 3, walk till 5.30, and then back
on board - see no one and hear nothing except what is in the papers
You see we waited till Sept 6 for eleven, and afterwards had
to dock, & wait 24; but without we might by this have been away
but for the necessity of having a new boat built here. We
shall I hope start by the 20th, and I am happy to know
that the Admiral intends to spend two months in Sicily. I
have been trying lately to get abstract of my correspondence
but it is a hard thing to do - so many letters turn
up continually. I am sorry your children seem so un-
able to love to you but something is better than that you

should be run too hard at your present
age, and if others don't turn up, as I
don't say they will, why, you will have
more time for practice. Tell mamma
I sent my photo to Mr. Dalton Hall
and at the same time took him one of
my best notes. I addressed Lynnfield
Mass, which I hope will reach him.
How absurd it seems that Lyle had no
paper! Had he no wages to ask for
any, or no money with which to buy?
It seems so inconsequent - so like
me & so unlike mamma, if she was
responsible for it. I prefer that he shed
into the ocean than to me. It is more
natural & mother should be just, but
at the same father often makes a
mistake in leaving such matters

Whiskey & the mother. And how dear
cheer I think I am at the end, not
of my budget, for such it is not, but
of such rambling ideas as I can
conjure out of my washed head. I
hope I shall some day be able again
to do better. Goodbye. Love & remembrance
and Mllie

Your loving father

Oct-9-1894

Miss Helen Evans Mahan

75 East 54th St

New York

United States of America