

Malaga, Nov. 17, 1894

My darling Helen: I hope I am
not wronging Willie in writing to day
to you instead of her. Her life is now
become so monotonous in its daily re-
petition of the same routine, and the
absence of all novelty that I can quite
easily remember to whom I wrote
last but one. In that way I still
remember whether or no it is mamma's
turn - the last I can recall but not
farther. I shall have now to keep a
memorandum. Yesterday received
mamma's of Nov. 2, telling me
that Lyle was put into the Fourth
form. I see the drawbacks, but
upon the whole I am better sat-

isified I haven't so. I deeply regret
that I am not at home & keep
nearly track of the boys' progress, but
doubtless it is better so. I closed my
last letter to mamma by telling her
that the official word had come that
we were to go home when the San
Francisco comes. I am delighted
from every point of view - both to
see you all again and also because
I sorely need rest. I am so tired
after the daily small annoyances
of our life. I have little or no
expectation of getting back before
February and probably I can't
get clear of the ship before March.
This will so nearly close up my two

years that your Ramsay will scarcely think necessary to send me
again to sea. I remember, however, that in the Watchtill we
received the orders to go home in March, but even after-
wards so delayed that we did not get there until Sep-
tember; so I am not unduly elated, and keep myself
calm. We were here a year ago as you may remember so
that Malaga presents no novelty - Surfice more than I
did before that the Cathedral so dominates the city that the
latter seems only an appendage. The weather, although upon
the whole fine, is not nearly so much so as last fall. We
shall leave here on Monday, 19th, for Gibraltar, to take in
coal. This will use up just part of next week, and I sup-
pose we shall get away about the 24th for Barcelona, reaching
there, if the weather be not bad, about the 27th. Thence we
shall probably have to go to Marseille, but what beyond
the admiral intends I don't know. He had plans before the
San Francisco was ordered, but whether he has changed them
or not is as yet unknown. Sunday, Nov. 18. I dined ashore
last night at the house of a Mr. Bevan, the only American mer-
chant here. His wife a woman somewhat older than me, is a
Virginian from the parts where the Brodies now live and used to
know Aunt Fanny. There were ten at table, two Spanish
girls who spoke English perfectly, and one American, rather pretty,
looked not at all Spanish. The mother of the other was an East
Indian. On Friday the admiral invited a few people to come to

Spain. The few ² southerners increased to
nearly a hundred. I was glad of the chance
to see so many Spanish women together,
and surprised to find so few pretty and
so little different from other Europeans.
There are two sisters, no longer very
young, who went with us on a teeth
drive on Thursday, and also were on
board Friday, who have really beau-
tiful red hair. I never saw red hair
before that I admired. One of them was
generally pretty as seen through her
veil; how she would have stood the
unkind revelations of a father's sun I
can't say. Fortunately enough, they
followed close behind our wagon, for
quite a way a white horse dragging a

country cart, its shafts as English,
we felt safe in quartering the front. Next
there are plenty of carts and drays about
Malaga, a very large part of the
carriage about the country is an don-
key back, with big panniers as in
the days of Don Quixote & Sancho
Panza; a fact which speaks for the
badness of the roads. It is not so very
long since brigandage was rife, as com-
monly happens in a mountainous country
and bad roads; but now they have a
large army of country police - Guardia
Civil - some 30,000 in all Spain, who
have tremendous power. You see them
every where in plain dark uniforms,
wearing their ornate cocked hats laced
with be silver - a splawant, the splawant

and after handsome set of men. I am told that the assurance of you
of them that it was necessary - Era preciso - is accepted as jus-
tification for shooting an offender. I never saw a set of men who
appeared better in looks. I am sorry to hear from mamma that
you are uneasy under St. Warren's administration. I do not find
fault with you for it, and think I can understand it, but as I
am coming home soon I hope you will try and put up with
your grievance until my return, and at any rate talk about it as
little as possible. If very badly tried you might go often to
Trinity with Aunt Oden who I am sure would be glad to have
you. But don't talk, if you can help it, it adds fuel to
every flame. Besides, talk of that sort is often wearing to others who
are not feeling at the moment just as you are, and I want you
to think of sparing mamma as much as possible while I am
away. I should think the magnificent project of buying a house
would be a much more agreeable subject of conversation. And
now dear child good bye. Pray for me that I may be able to
bear up during what we may now hope will be the short sojourn
of this cruise. Love to Mamma & Nellie. Your fond father

Oct. 28 - 1894

Nov - 17 - 1894

J

Miss Helen Evans Mahan

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New York

Estados Unidos de America