

Algiers, Jan. 9. 1895

My darling Helen: A very affectionate
beginning to be followed by the truly touching
news that the Isle of France is in the
Indian Ocean - east of Madagascar, and is
more commonly known as the Mauritius -
the latter being its Dutch name. It is
now an English possession. The same name
Isle of France was before the French Revolution
applied to a small district surrounding
Paris, derived probably from the days
when the power of the so-called King of
France actually extended only over it -
the remainder of their titular Kingdom
being held in the hands of nominal
vassals. The name Mauritius - the Latin
for Maurice - was given by the Dutch in
honor of Prince Maurice of Orange, son

of the great hero of Dutch Independence, William
the Silent, and himself a very distinguished
general about the year 1600. When the French
got the island I don't know, you could find in
the Encyclopaedia Brit. The English took it
from them in 1810. I have this morning your
letter and mamma's of 4th Dec. She mentions
that Dodie was to sail Jan. 5, but does
not say whether Hartman is also going.
I suppose he is, but how strange not to
say so. I hope she may have better weather
in the Atlantic than the Med. has
seen lately. It has been blowing a gale
almost unintermittedly since Christmas
and Mr. Cloon, who came in ^{one of} the same
line last year, says the Chicago is
more comfortable in a sea. Nice or
the Riviera is of course her destination.
Nice will pay best, for although less pros-
perous than formerly there is more young

one than elsewhere, and of course her uncle counts for something. He will be very pleased to see her, and probably will often take her to drive, but the novelty will wear off, and he is not the man, nor of the age, to abandon his fixed habits to beguile the hours of an invalid. I hope that will be with her — the very knowledge of his being at hand will help. Then the climate, though ungenial, is generally pleasant and often exquisite, especially after January. Here we have had it dreadful. This morning's paper says that more rain fell in the first week of January than the average for the ^{whole} month, as shown by records of fifty-four years. The last week of December was nearly as bad. The weather changed the day of our arrival. Till then people were wearing summer clothes. Jan. 11. A mail

goes tomorrow so I shall get this ready. I find upon enquiry that the *Armaunia* will stop here on Monday or Tuesday next, so I shall hope to see Rosie there. On Monday, they think she will not be here before the next day — arriving in the morning & leaving about 4 p.m. If I could have communicated with her at Gibraltar, I might have persuaded her, but although only 4 or 5 hours apart, or less, there is no direct communication between the two places, and a letter takes near a week. Not knowing what she is well enough to do, I am at some loss what to undertake. After two days indifferent food the weather turned bad again last night, but it don't seem so bad on her as before and I hope on way

near an end. 8 P.M. I went ashore
this afternoon and enquired at the office of
Cook, whose tourists fear the Normannie
what were the prospects after stay. They
say that if she arrives on Fair-unday
- it will be as above; but if behind, as
they fear, then not more than three or
four hours. In the latter case Rosie
can scarcely land for a drink, as the
fear of missing the steamer would
scarcely allow phrasen & a nervous
sivoid. However, we shall see. We

had a little dance this ~~evening~~ night.

The admiral has a funny way of
asking a few people in an off-hand
fashion, and then wants the officers
to stay on board and entertain them.

Very young people perhaps are always
ready for a dance, but men from 30

to fifty and over, as most of us are
don't care so much to have these things
spring upon them. I have not found
here a single interesting woman, nor even
one to me moderately attractive, and find
continually cause to regret the strange
decision of the admiral to avoid
Nice when the American flag-ship
has always hitherto ventured. There
I could last year have spent upon two
or three pleasant fatherly visits, a
week, which powerfully lightened
the monotony and brushed the cob-
webs out of my brain - here
nothing, dullness are duller. My
only real pleasure is climbing the
hill to the English club, reading
the papers there, getting a cup

of four o'clock ten and walking back. Not maddening, but refreshing; and though under foot is bad, the air is fine and exhilarating. But even of this mild dissipation I am often deprived, by inevitable duty calls, or, as to night, by some unexpected Contrivances. What a pity that these next three or four weeks of inevitable delay, that I cannot be when necessary well be, and has it leisure what she could tell me of you all.

I am eager to know whether you approach any solution of the house question. I should be pleased if the 11th St one suit for it would be pleasant to be near people like the Hays. The family is good. The chief objection is it is so near the Astor, I should have no walk; but that could be overcome. Well, dear, I think I have now made

as much bricks without straw as I very well can so will say good night and good bye. Love to mamma & Annie

Your loving father

I had Lyell's report. Which there is yet no reason to crow, I think there is evidence of delirium, and he had of course much to contend with. I shall write to him about it. I am pleased with him

Jan. 9. 1875



Miss Helen Evans Mahan

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New York

Etats Unis d'Amérique