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Title: Letters from Charles Collins to Harriet Collins (Jul. 1851)

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Sulland July 8/21 Thy beloved hige I seemse the first opportunity This morning thet you know of my welface. My last It you was written from Phila. I spent four very pleasant days there I left last Wednesday in the evening trace for N. y. Reached No. y. about 10 oclock at right - took the Steamer C. Van derbilt the west evening for Bosten where I we arrived about 15 menute, to late for the Port gland trace. The moon trace brought we he I. about 6 o'clock Freday night. The day Spent in N. y. was racing - I tried to find unale John I without success. He has bought a country deat somewhere & does not live in Brooklyn. Hel . Comes however into N. y, three times a week between the hours of 12 + 2 to alled at the office of some Josuly of which he is the Seey. I pleased that It was his day to be in the city I threated who the office I waited have those an home but he did not come I the clerk stold me he thought he west be sick - that he had not been well of late to. I hem ted wh the boarding house of course Many Hewell but The was out & failed to see her also. I called at the great publishing house of the Harpers & made The acquaentarior of one when I took to be Mayer Harper. Ha seems pleased to see me, said he was happy

to make my acquaentance Thought Iwas a much older man - alluded to my soctorate at trokenso, faid he has sent notice of it out the published in some of the city papers at the request of so Mc Clutoch to. It was quite a rainy day which I spent in Noy & it rained all night on the Sound & and about go clock the next day. My overcoat which you know I hesetated to take (& thought of laving in Washington) has proved a most timely article I would all the way from N. M. I from B to On Claud I was almost posen even with it on. It was the 4th when I in By great prefacations has been made for relibrating but the unfavorable weather Sports The fun. I called at the Herald Office & Meth olish Bookstere hoping to find friend, but They were not open. Called in Capt A. Blanch. and twife I also an Res J. Cummings but he vas out. Had a very agreette chat with he wife who was one I my old Augusta acquain On the way how B. t. O. saw four of free "Bloomer "the first time. Their drefs was a Gifrey Straw hat - lawre twhete frock, coming down about half way between the knee + antile, with pantellete, gathered tight around the autile the the shoulder, small moutella, in consequence of the weather being so cool. I could not therefore Acc how their trefes looked acount the waest. Home

all that the papers have said was expecting smething exaudingly near I bearing but must confes my desappointment It may do for lettle girl, but save me pour the Light of a grown who women in this Reached Pabout 60. dock the 4th. It had been gaining hair all day greatly to the mandersphoresting the good citizens who had free haved for a grand desplay of frewerk, on the hill . Found the family all in health - all very will except mother. She has been rather fuble during the Spring & Dummer seems in fine health. The has given very fat Vis almost as by as mother. I found disthe king in the Jame Threony Condition. Mary's lettle Hounah is a very sweet pretty child & a great pet in both families. The is the only grand child in the Nichol, Dide with them the is no doubt a perfect would She can valk very well I talk a lettle. Saturday in the afternoon it being very pleasant Course Cypus Studio and made on excurring in his new Steamer, It Laurence down among the Osland, Mother, Me Nechol, & myself in mortation went that a delightful trip. But for this I should have written to you on Saturday. Pleasant as your the excurren my dear

it would have increased my happiness bear much had you been with me to enjoy it. Withing guilt a well in writing byon. Indeed I want to see you the children sery much. A couple of week, will suffice for my wint here after which "gravilation shift I got you letter orther the 26th fune you cannot tell how happy I was to receive it Ony to know that you have had another spell of fich head ache. That frem to be a fixed penalty with you for going to Abington. Ihspery will enjoy yourself in you tick to Wather Carmack sums to have been playing the bragadocio in perfect keeping with his chans action. In the Atage I has some talk with this was heartily grad we had got sing him - that he had been a muschief thather during the last little puppy who was in the stage of over heard this come I has faid. Fowards sught (of the day sheet there) I came along to Boy is Javer a where Carried , Johling Lybrook, Wythe Gleaves & one or two other persons were something was wrong & presently Carmack came up to me & said he wanted to say a few words before we harted He then daid he had been toto Juy Daying that'd was glast get air phine - has tried to get dis ofhime, that re has tuen a muschief make told him it was over to - all true. He replied that he did regard me that I was no longer his President the world the him that I could ned hunt him that I could ned hunt him by any thing I enter the weart of afraulting me there is that with him! I tolk him he was mustakened by afraulting me there is that with him! I tolk him he was mustakened by allercation to replay think I stolk him he was mustakened by the did that held to replay think a ship he should be thought of the did to replay think a whip he should be things good utte in a rage of which the him a whip he dog with him for the time and the way to the him to be the stiff the supported the him to the safe of the him to be the stiff to the wine the safe of the him to the total the safe of the him to the safe of the him to the the safe of the safe of the him to the safe of the safe o

My beloved wife

I seize the first opportunity this morning to let you know of my welfare. My last to you was written from Phila. I spent four very pleasant days there and left last Wednesday in the evening train for N.Y. Reached N.Y. about 10 o'clock at night - took the steamer C. Vanderbilt the next evening for Boston where we arrived about 15 minutes too late for the Portland train. The noon train brought me to P. about 6 o'clock Friday night. The day spent in N.Y. was racing - I tried to find uncle John without success. He has bought a country seat somewhere and does not live in Brooklyn. He comes however into N.Y. three times a week between the hours of 12 and 2 to attend at the office of some [society?] of which he is the Secretary. I learned that it was his day to be in the city and hunted up the office and waited more than an hour but he did not come and the clerk told me he thought he must be sick - that he had not been well of late etc. I hunted up the boarding house of cousin Mary Hewett but she was out and I failed to see her also. I called at the great publishing house of the Harpers and made the acquaintance of the one whom I took to be "mayor" Harper. He seemed pleased to see me, said he was happy

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to make my acquaintance - thought I was a much older man - alluded to my doctorate at Dickinson, said he had sent notice of it out to be published in some of the city papers at the request of Dr. McClintock.

It was quite a rainy day which I spent in N.Y. and it rained all night on the sound and until about 9 o'clock the next day. My overcoat which you know I hesitated to take (I thought of losing in Washington) has proved a most timely article. I wore it all the way from N.Y. and from Boston to Portland. I was almost frozen even with it on. It was the 4th when I was in Boston and great preparations had been made for celebrating but the unfavorable weather spoilt the fun. I called at the Herald Office and Methodist Bookstore hoping to find friends but they were not open. Called on Capt. A. Blanchard and wife and also on Rev. J. Cummings but he was out. Had a very agreeable chat with his wife who was one of my old Augusta acquaintances.

On the way from Boston to Portland saw four of five "Bloomers" for the first time. Their dress was a [Gissey?] straw hat - lawn and white frocks coming down about half way between the knee and ankle, with pantalets gathered tight around the ankle. Over the shoulders, small mantillas in consequence of the weather being so cool. I could not therefore see how their dresses looked around the waist. From

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all that the papers have said that I was expecting something exceedingly neat and becoming but must confess my disappointment. It may do for little girls, but save me from the sight of a grown up woman in this attire.

Reached Portland about 6 o'clock of the 4th. It had been raining hard all day greatly to the disappointment of the good citizens who had prepared for a grand display of fireworks on the hill. Found the family all in health – all very well except mother. She has been rather feeble during the Spring and Summer but seem now to be improving. Sister Mary seems in fine health. She has grown very far and is almost as big as Mother. I found sister King in the same thriving condition. Mary's little Hannah is a very sweet pretty child and a great pet in both families. She is the only grandchild in the Nichols side and with them she is no doubt a perfect wonder. She can walk very well and talk a little.

Saturday in the afternoon it being very pleasant cousin Cyrus Sturdivant made an excursion in his new steamer, "St Lawrence" down among the islands. Mother, Mr. Nichols and myself in [illegible] went and had a delightful trip. But for this I should have written to you on Saturday. Pleasant as was the excursion, my dear,

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it would have increased my happiness very much had you been with me to enjoy it. Without you, I should have enjoyed the afternoon quite as well in writing to you. Indeed I want to see you and the children very much. A couple of weeks will suffice for my visit here after which "gravitation shifting will turn the other way." Saturday night I got your letter written the 26^{th} June. You cannot tell how happy I was to receive it. Sorry to know that you have had another spell of sick headache. That seems to be a fixed penalty with you for going to Abingdon. I hope you will enjoy yourself in your trip to Wythe.

[Cormack?] seems to have been playing the braggadocio in perfect keeping with his character. In the stage I had some talk with wisdom about Cormack and expressed the idea that I was heartily glad we had got rid of him - that he had been a mischief maker during the last year etc. and it appears that Jopling a miserable little puppy who was in the stage and overheard this conversation in seeing Cormack. [Wytherrele?] told him what I had said. Towards night (of the day spent there) I came along to Boy's tavern where Cormack, Jopling, Lybrook, Wythe Glears, and one or two other persons were sitting by the door and saluted them as usual. I soon saw something was wrong and presently Cormack came up to me and said he wanted to say a few words before we parted. He then said he had been told of my saying that "I was glad to get rid of him - had tried to get rid of him, that he had had been a mischief maker etc". I told him it was ever so - all true. He replied that he did regard me that I was no longer his president and he would treat me like any other man - that I could not hurt him by anything I could say where I was known. I asked him in reply what he meant by assaulting me there in that way and if he expected to draw me into a [street?] altercation with him? I told him he was mistaken if he did – that I held him beneath my contempt and that I should condescend to reply to him. At this he shut up, though evidently in a rage and went off like a whipped dog with his companions. His saying he "gave me the lie" and that he was very "sorry he had not confided me" is said behind my back and at a safe distance. The miserable braggart

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is too great a coward to play the hero at the proper time. He had to do it after I got away. As to his calling me "a liar" it is a pure lie in his part. He dared not do it if he is talking that way to my injury. I will thank you to read this part of my letter to Paul L. So that he may be in possessing the facts of the case.

I remain your affec husband.

C. Collins

Portland July 9 /57 My Dear Nife The Shades of night are gathering around Ing thought, are wandering howeward in quest of those who are dearer to me than lefe. I think a great deal about you, my love, & nothing would give he so much delight could I drop in whom you to night, or were you have to enjoy the wint with me. Friends are very cerdeal in welcoming me have tall is very pleasant, but happings is but half sujoyed unlift you are at my side to saxing Share it with me yesterday evening I went with Me Nich ols & Many to his mother (on State Sty to get Some Strawberries. It is just how the Deason for them here. Such Atrawberies I never Han an inch in dianete & so thick on the vines that you could stoop down most any where I est you fill. Mesterday Morning, I wrtuefsed an import-Land (The revoid the tume from mothers dide). It was the cutting out of a Cancer from a many under life. He marked the piece to be cut out, with a pen this VI then adminis tend Chloroform by causing him to whale

it from a cloth. Some as he was in the right State (indicated by Anning) the assertant of Dr Z, but it out with as much coolings as he would cut a puce of beef. The arterie were taken at & the parts brought to getting I sewed - Streps of adherive plainter placed across the Chin & a bandadge placed robered tall. was finished in about me how. The Chloroforen was kept this nose until the culling & slowing were fineshed. When he came out of his Heep he sumed not to know what had been done, Though in the leving he jerked I winced I asked Several time "What are you about "? It was truly wonderful to see the effect of the Chloroform Last night I had the plasure if listening to the celebrated lecture John B. Gough. He spoke at the Park It Church to a func andrewed - it was beautiful, - in parts surpapengly aloquent - at tems argumentelial, humorous, pathetic & de I am not surprised athis treaces. Me Nich ols has heard him before. He promoveres this, much the best effect of his, he has son heard. He will Speak again to might at the Chestruct St Methodest Church & I shall attend of course The Maine Conf. is now in Sepien at Nin-

thish to have been Stringly Solicited to attend by some of the preaches but to do to would take too large a slice out of the Short time I have to devote to our friends, I family. Prishop Hawline was here last Sabbath but did hot preach los feeble. I called when him Monday - found him very pleasant & Acciable. His design is Ime alganic affection of the heart. I folind Mis Caldwell at Dr Clacks I was happy to talk over old time. She did me the home to day of I went to Dicken any the world go back there & stay while her In went through College. The expreped greating at Dr Peck usigning. July 10. your letter mailed July 2 reach ed me last night. You can't till how happy I was made by its reception & it blefred ren. I want to tee you very much. your sweet image is in my thought all day; t by night ohen darkness & silence are all around of come & nestles by my side - sweet vision, but without the warmth & substance of reality. Vising will Southward in 8 or 9 days more, the at home by the 7th a 8th of Aug. I thought some of attending Commencement at Middletour but to do it would cause so much delay

that I could not get have tell very near the Commencement of the Sefren. Nother talk some of accom panying me, but it is not very probable. The seems very much attached to her buseups which so far as I can learn is much in-proved this trummen. It gives me joy to hear that the Children have been so good tell Charles & all of them I shall remember them I reward Them for their good behavior when I come And my darleng wife, God blefs you I make you happy in all spice itual temporal blefrings. I love you not only with the vainth of our first love but with a stell moreonery arder. Remember me in love to father the sheldren & servairs. Again, god blefs you solven Maffee hurband Collin

My Dear Wife,

The shades of night are gathering around and my thoughts are wandering homeward in quest of those who are dearer to me than life. I think a great deal about you, my love, and nothing would give me so much delight could I drop in upon you tonight, or were you here to enjoy the visit with me. Friends are very cordial in welcoming me home and all is very pleasant, but happiness is but half enjoyed unless you are at my side to share it with me.

Yesterday evening I went with Mr Nichols and Mary to his mothers (on State st) to get some strawberries. It is just now the season for them here. <u>Such</u> strawberries I never saw before. Many of them were more than an inch in diameter and so thick on the vines that you could stoop down most anywhere and eat your fill.

Yesterday morning, I witnessed an important surgical operation in the office Dr Lord (who removed the tumor from mother's side). It was the cutting out of a cancer for a man's under lip. He marked the piece to cut out with a pen, this [drawing of a downward pointing triangle] and then administered Chloroform by causing him to inhale

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it from a cloth. Soon as he was in the right state (indicated by snoring) the assistant of Dr L. cut it out with as much [illegible] as he would cut a piece of beef. The arteries were taken up and the part brought together and sewed strips of adhesive plaster placed across his chin and a bandage placed [illegible] and all was finished in about one hour. The chloroform was kept to his nose until the cutting and sewing were finished. When he came out of his sleep he seemed not to know what had been done, though in the sewing he jerked and winced and asked several times "what are you about"? it was truly wonderful to see the effect of the chloroform.

Last night I had the pleasure of listening to the celebrated lecturer John B. Gough. He spoke at the Park St Church to a fine audience - it was beautiful – in parts surprisingly eloquent-at times argumentative, humorous, pathetic, and declamatory. He is a fascinating speaker and I am not surprised at his success. Mr Nichols has heard him before. He [pronounces?] this much the best effort of his, he has ever heard. He will speak again tonight at the Chestnut St Methodist Church and I shall attend of course.

The Maine Conf. is now in session at Winthrop

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and I have been strongly solicited to attend by some of the preachers but to do so would take too large a slice of the short time I have to devote to our friends and family. Bishop [Hawkins?] was here last Sabbath but did not preach too feeble. I called upon him Monday – found him very pleasant and sociable. His disease is some organic affection of the heart.

I found Mrs Coldwell at Dr Clarks and was happy to talk over old times. She did me the honor to say if I went to Dickinson she would go back there and stay while her son went through college. She expressed great joy at Dr Pecks resigning July 10. Your letter mailed July 2 reached me last night. You can't tell how happy I was made by its reception and its blessed assurance of your welfare and that of the children. I want to see you very much. Your sweet image is in my thoughts all day; and by night when darkness and silence are all around it comes and nestles by my side - sweet vision, but without the warmth and substance of reality. Visions will not content me long. My purpose is to turn Southward in 8 or 9 days more, and to be at home by the 7th or 8th of Aug. I thought some of attending Commencement at Middletown but to do it would cause so much delay

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that I could not get home till very near the Commencement of the session.

Mother talks some of accompanying me, but it is not very probable. She seems very much attached to her business which so far as I can learn is much improved this summer.

It gives me joy to hear that the children have been so good, tell Charles and all of them. I shall remember them and reward them for their good behavior when I come.

And now my darling wife, God bless you and make you happy in all spiritual and temporal blessings. I love you not only with the warmth of our first love but with a still increasing ardor. Remember me in love to father, the children and servants. Again God bless you.

Adieu your affec husband C. Collins