

San Diego
March 3. 1878

I can hardly tell you my
friend, what pain your
letter gave me - It was as well
perhaps that indisposition
prevented my replying to it at
once as I felt impelled to do.
for I should not, probably, have
written very clearly and even
now I do not know what to
say - If you are sincere - and
I have never been disposed to
doubt your sincerity in any
matter - I have given you pain.
I am not able to see anyone
suffer without being moved
myself and to feel that I have
been the cause of suffering to one

Whom I regard with as much
feeling as I do yourself is
most painful to me - And yet
with all its heaviness I am glad
for your letter - It proves you a
wiser, more elevated man than
even I gave you credit for being -
I respect you more as a man,
I value you more as a friend
than I did before even - In
your kind wishes for me - I can
give you only my earnest
thanks - In your forgetfulness
of all but my happiness - and
for the pain I have given you -
I give you the tribute of the
tears I have shed over your
letter - and you know I do not
weep readily - I need not think I

was not meant for marriage -
that I should live to as happy
yielding allegiance to any one
person as independent and free
and retaining a few warm
friendships without going
farther - Your letter rather re-
newed my doubts, but I must
acknowledge that they were only
faint - While my inclinations
and desires remain the same -
I am carried quite away from
them by my love which is
something quite beyond myself -
I do not understand it - and I
do not know that I want to -
You will remember that all
that my friendship and regard
for you can suffer no diminution -

tion - It makes me very glad
to know that you care for
my friendship - for I would
not lose you for much -
As to your desire to make me
a present - I thank you most
sincerely and of course I have
no objection to your doing so
as it is your desire - but something
less expensive will answer
my purpose I should think -
I can give you no idea as to
what I want for I really do not
know - but anything that you
select must be acceptable
to me - If I had a choice I would
frankly express it, as you have
so frankly desired me to - I
think I wrote you before that
the time of my marriage was not

definitely decided - It will be in
August if not before - At all
events when the day is definitely
fixed upon, you shall know
from me - I can but wish
you a pleasant Eastern trip
and if you go abroad as you
imply, I know you must enjoy
yourself - Whenever you are
you will write to me - Will you
not? - And you will believe
me while you call for my
friendship - I hope it will be
always -

Very earnestly your friend
Henrietta Nesmith

San Diego -
April 4. 1878

My dear Capt. Price

I have from
little notes from you which
probably all together deserve a
letter in reply - certainly the
thought that impelled the constant
remembrance of me should and
shall, have recognition - I would
like to say a few very plain
words to you and yet I hardly
know how to express just what I
feel of which I ^{might} speak - I have just
read your notes - You speak very
plainly, much more so than you
ever did before my engagement
and it is perhaps best that I
should, for I do not want any
misunderstanding either now or

in the future - I know, of course,
that I was not responsible for any
feeling of pain or regret that I
might lately have occasioned you -
With a man of your age and expe-
rience of the world anything I could
have done or said, in the relations
we occupied, of friends simply,
could have been of no weight, but
I think there is nothing for me
really to regret there - My woman
that Mrs. has a spice of coquetry
in her I presume - I less than many
women, I think, and the little I
have I have used - consciously -
but sparingly among my friends,
and in that line you know you
stand chief - I am a little - more
than a little - sorry that you have
awakened to a complete knowledge
of yourself, but I am glad to hear
you say you have written soon last

upon that "page of your life" - I
want your friendship and your
kind regard more as you have
mine, but even a slight reference
to the possibility - even in the
past - of anything tending that,
it seems to me disloyal to the man
I expect to many for me to read -
Now I love him so well, that I do
not want to read it - And now my
plain words are there - But I am sure
this is all plain - Had you ad-
dressed me when first I knew
you I think it would have been
useless for, though I have always
liked you, I was at that time
engaged in the nearest approach
to a flirtation to which I have ever
been led - there was no love in the
question - on my part at all events,
I think not much on his - I think
you do not know the gentleman -

Later when this was over and we
were in regular correspondence
had you really fallen in love with
me I cannot tell what you would
have been for, I know myself
only to this extent, that I have
never been attracted towards any
man even in thought who has not
first loved me and declared him-
self - so I could not tell what the
result would have been till the
experience came to me - Since I
have known Mr. Greeley there can
be no doubt in my mind that any
one but himself must have failed
of winning me for as I wrote before,
he has compelled my love against
myself - I do not mean to be hard
in writing so clearly but I do value
our friendship and I could not
hold the same warm regard for you
if I thought there was any possibility

of your misunderstanding me -
Neither - if you are the man I think
you are - would you value my
friendship if you thought me capable
of any half way measures - of
dividing myself either in love
or friendship - Whatever I give is
given wholly and entirely - Had I
not been able to love Mr. Geely without
a thought of anyone else, in fact
was it not that it was impossible
for me not to love him, I should
not now be engaged to him - If I
have said anything that seems
unnecessary remember it has been
done through my earnest desire
to retain your friendliness which
might have if you were doubted
me - You will not be angry with
me, my friend, - Tell me that you
are not - Our relations have been
so intimate in the past I have so

relied upon you for advice and
counsel that I feel this explanation
is almost called for on my part -
I have done now - I was so very
sorry to know of your illness and
that you must be so careful to avoid
a relapse - I am glad your Mother
is to be with you in Washington -
If I did not admire you for any-
thing else I must for your devo-
tion to your Mother - I believe as it is
said, that a good son makes a
good husband and so the woman
you marry is to be envied - I hope
she will be worthy of you - I wish
you were to be in Washington later -
Yes it is decided, I believe, that my
marriage takes place in June as
Mr Greeley told you - I am very
glad you met in Washington and
glad that you evidence your
friendship for me by forgetting
old differences with Mr Greeley -

I heard of you today in a letter
from Miss Bridgall who said she
heard Miss Whelan (I think) tell
somebody that day that she saw
you at the Opera - Miss Bridgall is
in New York now and staying with
her friend Mrs. Fort who was a
Jerome - a niece of Leonard Jerome -
I am sorry to hear such bad ac-
counts of Harry Grant as your
letter and Kate's conveyed. Though
I have almost entirely lost my
interest in the boy - he has so dis-
appointed me - I am glad you
saw the Crawfords - I ~~was~~ ^{am} ~~very~~
quite to admire and like Mr
Crawford during his last stay
here when I saw a great deal of
him - Hattie is quite inferior to him
except in physical beauty - she
takes life more easily than any
woman that I see here - Mr. Craw-

and has almost all the Indians I
think, but he is of so boisterous a
temperament that they do not seem
to at all affect him. Father is in
the country for a couple of weeks
and is improving. The Collicers have
been staying with me during his
absence. Mr. Carter is coming to
make me a visit next week. The
Bishop has just been here on his
annual visit. Lunched with me
on Wednesday. Major Earnest called
to bid me good bye and left
on the same steamer with the
Bishop. Minor says Mr Earnest
will return with him. Have you
met Major E. - he is a whole world
sort of man and I quite like him
though he is the least bit coarse -
His company. Major Wells in com-
mand remains here until July -
Lieut D M North arrived here a

week or two ago. Lieut Borth relieved
Mr Reade who expects to leave on
tomorrow's steamer - The Hassler
which has been for six weeks or
more making a survey of the
Hatch sailed Wednesday - The
officers had a Reception at two on
Tuesday - Mr Reade wanted me to
go with him in a party with Col
Mrs Borth, and Major Earnest also
offered his services, but I declined
going - There were too many invited
I met Mrs Borth that eve at the
Bishop's Reception and she said
she had a delightful time - How
I not more than given you credit
for the form notes - Also note of
hearing from you recently - You
will always in the future as in
the past retain your interest in the
work will you not? - I think your
influence has been worth much to

them, and you can hardly know how
fond they both are of you and how
they admire your steadfastness and
yourself. Their sister feels with them
and I hope you may always call
on her regard and so always count
her as Your earnest friend
Henrietta Nesmith

Improve that?
am your friend.
Emmetta G. Smith

San Diego

April 29. 1878.

Dear Capt. Price

As I have not
heard from you for some time
I was beginning to wonder if I
had in any way annoyed you
In fact from the time I sent my
last letter it rather troubled me
for fear you might not rightly
understand it or think it un-
necessarily plain - troubled me
because it was ~~and~~ so far from
my heart & so I write anything
that would hurt or annoy you.

But yesterday came a letter
from Kate Bidsall which quite
changed all my feelings and
made me almost regret having
wasted so much thought in wonder-
ing if you were less my friend
than of old - she wrote me that
she had heard from intimate
friends of yours of your engage-
ment to a lady at Fort Hamilton.
Of course Kate wrote this simply
as a piece of news - she could
not know it would affect me
one way or the other tho' of course
she knew you to be an old and
valued friend of mine - It struck
me that this was certainly a
late engagement, but it did, and

does, seem to me, that after my
recent engagement and my
taking the pains, and having
the wish, to write to you of it
myself and early, that you at
least might have returned the
compliment and told me your
self - I realize that there may
be a mistake, but it comes so
directly and seems to be so
plain - If it is so I am annoy-
ed with you, and cannot help
it for you have not shown the
consideration or kindness that
I did - I hope it is not so, only
because when you do many I
want you to write me of the
intention - The very fact that I care
enough to be annoyed - proves,