

File name: A3_002_007_003_001_1854-06-05

[in a different hand: July 3/54 Remitted to [Baring] Bro Co \$200 for a/c Edmund Tweedy—

Note 6 July rent statement B Wallace

Note 14 July sent statement of E T assets & about loaning money to John]

Florence 5th Jun 1854

Dear Brother

I am in receipt of Libby's & your letter of 6th ult. The news of Maria's marriage quite surprised me, as I supposed the event was not to come off till the latter part of the winter. However it is not the first time that a young couple have been in a hurry. I should have been glad to witness the ceremony had all things happened right for me. The presence of Aunt Ann & Father must have been pleasant & agreeable, and I consider it the best evidence of their good health & spirits. Give our united warmest congratulations to Mr & Mrs Tiffany upon the event, in the fervent hope that it may be fruitful

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in blessings of every kind into a green old age.

The wisdom of my course in not going to New York this winter has been confirmed unfortunately by the illness of Mrs. Shaw with whom the climate of Florence does not very well agree. She is delicate in the throat & lungs, and it was deemed the most prudent thing for her to make the trip up the [Nile] whither she & her husband have gone. In case of my absence I depended upon Mr. Shaw as protector of my family. Had I have gone to New York it might have restrained his movements in a manner which I should have very much regretted. The weather has been very cold for Florence this winter with some snow & ice, but with a nice [unclear] Franklin in our parlor we are comfortable

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and enjoying the winter very well, although we miss the society of the Shaws. There is society enough here, but it is not all as congenial as theirs.

I hope soon to get a long letter from you with full statement of my affairs & matters & things in general Upon receipt of this please send another \$200 to [Barings] with usual instructions. If you think I am going ahead too fast you must say so for I see I have drawn about \$1250 the last year. But I have now about done buying pictures & [etc]. Say to Libby that I will try to answer her nice letter before long with united love to you all I am

Yours Afftely

Edmund

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Should you have occasion to speak of Mrs Shaw's health, do not say that it is worse than it has been at times for the last two winters. Any exaggeration should it by chance reach the ears of her friends would alarm them.

What a tremendous blow that fire must have been to the Harpers! I sincerely hope they will be able to stand it but do you really think they will?