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Symbols and Abbreviations

SYMBOLS USED IN THE EDITED LETTERS

✉ indicates the presence of an envelope with the original letter.

◊ represents an illegible character.

■ represents the cancellation to an illegible sequence of letters when the number of letters cannot be determined.

[N] at the end of a phrase indicates the end of material inserted interlineally; at the beginning of a phrase it indicates the beginning of material inserted interlineally when HJ did not write a caret.

† is HJ's sign for an ampersand

REPRESENTS PRINTED LETTERHEAD

FAMILY NAME ABBREVIATIONS

AJ	Alice James
AK	Catharine Walsh (Aunt Kate)
GWJ	Garth Wilkinson James (Wilky, Wilkie)
HJ	Henry James
MWJ	Mary Walsh James
RJ	Robertson James (Bob, Rob, Robby, Robbie)
Sr.	Henry James Sr.
WJ	William James

COPY-TEXT FORM ABBREVIATIONS USED

AL	Autograph letter, not signed
ALS	Autograph letter, signed
Mf	Microfilm of lost manuscript
MS Photocopy	Photocopy of lost manuscript
TLC	Typed letter copy of lost manuscript

1873

MARY WALSH JAMES

15 July [1873]

ALS Houghton

bMS Am 1094 (1810)

5

Homburg July 15

Hotel des Quatre Saisons

Dearest mother: A week ago just as I was leaving Berne I
received your letter of June 17th, enclosing Willy's photograph— 10
it having been delayed by being directed to Florence. Many
thanks for it; it bore me benevolent company on my journey.
What that journey was my letter posted the day before I started
will by this time have told you. I came hither by Bâle &
Frankfort, spending a night at each place. I have an impression 15
that you & father once came to Homburg & perhaps you
remember enough of it to picture my ~~jour~~ ^Λsituation. _[Λ] The
place is very pretty, very cool and very comfortable and if I get
no great help from the waters I shall at least have a very
agreeable residence. Of what the waters are likely to do for me, I 20
can hardly judge yet having drunk them but four days. The mere
change of air & escape from Switzerland have not in themselves
miraculously altered my condition & I have settled down to
taking the waters in the regular way. I of course immediately
went to see a physician (the English one) and am following his 25
directions. The regular "cure" averages five weeks; but for
myself I am philosophic & neither doubt nor ~~hope~~ ^Λanticipate _[Λ].
I am convinced that my aggravation is temporary & that I shall
sooner or later be better again; meanwhile I get through the
days very tolerably & ~~feel~~ ^Λam _[Λ] well enough generally to feel 30
pledged to being eventually well particularly. This prolonged
out=of=sorts condition rather abridges any working powers, but
I can do quite enough and you needn't at all pity me. — Before
long I am confident of giving you better news. — The common

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way of living here for families & couples is in lodgings ↔ and dining at the Kùrhaus; but I have fixed myself at this hotel as cheaper & pleasanter for a single man. It is very comfortable, moderate in its prices & has a table consistent with the use of the
5 waters. The cessation of the gaming here has diminished the crowd but it is still very great & consists mainly of English, of a better sort than the herds of Cook's creatures who swarm in Switzerland. There seem to be very few Americans & I have met no one I know. I consort somewhat with a very good young
10 Englishman staying at this hotel also for his health — a graceful product of Æt Harrow & Oxford & of heirship to Northumberland estates. The resources of Homburg are otherwise sufficiently numerous to help the days to glide by. From 7 to 9 every one drinks at the Elizabeth Spring in a
15 brilliant crowd to the sound of superior music. Do you remember the park through which the springs are scattered? It is quite large & lovely & a very pretty lounging and strolling place. Beyond it stretch away wide woods which cover the low blue Taunus mountains, and abound in shady walks. The Kùrhaus too
20 has its own gardens with daily shade and nightly music, & the Schloss has its gardens ~~with~~ which are pleasantly picturesque. All this makes a wonderful amount of shade & as the place is high (on a low spur of the hills behind it) one needn't especially suffer from the heat. The air is extremely delightful & though it
25 has 'n't "cured" me by magic I relish it more than that of Berne & other low parts of Switzerland. At three o'clock I drink again, at another spring & at 5 I dine, with my young Northumbrian — who, by the way, derives a melancholy interest from just having had his eye shot out [^] — accidentally — _[^] by one of his own
30 farmers. The Kursaal has all the papers and very good music, à l'Allemande, in the evening — also concerts & plays in a horribly hot little theatre which I don't attend. — There's Homburg. You see I might be worse off. — I heard yesterday from Aunt Mary who is at St. Moritz where Mr. T. is taking the waters for gout,

which the doctor there pronounces his ailment to be. She speaks with faint praise of the place—especially of the cold and says they will not stay after July 31st. I also got a line from C. Atkinson who was on his way after a 3 week's tour to Zermatt &c, to join me at Berne. But missing me there, I doubt now if I shall meet him: which as I regret, as it would mitigate his loneliness, which I think he suffers from.—It's time I should hear again from home and I am beginning my periodical "wait" for letters. Continue to direct for the rest of the Summer to Brown & Shipley.—I mustn't forget to thank you for Willy's photog., which I like extremely. That is its' a success as photos go. I stand reminded dearest mother, of my promise to endow you with my own image; indeed I hadn't forgotten it. But in Italy during the hot weather, I shrank from exposing myself under a photographer's glass roof, and here I can get nothing decent. The first moment of the Autumn I shall go and do it.—In all your home doings & plannings I took my usual exquisite interest. Willy ~~is~~ ^{he} ~~has~~ ^{has} ~~gon~~ ^{gon} got his passes, I suppose & of course ^{perhaps} is home again & Alice is rubbing shoulders with ice-bergs in Nova Scotia. I hope they have ~~all~~ ^{both} prospered in all things. Willy I suppose will go somewhere on his return—to Mt. Desert again? I wrote him from Glion in answer to a letter communicating his plan for next winter, & I hope he will find my answer as favorable as I meant it to be. Rome I should think, would suit him very well & he could find no place more supplied with such resources as he is competent to make use of. I hope if he decides to come, he will get ^{hold} of some mild virtuous boy. He will have brought you news of Wilk & Bob, which you must transmit to me.—I'm glad, dearest mammy, you are going to take a turn before the Summer's over. I hope, most tenderly, that Cambridge is not too uncomfortable. I have seen the N. Y. papers up to June 27th & they mention no unusual heat. Love to F. to whom I wrote a week ago. Farewell. Your loving H.

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No previous publication



- 3.12 benevolent • benevo= | lent
3.18 comfortable • com= | fortable
3.32 out=of=sorts • out= | =of=sorts
4.1 ~~and~~ and • [an *overwrites illegible letters*]
4.11 ~~Et~~ Harrow • [H *overwrites Et*]
4.12 Northumberland • Northum= | berland
4.12 Homburg • Hom= | burg
4.21 ~~with~~ which • [hic *overwrites wit*]
4.25 ‘n’t • [*blotted out*]
5.4 Zermatt • Zer= | matt
5.7 suffers • suf= | fers
5.13 forgotten • for= | gotten
5.16 moment • mo= | ment
5.18 ~~gon~~ got • [t *overwrites n*]
5.24 favorable • favor= | able



3.6 Homburg • HJ would spend ten weeks in Bad Homburg; see also his travel essay entitled “Homburg Reformed.”

3.14–15 Bâle & Frankfort • That is, Basel, Switzerland, and Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

3.16 you & father once came to Homburg • MWJ and Sr. may have visited Homburg when they were looking at schools for WJ and HJ in Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Wiesbaden during 1859–60.

3.25 a physician (the English one) • Murray’s 1877 *Handbook for North Germany* identifies “Dr. Lewis” as “the resident English physician” (361).

4.2 the Kùrhaus • The Kurhaus or Kursaal (p. 4.30) was a magnificent building on Homburg’s main street. It was built between 1840 and 1843 by the Blanc brothers, who moved to Monte Carlo to run the casino there after gambling was prohibited in Homburg. It was the center for gambling (while it was still authorized) and cultural activities in Homburg, containing a theater, restaurant, café, smoking rooms, and a reading room “where

English and foreign papers and periodicals are taken in" (Murray, *North Germany* 362).

4.5 The cessation of the gaming • When Prussia annexed the region in 1866, the casino was forced to close.

4.9-10 a very good young Englishman • Henry John Wastell Coulson (b. 1848) attended Harrow and Exeter College, Oxford, and became a member of the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1876. See HJ to parents, 9 November [1875].

4.14 Elizabeth Spring • The Elisabethenbrunnen, or Elizabeth Spring, Homburg's most significant medicinal spring. Its discovery in 1834 launched Homburg's success as a nineteenth-century spa. Murray's *North Germany* observes that the water of this spring "contains more carbonic acid than any other saline spa known, and on that account sits lightly on the dyspeptic stomach" (361).

4.20-21 the Schloss • The castle of the landgraves of Homburg, actually a seventeenth-century Baroque palace built on the site of a medieval castle. Later in the nineteenth century, Kaiser Wilhelm II used it as a summer residence.

4.30-31 à l'Allemande • German style.

4.33-34 Aunt Mary [. . .] Mr. T. • Mary and Edmund Tweedy (pp. 91, 92).

5.4 C. Atkinson • Charles Atkinson.

5.10 Brown & Shipley • HJ's London bankers.

5.19-20 Alice is rubbing shoulders with ice-bergs in Nova Scotia • AJ and AK were vacationing in Quebec and Canada's maritime provinces; Sr. and MWJ would join them in August at Saint John, New Brunswick.

5.22 Mt. Desert again • WJ recuperated on Maine's Mt. Desert Island in the summer of 1872 following a bout of "philosophical hypochondria" (*CWJ* 1: 167).

5.22-23 I wrote him from Glion in answer to a letter communicating his plan for next winter • HJ to WJ, 18 June 1873 (*CLHJ*, 1872-1876 1: 319-22).

5.33 Love to F. to whom I wrote a week ago • Possibly HJ to Sr., 29 June [1873] (*CLHJ*, 1872-1876 1: 322-34).

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GRACE NORTON

17 July [1873]

ALS Houghton

bMS Am 1094 (897)

5

Homburg bei Frankfort

July 17th

Dear Grace—

Your letter of June 19 which came to me yesterday was
10 an ample satisfaction of all the affectionate wonderment I have
been devoting to your unrecorded fortunes for these six weeks.
It gave me very great pleasure & I thank you heartily for making
time to write it so soon & so long. It was eloquent both in all it
said & all it suggested—all it didn't quite say, & expresses a
15 quite what I imagined for you—only much better than my
imagination phrased it. I take an immense satisfaction in
thinking it very philosophically cheerful & I feel that your'e
taking things in the right way. You say excellently that your
country is yours very much as your body is and that though you
20 may like it little better you feel a necessary confusion between
its being, its future, & your own. This it is—as you must so often
have felt—that sets a kind of impassable limit (which ~~you~~ ^{we} _{all}
hardly know whether to accept or to resent) ~~between~~ ^{to} _{all}
our perception, contemplation & enjoyment of the things of this
25 old world; and offers as a last resort a kind of rest & fixedness in
the sense of our own native atmosphere—a something in which,
in spite of pains and distastes, we yet vaguely expand and aspire,
as over here, in spite of pleasures and appreciations ineffable, we
yet, beyond a certain point, contract, congeal & fall out of step.
30 Considering that in this wondrous world opinion, decision
preference & c, are rather hard (in their more absolute forms,) it
is a relief & a blessing to have some big absolute thing prescribed
to us by downright nature herself—as you & I & our's have in big
chaotic America & her big uninteresting light. Your remarks

1873

about the light by the way, went to my heart of hearts & I do indeed see you standing there among our brittle breezes—in a great room without a ceiling. But I am glad with you nevertheless that you do stand there for better & worse (in their respective measures) with the weary sea and the painful arrival 5 no longer staring at you between the crannies of present experience. Of what the change must be for the children I can easily imagine. To see them in such happy conditions must be a vast satisfaction—and must indeed help you to reflect that if America is a good place for children it can't be absolutely 10 worthless for grown people. But perhaps you don't generalize so far & content yourself with saying that Ashfield is good for them in the summer of 1873. May it nevertheless be good for them to the end & in all coming summers. ~~Of w~~ What your mother feels in finding herself at home after such a gulf of experience, she 15 would probably smile at me, very forgivingly, for saying that I can understand. Say to her at any rate, with my most affectionate remembrances, that I ~~do rejoice with her in it~~ have sufficient sufficient elderly wisdom to rejoice with her in it most heartily. Your account of your neighbors and their manners is very 20 pleasant and yet I can easily understand that it should give a sort of uncomfortable twist to your answering good=will to compare them with your mediaeval Sienese.—Your cares and duties and problems are very vividly shadowed forth in your account of Sally's & Lily's ~~so~~ social aspirations and circumscriptions. I'm 25 afraid that in your place I should be rather puzzled as to the line of the longest-sighted wisdom: but in any other place I should appeal to you of all people in the world, for light ~~and~~ ^{and} on ^{the} the subjects & I ~~as~~ resign you to your opportunities with a most affectionate blessing on the patient constancy of your 30 inspiration.—Of myself there are no great things to relate; it being not a particularly immense thing to begin with, that I am here in German Homburg, drinking the healing waters. I left Italy more than a month ago, ^{and} by the Simplon ^{and} spent some

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three weeks in Switzerland (one at Montreux) and two at Berne — which if you come to Europe again or rather — hideous if! — when you come, you must spend a few days in and see a place with a really intense physiognomy — a very charming place indeed) & then, feeling much more out-of sorts than I cared to, came hither took a hard look and felt it was Germany and — in fine, found your letter yesterday in the P. O. and sat and read it under some cool green German trees in the park. Homburg, is very pretty (you know the general value of the epithet in Germany) very agreeable as to climate & position, very well furnished with shady wood=walks on the low Taunus mountains which rise behind it and show you the indifferently charming plain of Frankfort, and less frivolous I believe than of yore, before the gaming was stopped. I have seen nothing very wise here yet, but a good third of the population of England are gathered here and if I were on speaking terms with any of it, I might have exhilarating glimpses of solid British truth. As it is I drink not at that well, but at another where a band plays (at 7 a.m. in this land of music & early rising) where all Homburg assembles & the water tastes of sulphur. Don't waste a moments emotion on my being out of sorts. I don't mean to be forever and am so tired of it that I ~~do~~ shall never be again, with my own concurrence. Little by little we learn some of Nature's secrets & keep hoping to be on tolerable terms with her. I have been on excellent ones for a year past & shall be soon again. — I think a great deal about Italy & seem to myself to love it better than anything in the world. Altogether why, I don't think I could say, but I believe that is always the case in a great tendresse. If I feel the better for Homburg I shall probably cross the Alps again at early in September and spend next winter there. Where I don't quite no know; I'm afraid in Rome. I say afraid, because Rome is such an infernal compound of seductions & repulsions. But yet awhile longer the se former prevail and I shall probably succumb to them. I didn't see Fl Siena on my way up from Rome, because

I left Italy very hastily; but if things go well I hope to spend a part of the autumn there. I feel as if I had a partial impression of it however; for I spent a week at Perugia and I imagine Siena a sort of magnified Perugia. At any rate I shall see & I can promise you to pay a very pious pilgrimage indeed to the Villa Spannochi. — I have been having ever since you sailed a great many things to say to you; but between what is unspeakable in its essence and what is unspeakable for lack of means and time & opportunity, our relations seem sometimes—even those we would fain make most constant—~~seem~~ ~~to~~ ~~sometimes~~ to shrivel to a narrow stream. I would like to add here what I have to say to Charles & Jane. Give my kindest love to Charles and tell I wish greatly I could have some Ashfield walks & talks with him. I can imagine what he misses in Ashfield; or rather, I cannot, but of that especially we might talk. I at any rate very often think of it. Did he & Jane get each a note from me, the last thing before sailing?—It matters little, for before long I shall write another.—I hope Jane & you are gradually getting rest & that even American cares have a tendency to simplify themselves. For the present dear Grace, farewell, with every grateful & hopeful wish.

Yours most faithfully H. James jr

Please remember me very kindly to Mr. Curtis—if to do so doesn't force his memory of one of his own kindnesses.

No previous publication



8.10 affectionate • affec= | tionate

8.11 fortunes • for= | -tunes

8.14 say, ~~q~~ & • [*both commas inserted; & overwrites &*]

8.14-15 a quite • [*q overwrites a*]

8.16 satisfaction • satisfac= | tion

9.10 absolutly • [*misspelled*]

9.14 w What • [*W overwrites w*]