

20 1/2
Camden.
Jan. 9/59

Dear Mother/

Just you get Scott's
"Old Mortality" out of Con thony's library
"over haul the leaves thereof", and you
will find a letter written by the
heroine (I forget her name) to her
Uncle, in which she gives him ever
= so many directions and makes twenty
requests about matters of apparel &c,
not shirts, and at the end in a
postscript tells him of the infinite
danger in which her lover Elton
is - and when found turn down a
leaf - Because your letter rec. this
morning in a bundle of shirts is just
like hers only more so. You don't
mention the matter nearest your heart
even in the postscript - You didn't mention
it the other day when I was with you
four hours and you knew I shouldn't
see you again in a long while.
You let me write an absurd &
ridiculous letter to Lorie, when

I should have written one utterly different
full of the greatest pleasure I have
felt for many a month. What a funny
Darling Mother it is to treat her
Boy so! But she never did anything
without a good motive and therefore
I am only a little Mad. But I should
have liked to talk to you about this
New arrangement to con. congratulate
you. And then, if I had known it,
I should certainly have gone to
see George & Lorie & Aunt Susan
and have had a kiss from all hands
or all mouths. I received from George
this morning a splendid letter, made
right from his heart. It went
straight to mine and is there still.
The idea of George & Lorie being en-
-gaged is perfect. None better could
possibly be imagined. My only objection
is that it overthrows my theory of
the Hoffman & Miller & Kamble

but not being so tenacious of the ~~idea~~ ~~idea~~ ~~idea~~
 Gistram Shandy's old Katter was
 I will endure this grief for the sake
 the overwhelming delight on the other
 side. Another Sonie, Darling, for you
 to hold to your heart as a dear
 daughter, not to fill the place of our
 Blessed one who has gone before, but
 to take up the silver chords of human
 love which then were broken and attune
 them anew until they echo through that
 vacant place and make it vocal with
 sweet melody. I know you are delighted
 with this consummation of many years
 of friendship & regard; and I only think
 you might have told me so. Please
 write to me as soon as you receive this
 and make reparation for my loss. I
 was at Trenton yesterday & did not see
 Anthony. This is written in great haste
 before a Party which I shall be at - late
 in consequence. Goodnight to Darlings!
 The shirt don't deserve notice in this,
 I shant have it. A thousand thanks for
 them though. They are quite as necessary

to be sure or some other things. Eddie
deserves blame in these matters also.
Let her consider herself scolded.

Kiss the children from Pa
to Ma. Your power
L. M.