

St. Louis Sunday Sept. 28
79

Mrs. J. Evans Dayton Tex

My Little Precious Baby Wife

Your favor of the
23^d to hand & I was in great expectations
of it as it was promised in your brief note
~~mailed at~~ ~~sent~~ Sherman by Jip. I trust you
are enjoying a most pleasant stay at
D. & hope that after a few days Roy
may not be so particular to have your
special attention ^{out} truly Jay is an excep-
-tionably good boy & I trust that in
later days he may trouble his mother
as little. & may early prove that he
is competent to look after his own
welfare - & some body's else - as I trust
he may ~~to~~ enjoy all the blessings of a
peaceful & happy ^{life} and I am ^{sure} no mans
life is complete where a woman is not
connected with it. - So what think you
of the woman who selects to plod the
way alone - Had I again to enter

life I'd marry you at 16 or 18 + settle
down in some quiet little place where
we could have a cozy little home +
gather all the beauties of nature arou-
-nd our cottage. So that with flowers
+ sunshine without + the beauty that
your hands wrought - within our
home brightened with the glow of
love would be sweet - as a corner
of Eden. But - baby we have
accomplished more so far in life
than very many who are older. we
have learned to love each other -

for I believe that very many who
pass thorough life believing themself-
-ves full of devotion to their part-
-ners never realize what it is
to be truly in love. The first-
feverish flush of an early devotion
passes + they remember it - as ~~a~~ the folly
of school days - or a hazy - moon
dream. + the taper that should have
been fed to a living flame is

permitted to become a smoking
 wick. I'd rather have my darling's
 arms around my neck & listen to her
 words of confidence & realize that I
 possessed her in full. Then accom-
 -plish any of the great conquests
~~of which history~~ that history loves
 to applaud. I do not intend
 dear that it shall be long before I
 can kiss my baby morning noon &
 night & I know that nothing else
 would make her so proud.

But had I better return to a
 little St Louis reality. Yesterday was
 a holiday with us - the day of the pep-
 -over I believe - so in the afternoon
 I went - with some Texas ladies to
 the fair grounds - Mrs Ellington Dunn City
 Mrs. Russell Jefferson & Miss Morris &
 Jay rock - & had quite a pleasant time -
 The display was very good

+ you would have found many things to interest- you thought I do not- recall many items ~~to~~ which I ^{can} could ^{bring before you in a} ~~call your~~ attention in a way that would be appreciated by you One only I mention a piece of Statuary- A female bathing a baby boy- 10 to 12 months old- He is standing up- her left-hand around him + bathing him with her ~~left~~ ^{right} while he is making an effort to get-loose + down in the water- Perhaps the remembrance of our own precious baby gave it special merit in my eyes- The one figure was as much an object of interest- as the other (as the ~~stat~~ ^{ma} ~~monnie~~ ^{monnie} is as much connected with the bath tub as boy himself- I was also out- Friday Night- With Mr + Mrs Ellington to see Barrett in the Mermaid of Venice- -My only time at theatre this trip- And it was the first- thing I have

3^d Sheet-

seen on the stage - it was a thing
of beauty throughout - & all parts of
it well sustained - I wished all the
while baby that you were there - The
new theatre Popes which has taken the
place of the Old presbyterian church
Corner Ninth & Olive is the most
beautiful building of the character
in the City & promises to do a
fine business - You remember the
Custom house takes up the block
bet - 8th & 9th - Olive & Locust - Bess New
building is on Olive bet - 7 & 8 - So you
see how this Street is improving -

And now baby as you ask me about
the amount - to be expended on your
dress - I really am not prepared to say
what character of good would be to
your taste or what it should cost - &
baby should not trouble to ask me
for our purse opens as readily to her

I had forgotten to make your remark that I had but one wife - she this entire time is another wife -

I presume it will be better to get something good + of course that makes up nicely - a silk would cost \$60⁰⁰

While I suppose that from 20⁰⁰ to 30⁰⁰ would supply provide a dress sufficient for any ^{occasion} ~~purpose~~ likely to arise though I do not propose to be the judge in the matter of your dress. I have a very distinct remembrance of the dress of which you speak "as well as the girl" I got with it. + it was certainly very pretty as well as the girl I got with that wore it

And no doubt - it still retains its beauty. + still looks ~~so~~ very nice - if it has not improved ~~as~~ so much as the one who wears it.

Willie Davis is still here but will start for home I presume Monday Night - I have let him have forty odd dollars + I presume 50⁰⁰ before he leaves which he will ~~for~~ will refund to you when he reaches Drew - Love to all + kisses for our darling + your own dear self