“...there is only one thing of real importance...”

Selected Letters of

Olivia Langdon Clemens
June 8, 1867

“Charley and father went to New York on Wednesday. Charlie sails on Saturday.”
“I am glad that you had so pleasant a time with Mr Clemens—”

Olivia to Alice Hooker;
11 and 12 February 1868
Four months later, Clemens arrives in Elmira for the first time on 21 August 1868. This August marks the 150\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of his arrival in Elmira.

In a letter to his mother written on 24/25 August 1868, he reports:

“I am most comfortably situated here. This is the pleasantest family I ever knew.”
“Then I have little to tell you, except that a great satisfying love, has slowly, gradually worked its way into my heart – into my entire being –”

(OLC to Alice B. Hooker; 3 March 1869)
June 8, 1904

“The ruined household undivided sail in Prince Oscar June 28 homeward bound.

Clemens”

“Susy dear: This is the thirty seventh anniversary of Mr Clemens and my departure from New York on the ‘Quaker City’ and it was just such a day as this – gloomy and forbidding – Yours CJL”
IN THIS GRAVE
REPOSE THE ASHES
OF
OLIVIA LANGDON
THE DELOVED AND LAMENTED WIFE OF
SAMUEL L. CLEMENS
WHO REVERENTLY RAISES THIS STONE
TO HER MEMORY
ELMIRA, NOV. 27, 1845
FLORENCE, ITALY, JUNE 5, 1904
GOTT SEI DIR GNADIG, O MEINE WONNE.
“I feel so strongly these days that we have not a great while to stay here and that there is only one thing of real importance for us. To do all the good that we can and leave an irreproachable name behind us.”

Olivia Langdon Clemens to Samuel L. Clemens, 9 April 1893