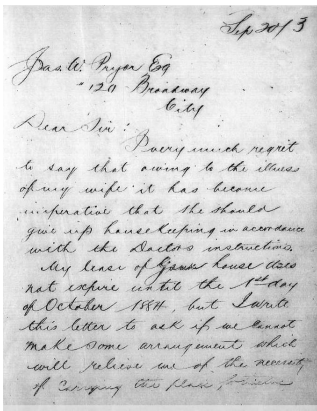


To James Pryor



Dear Sir:

I very much regret to say that owing to the illness of my wife it has become imperative that she should give up house-keeping in accordance with the Doctors instructions.¹

My lease of your^a house does not expire until the 1st day of October 1884,² but I write this letter to ask if we cannot make some arrangement which will relieve me of the necessity of carrying the place for twelve months—

The circumstance is most unfortunate but as Mrs. Edison's health depends upon her immediate removal retirement^b from ~~the city~~ all Household responsibility^c there is no other course for me to persue but to comply with the necessities of the case and ask your very kind cöoperation and endeavors to release me from the situation I am now in—³

Trusting that you will consider the matter favorably, I am
Yours very truly

Thos A Edison

L (letterpress copy), NjWOE, Lbk. 17:255 (TAED LBo17255). Written by Alfred Tate. ^aObscured overwritten text. ^bInterlined above. ^c“all Household responsibility” interlined above.

1. On 4 October, while Edison was in Brockton, Mass., Samuel Insull reported that he had gone “around to see Mrs. Edison this morning and she seems considerably better. She is going to move this afternoon [see note 3], and the doctor has undertaken to accompany her, in case of any mishap.” The editors have not determined the nature or extent of her illness, but cf. Doc. 2517 and see Doc. 2712 (headnote). Insull to TAE, 4 Oct. 1883, DF (TAED D8316AYJ).

2. See Doc. 2341 n. 3.

3. Pryor declined to terminate the contract, citing his own obligations and the substantial expenditures made at Edison's request on plumbing and carpeting in the house. Edison and his family, however, set up their household at New York's Clarendon Hotel at the beginning of October. Pryor did agree to waive the clause prohibiting a sublease, and Edison arranged one sublease through February and another until April, a sequence which drew a mild reproach from Pryor. See Doc. 2545; Pryor to TAE, 24 Sept. 1883 and 11 Feb. 1884; Joseph Huppman Valbella to TAE, 7 Apr. 1884; all DF (TAED D8303ZGD, D8403W, D8403ZBF).