

George B. Wright and Family Papers

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

12. Chestnut St.
Mch. 23. 1899.

My dearest Grace –

My Monday letter called out so much sweetness and strength too that it is difficult to be as sorry as I ought to be for giving way a bit to the blue tinge. Ain't you afraid of spoiling one by being too good? Seriously it was not nice to make you homesick to the point of wanting to pack your big trunk and for payment you only say dear things to me. Dearie you know how to say such dear things and to be such a dear yourself.

At this moment you must be listening to the fascinating John Drew. It is always a pleasure to know in advance something of your plans so that I can fix a moment in space (or time) and know with tolerable accuracy where you are and what you are doing. This has been a rather slow day for me — nothing much accomplished inside and a cold drizzle outside. Late in the afternoon I dropped in on your favorite Uncle and found him genial as ever. We talked mostly of uninteresting things but it was a pleasure to be with him for a half hour.

My dear me. The letter must be shorter than ever tonight for I must lay me away upstairs but, though I dont like to abuse the privilege, it is an inestimable joy to know that you will not measure my love by the length of the letter. That is just as long and broad and high as my whole self can make it, illuminated by a little knowledge of the sweetest, purest and best of women, your dear self.

Fondly your own

Bruno

12. Chestnut St.
Mch. 24. 1899.

My very dear Grace -

Your beautiful letter of today, that is Thursday in B.M. and Friday in Boston, has been a constant delight to me since it came, at about nine o'clock. I am sure you were in good spirits when you wrote it and that put the same kind into me.

Kathryn came in late in the day and got bid to dinner and Edith and I had a good visit (with her) afterwards when the Mr. and Mrs. had again gone to a social function. She seems pretty well to me though I

dont know how much she feels.

I walked home with her and so it is getting late and I cant write as much as I should like to to my dearie. Kathryn wanted me to say to you that she had not had a postal from you in reply to ~~your~~ her long letter but she sends her love just the same and is glad to hear that you are improving your mind by sleeping and being good. There is no better way, is there?

Really, since one one's relations must be patronized if you want a picture, I can see no imperative reason for passing over your own. Possibly it is a bit unusual but dont you think the good turn to Kathryn will balance? My feeling was quite strong (and has not changed) that if the young lady has not yet cultivated her appreciation for water colors, now is the time for her to begin and I am going to see what Kathryn has as soon as I can find the time. It was very sweet of you to want to make my orthodoxy environment less orthodox and dearie, you succeeded at once and completely and carried me off into your frosty March and your own sunshine to keep me there all day. Now I am a

little tired but expect to do my duty by sleeping long hours as I did last night. Dearest it is easier to sleep when one has given away his heart and got another one in place of it, isn't it! The change is a rest in itself — the most perfect rest and the most comfy too. Sleep for me, my precious one, and I will sleep for you since that is about all we can do for each other just now. As important as it is Doll is'nt it? Dearest I feel the touch on my eyes now. Sweet, Sweet Grace, Good Night.

Your own

Bruce

12. Chestnut St.
March 25. 1899.

My dearest -

This morning as I walked down town, I had figured out that there would be no regular nine o'clock letter or account of your engagement in Town on Thursday evening and the probability that you would stay in Philadelphia Friday morning to see your Dress maker. So you see your little note written in the morning had the additional charm of surprise. It was very dear of you for I have become so accustomed to my morning letter that it now seems almost a necessity to begin the day with.

Then later in the day came your longer one and filled my bowl again to the top — not just to the blue as they used to say but away away above it.

Dearie it seems to me that you are going to be too much rushed in your last days and that wont be good for you.

Would it not be more sensible to stay another week? Then you could get comfortably thro' with all your dress making without having to worry at all over it and you would have time to look over your chatels and finally have a few days in N.Y. as you had planned. I feel sure you will make a slave of yourself again packing up your things if you try to get away on schedule time and that might partly undo the good of all the long hours of sleep which you have been having. That would'nt pay at all, dearie, and if you do decide to stay another week I hope you will find time to pack your things in a leisurely way and not crowd it all into the last day or two. It is'nt pleasant to stretch one little week into two long ones but dearie I want to see you looking better in Springfield than you did in N.Y. and I dont believe there are many sacrifices ~~that might not~~

which it would not be better
to make if only your little
heart and back and the rest
are to be benefitted thereby.

You will decide fairly and
sensibly won't you my precious
little woman? You will
think me didactic and horrid
but there is another matter which
I am going to say my mind on
and that is Mrs. Brandeis' invitation.
I will enclose it so that you
may read it again but I can
see no suggestion that you would
be expected to have anything to eat
with them. However that you
know more about than I do but
what I was going to say was
that in any case it seems to me

that you had better not come to #12 again and for two reasons.

If you leave here for conventional reasons would it not be better to do the whole thing than to do only half of it ~~and~~ but more important than that, it has seemed to me for a long time that you had had enough Amuses to be good for you and that an intermission would be a ~~good~~ wiser course. Perhaps I am all wrong but I cant help feeling that if you came back here it would not be on the family's account and if that is true, it would certainly be better not to come. Dearie, I shall see you every day wherever you stay for I cant conceive of passing twenty-four hours apart from you

when you are once more get-at-able. (Dinner bell has sounded and now this must wait a bit)

9:45 P.M. After dinner I went out to Jam. Plain to see my Uncle Robert and my Aunt Anna. My Aunt Anna was unfortunately away in Milton with some of my numerous people but I had a nice chat with my Uncle Robert in his office by the fire. We talked of various matters — not much about you — though of course he asked about you and when you were coming back. I was sorry not to see my aunt for strange as you may think it, I have never seen her though I have corresponded with her. The weather predictions indicate snow again for tomorrow so that possibly I shall not see Lincoln until still later. Within the past two days I have been five times to the office of a real estate man who lives out there and deals in farms and such but he was always out. I wanted to have him show me what he had for sale on the map and then perhaps make an appointment to have him go with me tomorrow. But if the weather is at all fit, I shall go out anyway and have another look at the farm we have spoken of so much and see if it is still for sale. It will be worth while to get out of the city though I am afraid the country is still wintry. We have had so much snow and cold lately and soon

the rain has not been warm enough to melt the snow in the streets and on the sidewalks so that the result has been slush and plenty of it. — Oh for a pair of feet (of whom somebody is proud) to put slobs into! There never were more slobby streets.

You are right about your hair dearie. Fussy dressing is not its style and you do it just right with the waves over the forehead.

How I should love to rest my hand on it — but that will come, won't it dearest? Please try not to be hurt by what I have said. I should be more sorry than I can tell if that should happen and whichever way you decide will best please

Your own loving

Bruce

13. Chestnut Street
March 26. 1899.

My very dear Grace -

It has been a rather full day for a Sunday and I am going to tell you about it. In the first place of course I was late down to breakfast and as E. did'nt come down at all. I had a quiet time to myself. One of my best enjoyments now is to sit by the fire and sip another glass of water and this morning I had a beautiful opportunity for this particular kind of reminiscence. You are quite near on these occasions. and I love to recall just how you used to do it. After breakfast I read a little William of Orange. It had been almost forgotten until a day or two ago. Then I went to

church in a beautiful snow storm and enjoyed every minute of the going but got little from the sermon.

It is perversity, I am sure, which is to a great extent responsible for the habit of getting nothing from Mr. Abbe's sermons but so it is and when after he had finished speaking he announced that there would be time for two hymns, I did'nt feel equal to staying but fled immediately. The snow was still falling and that soothed my riled feelings so that by the time I had got as far as Copley Sq. I felt like calling on Kathryn.

She was good to me and let me go up stairs to hunt for a wedding present while she prepared potatoes for a guest at dinner — whose name I have forgotten. — an elderly Miss somebody. I looked only at small pictures so as to keep within bounds and finally settled on a green one with three children on the grass in the foreground. A simple little thing which Kathryn said had been liked by many people and accepted at two or three shows and which she only had asked $18.00 for.

So you see what it is to give one carte blanche to buy your works of art. Kathryn wanted to wait and arrange the price with you but I said she would surely try to rob herself if she made the bargain directly with you so she finally said she would take $15.00 from you.

It is a shame for her to sell it so cheap and yet it is a

Small picture — as small as you would care to give — but I thought that you might not want to pay $5.00 for a wedding present. Will you make it $10.00 and let me divide with you or if you think that is too peculiar will you wait until you get back before deciding?

I should like to go shares with you if you will keep my name in the background. Will you do this? On the way back to Chestnut Street the sky cleared and the sun came out over the soft pure white and I immediately determined to get a 2 o'clock train for Lincoln. There was not much time for dinner but Mrs. Amos kindly thrust a handful of nuts and an orange at me as I was flying off and so my desert was

calmly enjoyed in the back end of a railroad car. At this point I have to jump forward a bit. Dearie, it has been sold. Our farm has been sold for $4000.00 - 70 acres, house, barn and all. I timed myself from the R.R. station and found that just 15 minutes was required to walk to the present house. Probably three more would be added to get to the building site back from the road.

There was nobody at home so I wandered about through the fresh snow and under the low branches of the unkept trees and had a beautiful time for nearly half an hour. Then on going back to the house two youths appeared who informed me of the sad truth. The purchaser is a local man who

intends to live on the place and is putting the house in repair and painting it on the inside. So it looks as though that dream had vanished but I shall look up the man. There must be other places which we shall like but this one did seem very attractive to me today. The drawbacks are that it is too near the railroad and not near enough to the station but I am not sure that we can do better in the last respect without having to pay too much. I shall see that real estate man who, as I learned today, sells every thing nearly which is sold in Lincoln.

I am sure you will like that part of the world. It is quite uneven and well wooded, with occasional pine groves or isolated trees to punctuate the landscape and if you can get in the right place the mountains are visible in the West and add just that note of serenity which is perhaps the result of a contrast with the intimacy of the nearby trees and things.

I got a little tired poking about in the snow but it was delightful and only needed one other person to be entirely perfect. On the train I amused myself with examining the time tables and found them very satisfactory for my every day needs but not quite so convenient for a dear lady who would want sometimes to go into town at a later hour.

You might have to take slow trains and that would not be pleasant. The fast trains going in in the

morning and out in the afternoon make the run in about a half hour, some of them less and some a little more. That would be better than a half hour in the electric cars.

When I got back I was introduced to a Mr. William Cobb who now lives below us in Chestnut Street but used to know you in Roxbury. He was pleasant and when he had gone Edith said he was a nice boy so I think he is. That brings me up to date. You asked about Edith's plans. Perhaps she has told you in the letter which I posted for her but she has only said to me that she is going for year to stay quietly in Italy and is not going until you and I have been disposed of. I don't think

She has yet made arrangements to go with anyone for Raymond and his mother so soon - Apr. 8 I think is the date. If so he will probably appear here in the next few days. Deane I have been so sorry to cut you off with such mean little scribbles the last two or three days but the truth is that I caught a slight cold a few days ago and have been pretty well used up. It seems to attack my staying qualities and makes continuous thinking pull too hard on the nerves. There is nothing new about it and I am coming out all right, but it makes me what you would call "floppy" and considerably disgusted with myself. I have been wondering all day whether.

in my last night's attempt to
be sensible and to leave you
entirely free to do whatever you
thought best about staying or
coming next Saturday, perhaps I
overdid it. Dearest it is not
that I do not count the days
that still separate us but it
is because I love you so much
that I want you to do what
you feel to be best. Please do
not let anything I have said
give you an instant's hesitation
about coming as you first planned
if it is really convenient to do so
but on the other hand I hope you
will not let circumstances and
things get in the way of your
own peace and quiet and welfare.
Dearest you may trust in the love
of your own

12. Chestnut St.
March 27. 1899.

Dearest

It is half past ten for while you have been dining with Mr. Suter and the others, I have been dining with the Putnams. They had a deep laid scheme to make it easy for me and to get what they wanted for their house by inviting me to go with them to the Public Library to look at pictures which they had seen and approved of.

It was a very good way of showing me what their taste is in architecture and we all had a lovely time and parted quite pleased and satisfied. Tomorrow

morning I hope to know
whether you have decided
to stay or to come. Your
letter this morning was a
well of joy to me — and
the best of it is that like
all well regulated wells it
fills up again the instant
take anything from it and
the more you take the more
there is left. Dearie you
make me happy ~~good~~ by
being so yourself. Let this
little scrawl take with it
a great deal of love out of
proportion to its length. Now
I am going to be good. Even
so it is hard to say good night.

Your very own
Bruce

12. Chestnut St.
March 28. 1899.

My dearest Grace –

This morning there were two letters from you, one written Saturday and one on Sunday. First of all let me say what a delight it was to know that your packing was not a formidable undertaking and that you could probably get away as you had first planned.

You give me delightful pictures of your life among your "little playmates" and I don't blieve at all that they find you <u>too</u> far away at times. It is nice to hear that you are to be an alumna – it looks like the word for a certain light weight metal but there is no resemblance dearie, you are solid gold and much more precious.

I am going to tell you some more

about the Putnams because they interested me a great deal. First, they are much in love and happy though they have been married some years and that will recommend them to you I am sure for you once said of Mrs. Perrin that every happy married person made you happy. I was first shown into what in most houses would be the reception room. but in theirs was given over to the children and furnished with a work bench, lathe, gig-saw and carpentry arrangements. The decorations were toys, shavings, a couple of globes and other things which I can't remember and the first thing I stepped on was a marble which slid out and rolled away. Mrs. Putnam showed me how to kindle a wood fire with a scrap of pitch pine which was hardly bigger than a match and which she had saved from a stove out No. Carolina, pine floor. Knowledge is not the short coming of the Lowell tribe. At the library we had a beautiful time for they liked exactly the things which I should have wanted them to like and without any assistance decided that they approved of things which they had supposed they could'nt tolerate. In their hall we had indicated beams in the ceiling and pilasters on the walls to support the ends of the beams. Mr. Putnam did'nt like beams and Mrs. did'nt like pilasters so that our scheme seemed doomed but luckily they found photographs which reconciled Mrs. to the pilasters and then Mr. discovered that he did'nt object to beams except when they were thin and looked

as though they had been glued on.

Trifles like this made business move along and Mrs. was in such a good mood that she repeatedly called Mr. by some pet name just loud enough so that the one person on the other side of the table could hear.

This other person became absorbed in us and our doings and forgot her own book completely but Mrs. Putnam didn't realize what an attraction she was.

Perhaps the finest moment was when they both at the same ~~instant~~ ~~moment~~ exclaimed that they had found a mantel. They were looking through different books but on comparing the pictures it seemed that they had hit upon the self same mantel. Examination proved that there was a very slight difference and spoiled the coincidence but proved however to their own satisfaction how

similar were their tastes. Dearie, we could'nt have been more pleased ourselves. Dont you ~~know~~ remember how we have always liked the same things at the symphony concerts?

But now as the plans are about settled, they are beginning to be impatient and of course they wont be quite happy until they can move in. Neither shall we — though life is going to be endurable. I have'nt had time to see the real estate man yet but shall try to this week though probably I shall not be able to go out with him to look at anything before you came back. Glad, are'nt you?

Yes dearie, we shall have wood fires in our house if for no other reason than to recall those famous and now historic evenings when the family was suffering with grippe and Mr. was always accupied. What a

lot of sewing you have been up to! I hope you won't do too much for it must be wearing when indulged in continuously. Dearie, Tristan is to be sung on Monday night. The cast is to be published tomorrow (Wednesday) and the tickets will be on sale the next morning. There will not be time to hear from you before then but if die Lillie is to sing, I think I shall risk it and try for tickets. You will have to come to Boston on Monday instead of staying longer in Springfield, as I think you suggested in one of your letters, and it ~~may~~ be forcing the pace a trifle but there will be no other chance for the opera you must want to hear.

There isn't much news here either. The days resemble each other in their details most extraordinarily but there is an difference that no details can hide. Each day brings me just so much nearer to Saturday and Springfield and you, my most precious and anything - days or what not - which can do that are welcome. To be near to you, my dearest, in any way - thought, understanding and spirit is the fondest hope and desire which I cherish and I want to pass my days in trying to be all of that.

Only four days more! How much better than eleven is four! And how I long for you with all the love that is in my keeping!

May you be well and rested and happy then and until then.

Your very loving and very

Ann Evans.

Of course you will give me a new handy reference if needed. V.

I should'nt like to say what I think of this pen - (on paper)

12. Chestnut Street
March 29. 1899.

My dearest —

This has been another very good average day. Your letter did not come at the usual time but I was confident that it would arrive later and so it did. What a good girl you are to write me such sweet, long letters in reply to my brief scrawls and what a delightful picture of yourself all alone with your wood fire — and me. Think of it, this is probably the next to the last of the second series and then, Ah then! Mrs. Gardner has written me a note asking

me to come to their house
on Saturday. That is nice
of her but I hope that if
it is not just convenient for
her that she will let me put
up in town. Dearie, it looks
very much as though you were
going to be dreadfully hurried
at the end of your visit but I
hope you went away over things.
~~but~~ I have'nt the heart to say
anything more about delaying
your departure for that is set
in seeing you Saturday afternoon
or evening and I am sure there
would be a very bit of a practical
in it if it were disappointed.

This evening I have been doing
my duty by calling on Mrs. Hicks,
at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.
I was sorry not to see her fine
old mother (92 yrs.) but that lady
has been suffering with the grippe
and could'nt see me. Mrs. Hicks
sends her congratulations to you
and gave me some in person.
You see she has known me for
some time so she had to congratulate
you or it would'nt have been
polite. Today I made another
attempt to see the real estate man
but he was out. He is always
out and I shall have to set a
trap to catch him. To repay
you for saying such nice things
about my choice of farms, you
will now have to please me by
taking part yourself in that next

agreable pastime. Perhaps next Saturday — I mean next after you get back — we can go out and see something. At present I can hardly get away during the week but hope to have more time a little later when the Putnams shall have been appeased.

Dearie, you know that the one thought which possesses me and will continue to possess me until Saturday afternoon is the joy of being again with you — who are going to be my ---, as you put it.

Dearest, we are both going to be one ----. That's the best of it and that's what makes the happiness of Your very loving

Bess

Postmarked
3-30-99

89 STATE STREET, BOSTON.

My own dearest -

This is just a note at the end of the working day to tell you that I love you very much and that I am afraid that if I put off telling you until later in the evening you would'nt get the letter before leaving Saturday morning and might have to ride all the lonely way in a state of ignorance which would not

(I like to believe) be nearly as blissful as the condition of wisdom which will now be yours. How is that for a sentence? Some thoughts want go into a few words you know.

Your morning letter was delightful — except the news of your recent floppiness. I am glad you are coming for now I can rule you with a hand of iron and make you be good. Dearie I hope you will find time to sleep or rest and get back to your nearly normal self again before you leave B. M. I shocked Mrs. today at lunch by telling about your d.-m. lady and enjoyed the process considerably. I hope you want mind for the mischief is now done. Edith wasn't shocked a bit. — which may not surprise you.

Thank you very much for the plan of attack on the Gardner castle. It is a masterpiece of draughtsmanship and a monument to your powers of observation and memory. Of course I have accepted the invitation to stay with the cousins. Dearest, this is hasty and so is everything for me until we meet again. Oh that day!

My very dearest
à bientôt

Bram.

12. Chestnut St.

Mch. 30. 1899.

Dearest Grace.

On the chance that this will reach you before leaving, I am going to write a few lines.

It is too bad that you have been floppy again and I hope it was only a parting kick or a dying gasp of the evil one who is jealous of your improvement. But you must not presume too much, dearie.

You were nice to tell me all about it and I am glad you did. I shall have to be good to you in Springfield and not make you stay up late — partly because I got

tickets for Monday night and you wont be able to enjoy it unless you get some rest Sunday. It was inconsiderate of the Opera management to have Tristan Monday night, on your account and also on your Uncle's, for of course he will want to see you but I knew you would rather see Tristan than anything else. (and this was the only chance.) Perhaps you can get some rest and also see the uncle before the opera. This morning I am afraid I showed temper to our clients, the Putnams. When I entered the office, they were both there and pencil in hand were actually making studies on tracing paper of a fable and which did not please them. Probably it was foolish of me but I felt that there are limits of endurance and that they had reached them. Coolidge is good natured and allows them to dictate to him in matters which as an architect he ought to know and does know more about than his clients. Perhaps when you have taught me mildness, I shall see things as he does but now I am apt to flare up on occasions.

The Washington journey was a possibility of a few days ago which I didn't write about because I didn't want to

raise any false hopes and then
squash them. Now the possibility
has blown over. I don't believe
I am frank enough with you
in such matters. You must
tell me in Springfield whether
you would'nt rather be treated
with a little less of that particular
kind of consideration. It was
all about a new Post Office bldg.
which my town of Fergus Falls is
to have and my friends are
interested in having it located
in a certain corner. They knew
that I formerly knew the present
Supervising Architect and thought I
might pull wires but I do not
find that he has anything to do
with locating his buildings and so

I shall probably not go.

Dearie, I don't believe I had realized that we have been separated more than half the time since we have been engaged. I know it was good that we could be so much together for such a long time and I think it has also been good to be separated though we quickly get into full of separation. Do we not both know better how much we depend on eachother than we could if we had been together ever since — well ever since this new year began.

That is a very precious knowledge and I keep it locked in the innermost and safest corner of

my strong boy where thieves and rust cannot enter.

Today Mrs. Stacy congratulated me and this afternoon Miss somebody who I believe was once a tutor to you at Cohasset sent me her congratulations by Edith.

A novel way, was'nt it?
She is engaged to a nephew of Mrs. Stacy and Edith saw her there at a social function.

I met Mrs. S. myself at the ticket rush this morning where she was perhaps number 100. in the line when I was about number 20.

She would have had to stay all the morning if I had not got her tickets for her and she was nice in her congratulations.

Dearest and most beloved. I send you with this all my love in return for all yours which I received this morning and my best wishes and hopes that you will not allow yourself to get tired out so as to be furious with your dear self again. But tired or well and stay, the moment I can see you again will be a blessed one for you are always you. Only please be good. With a heart full of love — Your very very own

Bruno

Postmarked
3-31-'99

14 Beacon Street
~~89 State Street, Boston~~

Dearest –

Last night before leaving the office I wrote you a little note so that you would be sure to get it before leaving and later in the evening I wrote again hoping but hardly believing that you might also get that one. Now your letter written on the train makes me doubt whether either of them will reach you so here goes for another attempt. You are

being rather tossed about these latter days but it is good to think that you are going to Wilmington again for I know that you enjoy the atmosphere of the Nields' home and that means much to you.

It is too bad you cant get the early train from N.Y. but I shall have to possess my gizzard in patience or otherwise. Your little dig at the profession is deserved without doubt but still I think that perhaps it would be fair to call both the architects and their clients, patients. Both have to ~~practice~~ be patient at any rate, as you will understand when you get my last night's letter. What a long, long journey you will have, dearie! From Wilmington to Springfield in one day is too much and I wish I could shorten it for you but I dont believe I ought to go to N.Y. What I can do, if the trains will permit, is to go beyond Sp. and catch

your train at some nameless intermediate point. Then we can have a short time together before we are thrust into the glare of the public view.

Not too public of course but still not exactly private.

How will that do? I shall trust to your being in the train which leaves N.Y. at 4. P.M. and if you change your plan for any reason you will telegraph me as early as possible. trust you?

Lovingly and longingly
Your very own
Vernon.

Friday Morning.

1406 Spruce St.
Phila.

iii. 31. 1889.

My most precious Vernon,-

For fear that you may think that my scrappy letter, written yesterday, in the train was cold and unsatisfactory, I want to try to reach you once more before we really meet, and tell you that I was merely hot and tired and thoughtless yesterday, not really unloving. Last night Miss Lois Howe came in to call, and was very pleasant and amusing. She, for some unknown reason, didn't look at all as she does in

Boston. and I was not sure at first that she was the architect lady. She spoke to you as of an old friend and told me several things that you dearest never told me about yourself. Nice things of course.

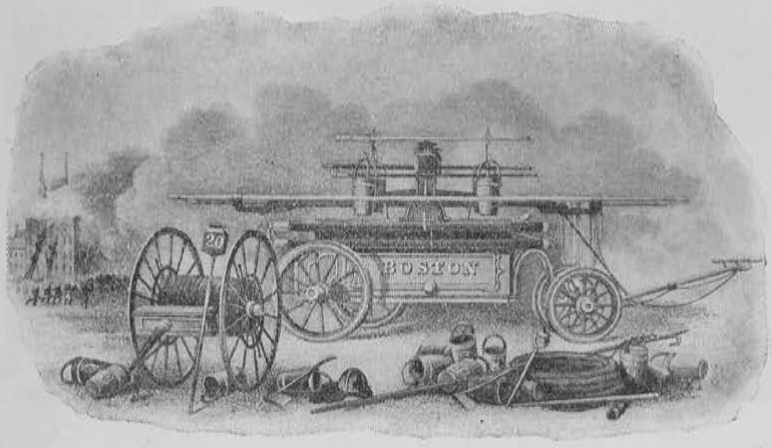
Yesterday was the most perfect of all the days in B. M., and most needed you to make living most worth while. I managed to make living pay by keeping out of doors, bare-headed, with no coat on, and low shoes. It is a pleasure to be able to leave off the outer layers of ones apparel and be comfy once more.

11.00 A.M. Phila. to N.Y.
1.23 P.M. reach 23d St. N.Y.
4.00 P.M. N.Y. — Sp.
7.27 P.M. reach Sp. D.V.

I must post this or you won't get it in time so au revoir, which means but little over a day this time.

Your most loving and anticipating

Grace.



Boston Veteran Firemen's Association,

Headquarters, 1019 WASHINGTON STREET.

HENRY DANIELS, Secretary.
Address, 21 WASHINGTON STREET.

Boston, June 16th 1899

Miss Grace S. Clarke

The Boston Veteran Firemen's association desire to express to you their sinkere thanks for the elegant portrait of the late Col' Samuel Devons Harris the first Chief of the Boston Fire Department. We gratefully accept your beautifull gift and assure you that we shall value it as a dearly treasured memorial of a Chief Engineer who performed his arduous duties nobly and fearlessly and by his unswerving honor and integrity endeared himself in the hearts of his fellow citizens and the members of his Department. And we shall ever revere his memory for his patriotic devotion to his country, and for the noble services rendered by him during the war of 1812-14, and you may rest assured that among our mementos of brave and faithfull leaders the portrait of Chief Samuel Devons Harris will be placed with the best and bravest. Yours Very Respectfully

Henry Daniels
Secretary

Samuel Abbott Jr.
President.



Ebbitt House

ARMY & NAVY

H.C. BURCH, Manager.

Washington, D.C. Aug. 14 1879

Dearest — [Grace Wright]

No luck so far — I got to Mr. Taylor's office in the treasury building by two o'clock but he had not yet shown up nor been heard from. He is expected, apparently with some confidence, tomorrow morning so of course I shall stay over tonight. If he does not get back tomorrow, I shall probably stay over until ~~after~~ office hours Wednesday morning and then if he is still unheard of, give it up and leave him only a carefully constructed letter to remind him that he has missed another wine-pull.

This house is an old fashioned one of about the vintage of 1870. with

no pretentions whatever of style but it does very well and I have a room looking out on the treasury building so that I can watch for my victims. This afternoon after a three o'clock dinner (dinner is served from 2 to 7 on the American plan) I went up to the new library again and wished you were there. It was interesting to go over the things again and see how they struck me on a second visit. On the whole, much as before but there were one or two variations which I will tell you about. A long trolley ride filled up the rest of the afternoon and pretty sore I am going by-low to make up for last night.

This is a very stupid letter and represents accurately my state of mind. As I have had no message from you I infer that



Ebbitt House

ARMY & NAVY

H.C. BURCH, Manager.

Washington, D.C. _____ 187_

you found your boy lost E. and have not gone off to Wilmington. Please give her my regards and will she treat you kindly and oblige

Your Dad.

Of course all sorts of things may happen to occur to change or to make plans for me so you must be prepared for any sort of an erratic movement which may necessitate packing a bag rather hastily. But I shall try to let you know as soon as possible.

Good night

V.



THE SHOREHAM

JOHN T. DEVINE

10:30 P.M.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug 27 189 9

My dearie—

Here I am after a rather long day at the case. Sunday trains are slower I suppose. Mr. Adams was here considerably wrought up and engaged in discussing the situation with a person of influence who is going to see him through. What I am here for does not appear but I wanted to see Adams and if I don't go West this year I should have no other opportunity. He is a regent of the University of Minnesota and can perhaps give me some points about dormitory prospects. I shall also talk to him about the hospital scheme



THE SHOREHAM

JOHN T. DEVINE

WASHINGTON, D. C., ... 189

and perhaps he is the proper person to work up local interest in the plan.

Your letter was quietly waiting for me at the Ebbitt House and would have stayed there for no one knows how long. Quite a good plan under the circumstances. It cheered me up to get it as I hope this scrawl will cheer you if it gets to you before I do. So far as I know I shall get back about the time I expected but this is only Sunday and nothing has turned up yet.

I think of thee, dearie, and of the little house and any other "little" thing that may occur to you. With love ever.

Portsmouth
6-7-00

My Dear- [June 7, 1900]

It is 7 o'clock and getting to be comfortable after a scorching day and a dusty one. The land is level and green with grass and crops and back of us the mountains are already quite blue in the distance so I suppose that Montreal is not far away. Moreover the scattered buildings have the poverty stricken and uncared for look which indicates H.M.'s province of Canada. I had as traveling companion as far a Concord N.H. a man going to commencement exercises at St Paul's school where he had a son. By telling him about my cousins in Tonsina I drew him out and got some information about

the school and the cost of going to it which I shall use as ammunition when I open on my cousin Chas. D. We parted amicably and he left me a copy of Munsey's as a token.

Beyond Concord it was too hot and dusty for anything serious so I took off my boots and put on the pumps (interesting detail) and prepared for the scenery of the Lake Winnepesaukee region. It is fine, very fine, but for some reason lacks great interest. Perhaps because it is all God's work without any aid from man, the great improver of this imperfect creation. Lombardy which is so exclusively man's product is more exciting to ride through though I will conclude that N.H. might be more fun to walk in. Probably the drinking water is safer too. Later in the afternoon I put in some time on that impressive bundle of accounts etc. without any startling results. There will be opportunities of occupying myself when I get to Winn. if I do not mistake myself.

My thoughts have been making excursions back to the Pightel fields all day and now more than ever as the night is coming on. By this time I immagine you are the proud possessor of a cow to decorate the cereal cycles days and keep Sally company by night. May her milk supply never grow less! By the way what do you call her? We have crossed the

St. Lawrence and shall soon be in. Dearie, its all for you — everything — including a loving husband

Truman

— Foiled, it was not the St. Lawrence and there is a beautiful sunset. Peace be to you, my dear, dear wife. T.

Soo R.R. June 7. 1900

Dearie

Another day is running out and we have passed the Soo and are again under the protection of U.S. I spent the morning I hardly know how. A good part of it Talking with a Minneapolis Judge whom I at first took for Prof. Shaler of the Lawrence Scientific school. The judge chews his tobacco quietly and modestly and ejects the product with unerring accuracy — not at all the low Kansas style you will notice — and he also chose a seat near the water cooler so that he could indulge at the same time his other habit of drinking a third of a glass of ice water every ten minutes. We discussed many matters superficialey after which

I rested and I believe fell asleep. The day has been cooler than yesterday and much more agreable. This afternoon I have been going over accounts again to get a little familiar with the course of events before arriving. They are voluminous and will require considerable time to be spent over them with the agent. There is the estate account and my mother's account and my own and altogether it is rather mixing unless done carefully. It gives me the impression that there are many business opportunities if I cared to go in for them and at any rate I am sure that once a year is not too often to visit Minnesota and probably it would pay to come out twice every year. From the Soo I telegraphed Chas. Ames that I should be in St. Paul fifteen minutes tomorrow morning and I hope he will come down to the station to say howdy. He may have gone East before I have another chance to see him here. There is an outfit of children in the car which numbers eight, the oldest being perhaps fourteen. To take care of them there is but one mother strictly speaking though the oldest girl — about twelve — does a good deal in that line. They are as quiet as grown ups and fill me with astonishment at their good behaviour. "Well I guess this is all you will want to hear from" Mr. Vernon

P.S. I shall have to carry this with me to St. Paul. With love and many thoughts of thee — thy V.

No. 3. Fergus Falls, June 8. 1900

Dearest Grace -

Charles and Margaret were at the station with their wheels this morning and I had fifteen minutes chatting with them. Margaret is taller than ever — seems as tall as I am and must be nearly. Lesley and she go the 14th and the rest follow on the 20th I believe. Perhaps you will feel like having some of their society at Pinglefields.

But alas my visitors made me forget to mail the letter which I had written on the cars last night intending to post it in St Paul. It was only posted in Fergus Falls on my arrival so you will be as much as three days without a word though I have written something — not much — every day. Chas. D's wife Lucy is not well and he is

short of domestics. Chas. J. is away with his boys at Duluth – also with his diabetes (?) I think – but Geo. Miles sighted me as I hailed in sight and asked me to come to his house and here I am after spending two or three hours talking with Chas. D. at his bank. Elmer Adams has also appeared by telephone and I am to see him tomorrow. The family has gone to a Schumann Club affair of which it is secy. and treas. and I begged off to rest after two days and a half of travel and more particularly to write to thee. The excuse was considered valid so now I am all alone – perhaps like thee at this hour. The one subject of conversation here is the drought which my cousin Serge (he of the extraordinary memory) says has continued since last August with only a few flakes of snow during the winter. It is undoubtedly bad but with a very low temperature such as now prevails there cannot be much immediate danger of scorching the wheat fields. Every body's welfare depends pretty directly on the wheat yield and so it is no wonder that the weather is a matter of real interest.

The journey from St. Paul to F.F. has been uneventful though part of it was entertaining by reason of a politician and friend who talked loudly enough to be easily heard. They discussed social and religious subjects as it seemed to me with a good deal of vigor and shrewdness but always within a finite horizon. The politician I think represents a a large class of people who enjoy being down on pretty much every-

thing an inch high but more particularly religious institutions and people who think themselves better than others. I suspect that the root of this kind of discontent is a chafing and kicking against the bonds of moral law which each feels at the bottom of his heart but which he would like to supplant with more "practical" law of his own devising. This must be all moonshine to thee who did not see and hear the aforesaid guts. I forgot to mention that the holy bible of the political gut was the "Philistine" from which he read long extracts and whose editor he knows and admires — except his long hair. I long to get the first word from thee, Gracie dearie. Goodnight V.

No. 4 Sunday, VI.16.'00

Dearest wife -

Let me tell you the history of my life. Yesterday morning was spent with the agent considering a proposition of how to make an unprofitable building suitable for a wholesale business and consequently remunerative. It is better to rent a building which you already have than to build a new one for a customer - especially if you have no money to build with. Later in the day we examined the water power and discussed plans of what to do. Fortunately we could easily see that the first and most necessary thing is that old and favorite friend of our youth a "coffer dam". I am sure that at one period of my existence the thought that I should one day actually build

a coffer dam would have been purist bliss to me. During the day we had encouraging signs of rain which at the darkest and most critical point suddenly vanished into clear sky. I believe the same thing has happened before lately. In the evening I took tea with Elmer Adams and his wife and talked until ten when he saw me on my way a spell. The talk was all of a business tone, or rather of a business gossippy nature for there was no real business between us. That made it too late to write to you but not too late to read your first letter on my return to the Miles'. It came with a note from Edith and one from Crook which was so contrite that I thought I must have been too severe with him. I hope not though I think that he needed a little outside advice and direction. He promises not to putter but to get them done. He must have them out into the country air when I get back. Your own letter was sweet to the taste, dearie. Thee makes me see it all — hammock, breeze, tin pans, pigs also! and the beautiful new cow. I hope she is going to be satisfied to stay with the Wights and afford them desirable sustenance as well as aesthetic enjoyment.

Today I have been to church high church. The rector is English, very zealous and a great stickler for ceremony in spite of some eight years experience in Idaho where his ideas could not I think have been appreciated. He spoke as an

in authority and explained that the trinity was so because the church says it is so and so it is so.

This afternoon we drove over the town and I saw all the new houses which have been built in the last year. I called on cousin Myra and then came back and played with Mary Miles (12 yrs.) and looked at old deguerreotypes. My cousin Hattie presented us this morning with a most beautiful blue trimmed China plate and saucer and a teaspoon all of which were my grandmother's. She is also going to give us a linen sheet woven by the same lady some 85. years ago. It is nearly ten so good night my dear, dear wife. Yours for aye V.

No. 5. Monday. VI. 11. '00

Dearie wife -

Your send of the eighth came tonight to tell me that you were well and "not too tired" and make me happy and lonely at the same time. I hope Lois is'nt offended at being asked to wait over a week. But this is of course all old to thee. I wont bother thee with back numbers. At this moment thee is perhaps in the throes — but that is a back number two or will be when thee gets this. Nevertheless I think of it and wish thee well and sympathize. I cant tell about the coal but will look it up when I get home. Here in Fargo we have not got at the accounts yet for there are five matters to arrange first, the most important of which

is the rebuilding of the flume We have been considering plans for it today and I shall have to put in much of the week at the same work so as to know just what to do when we really begin. That will probably be next Monday. The wholesale people I told thee about want me to build a new building for them but I do not think I shall do it and am trying to get them into one which we already have on our hands. I cannot tell thee all the details for I am going to bed now. This evening I took quite a walk looking over the town and am tired — healthy tired — in consequence. The weather continues dry and dusty with high winds — quite the thing for the laundries. Be good and dont get too tired and let me know all the things thee does and thinks about and have all the nice people thee can get without doing too much and keep on loving thee husband who loves thee much and thats all over.

Yours

No. 6. Tuesday. June 12.

Dearie –

It will be a very short one tonight just to tell you that I am well and busy. Cousin Myra came in to call and to enquire whether we really thought there was any danger to her man and boys who are travelling somewhere near an alleged Indian outbreak. We didn't. I walked home with her and now it is too late to write much. There is much in my mind these days — quite as much when I have

no letter as when I have one. I will hope for on tomorrow. The long desired rain has come in small measure today. There was not so much but it drizzled a good part of the day and gave itself time to soak in and so every body is a bit relieved.

Good night, dear wife and God bless thee.

Yours.

No. 7 Wednesday, June 13, '00

Dearie -

Today nothing in particular occurred until this evening when I got your letter. It is the just the best medicine for tiredness that could be, full of cheer and sweetness and thee. Dint be alarmed about the quality of your letters. They are all good but this are seemed to me are of the best you have ever done for me - (Saturday's) I luv to hear how you got on with Miss Farrar. Cousin Hattie took me for quite a

drive this evening. We went to the top of Mount "Pisgah" (named I think by my father though for whom or what I dont know) and had a view. The hill is not high but it commands everything for miles. On one side, the town snuggled in among green trees and then a rolling and partly wooded country circling round on both sides toward the west where the land waves die out into the flatness and distance of the great Red River valley, unlimited only by a horizon as straight and level as the sea.

'Tis a grand country in its way and thee must see it some day. Tomorrow afternoon we may drive out to a fishing lake and if we do it will probably be for all night and then thee will have no letter. Dearie, dearie, I long for thee too but now I feel that my place is here and will be I think for a longer time than we shall either of us like. But in the mean time, thy letters are life to thy husband

Yeman

No. 8 June 15. 1900.

Dearest wife -

After neglecting thee last night I ought to give thee a long letter tonight but it is too late. I have been to call on my cousin Lucy - Mrs. Chas. D. - and after walking home and chatting with the family my time is all gone. We get up early here - about half past six - and I have to hustle to get to breakfast at seven or thereabouts. Yesterday we went fishing as I think I wrote you and I caught a pike. It was a fine day and I enjoyed the rest. Please pardon this pitiful scrawl. Your own

letters are so full and beautiful that you deserve more than I can give you most days.

Dearie, please be reasonable and not overdo thereself when thee has headaches etc. Don't write so much if it draws on thee dear reserve but every word from thee is sweet to thee husband. He loves thee, Dearie.

Ernest

No. 9. Sunday. June 17. 1900.

Dearest wife –

It is a beautiful cool and breezy day and I have stayed home from church to recuperate and to write the the history of my life. Week days are such busy days that I find myself pretty well tired evenings and so do not keep the as well informed as I sh'd like. The longer I stay the more business seems to crop up but I know that it is only because I am getting to the roots of things and that there is a limit to the possibilities of the business crop – as well as of the wheat crop, alas! Besides the routine of affairs which has to be pretty well investigated there are, first – Securing a certain firm of wholesale grocers for a building which

we have and which is now not very profitable. This implies the securing from the city council the right to run a side track through an alley about three blocks long and across a street, next the securing of the R.R. itself (which is promised) and finally alterations in the building itself which is not now suitable or— my latest plan is to enlarge it at the same time as the contemplated tenants will not accept it in its present size if they can possibly get another building.

—Second— the building of a two story office building opposite the site of the new Federal Building. In order to make it a go, I have to get estimates of cost accurately enough to make prices for tenants and then secure enough tenants to make the building a success before beginning the work. This is an interesting enterprise and I hope it will not fall through.

—Third. Important repairs or rather rebuilding of part of the water-power plant. This means a good deal of study and thought about hydraulic engineering and the examination of other powers in the city or its neighborhood. This must be done whether anything else is or not. and it is also very interesting.

—Fourth, In connection with the expected retiring of the manager of the Flour Mill which pays us the largest share of our income, I am now trying to arrange a combination of the two mills situated on the same power with one manager

instead of two. It ought to be possible to decrease the operating expenses in this way as neither mill is very large and perhaps at the same time remove competition though that is not now important.

Fifth — I have a fine scheme to improve a water power in which we have an interest. The power is on the river some five miles below the city and is worthless unless transportation by electricity is possible and feasible at not too great a cost. This must be looked into but if it can be done as I hope there is a fine prospect of making several blades grow where none grew before. This is also exciting in its present stage of

redevelopement. Incidentally there is a huge roller rink building to be torn down. It is beyond its usefulness and I hope to find someone to buy it as it stands and take it down with the risk of doing so. I am afraid of it and hope that it can be taken down without accident. If care is used there should be no great trouble but men are not always careful.

Then there is a somewhat complicated trade to be made to settle up an old account which involves a good deal of figuring and looking up of property. We have also a case of river flowage rights to deal with which may or may not prove troublesome.

Last of all there is my mother's

estate to look after. This is not strictly my business as my cousin Chas. D. is the assignee but I shall have to help him out to some extent though I hope I shall not have to put any more money into it. Just now he is making up his report to the Court and has to have all the accounts which have gone through my hands or the agents.

So you perceive, dearie, that I am busy. So far I stand it pretty well though it has begun to make me a little sleepless. But the routine stage of proceedings will begin presently and the excitement will subside. I have to tell thee all this because it is in my head. Charles wrote me a day or two ago that the two eldest children were about to start and that the rest of the family would follow about the 20th. I hope you will have some of them out but not on condition of tiring yourself too much. Dr. Theodora told me that thee must not see too many people and it seems to me that thee is in a way to disobey his orders if thee doesn't watch out.

The last letter makes me hope that thee will go to Dr. V. as soon as possible or rather convenient and give an account of thyself and thee friends performances. Will thee, dearie? It is so good to hear of the cow and the garden, and Wm and Mable and all the family and circumstances that make up our little home. Thee

must know that it is just all
that I put to get into everything I
am doing here so far away from
thee. I hope thee can endure
the separation cheerfully for it
seems to be necessary and as
the Cousin Nancy told thee, it
is good for me. The joy of
meeting again will make up
for much, n'est-ce pas? The
family is back from church and
it is nearly dinner time. Cousin
Harriet wanted to be remembered
to thee and hopes to know thee
some time — and love thee, so
she said. She is a good soul.
Dearie, this bears with it all
my love for thee and may it
give thee or help thee to peace.

Thy husband Norman

No 10. VI · 18 · MCM

Dearie wife –

It has been a hot dry day and I am just back from a call on the C. D's and have to collect myself a bit and then cook myself another bit before I can recollect my day's history. At this moment the curfew is sounding which means that it is 9 o'clock. It used to mean that children under a certain age – about 16 I believe – must no longer be seen on the streets but the law has lost its rigor or vigor and is now only a pleasant reminder that it is about bed time. The Chas. D's were not at home and I had a chat with one of my cousins – Murray. He wants to go away to school and

has collected the names of some hundreds of schools. He is enterprising and wants to go to one of the best and most expensive preparatory schools and then go to either Oxford or Cambridge, Eng. He is a boy who will get on anywhere, I think, and if he perseveres he will very likely succeed in overcoming the dead and heavy weight of his fathers inertia. I told him to keep it up. His older brother is the difficult one whom I told thee about. He will be more apt to go to the Tech and go in for some scientific course. All three of my cousins are at the point of making up their minds or rather of trying to get ready to make them up. Chas. J. has also thought of Oxford for his oldest boy. He is not home yet and I have not seen him but the Presbyterian could with difficulty be brought to accept such a radical notion. Carlton Miles is also at the same age. He is an extraordinarily omnivorous reader. He has just gone into the Journal office for the summer as a reporter but I can't make out that he has done anything but read over some years of old files, making notes and apparently getting and remembering a lot of local history. He is useless with his hands but a good worker

in his way, apparently without much push. I think he may have the characteristics which would make him an effective librarian and have suggested it to the family.

My own work jogs on slowly. I had a good sleep last night and have taken it easier today.

If thee would prefer to give Edith a check instead of waiting till I get back to help thee hunt for a rug, do so and I will reimburse thee — either forty or fifty dollars as thee thinks best. Thy letter about the children is the last received and is good for me as they are for thee, dearie.

Thy V.

No. 11 June 19. 1900.

Dearest -

It is ten o'clock and I must go to bed but not until I have said howdy. I have been talking to Chas. D. mostly about business matters this evening and when I got home found Harriet alone and so sat and talked with her for a half hour. There is nothing new. Today it has been the combination mill scheme and the office building. I have my preliminary estimates for the latter and must now

see if anyone wants any offices.
In a small town like this
it is a comparatively simple
matter I think but have
not yet tried seriously.

Today I have had no
letter from thee but I
immagine thee occupied
with the adorable Childer
and quite glad to be so.

Goodnight, dearie

Bruan

No. 12. VI·21·MCM

Dearest wife -

Let me tell thee that after one year of life with thee, I think thee the best person in the world to be married to. Thee is good to me and patient with me and and always a friend and lover. Thee makes my life worth living both for from thee and near to thee and thee makes the world a real world and myself a real person in it as never could be before or could have been without thee. Have I not then good cause to rejoice on our first anniversary? It is something to find the world

and to find oneself in however small measure and it is much & do it through love. It makes a radical change in one & have a confidant in whom one can pour out himself and. dearie, thee knows that I have not had that blessing before thee came to make us happy.

What a joy it is to write the little word us and know that it is true as the truest truth. I have had two of thy letters today as well as the deeds for which many thanks.

Alas! dearie, it will not be on the fourth of July that we meet again nor yet very soon after. None of my schemes have been accomplished yet and I cannot really see how I can leave in less than a month. I have even thought that I sh'd take a journey back to thee for a few days and then return. There is an excursion rate to go into effect sometime this summer which I think I could take advantage of by returning within a few days. I will look it up and let thee know as soon as possible. Thy letters tell such sweet tales of thy goings and doings and they relieve the too incessant motion of the wheels in my head.

It is a pleasure to think that thy much Free has been with thee on our wedding day though the year has left more blessings to us than to him. He is a good man and one to use as a model, I sometimes think.

It has been hot today and I have been out in it a good part of the time, getting tanned and healthy. It is much better fun than accounts. Thee, dearie, is thee getting a good color too in spite of thee anaemia or does it keep thee a little palie?

I cannot make this a long letter but it bears perhaps more than an usual burden of loving wishes for our second year and so on and on. Thy husband Vernal

No. 13 VI. 22. MCM.

Dear little wife

There has been no letter from thee today but instead I had one from my mother which had been forwarded from Brotas. She wants us to select a present for Edith for a value of about five dollars and I have written her that when I returned we should gladly undertake the commission and that we knew from experience that dribblets are preferable to the lump system as applied to wedding presents.

The poor lady has been ill from overdoing. When she felt better again she promptly celebrated her old aunt's birthday by having some friends come and stay and then she collapsed again. She says she will answer thy good letter but is evidently not able to do much and would be much pleased and consoled I think if thee would write her again without waiting for an answer. I know that She would appreciate it. Today has been as busy as other days. The work of taring out the old flume is well advanced and by the aid of our friend the coffer dam, the work of putting in the new one will soon be under way.

I seem to be a little nearer to making an arrangement with the wholesale house and also with the mill consolidation. The office building is apparently going ahead and I shall know in a few days whether my tenants can be secured or not. Tomorrow (Saturday) or possibly not till Monday I shall probably go & stay a week with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Adams. The lady is away in Minneapolis but

Elmer has invited me when she comes home. Should I dare to do that without speaking to thee about it?

Today has been as different as could be from a year ago but still I have thought often of our first day at Cedar Beach. Those were good days, dearie, and so are these though far from thee and so will those be when we can again be together. Thy picture is looking down at me with that same searching look it used to have in Ocala and, dearie, I like to be searched — by thee.

Yours

No. 14

Chez Elmer Adams
VI. 24. MCM.

Dearest –

It is five o'clock of a very hot Sunday and I have just waked up from a good hour and a half sleep and am now writing to thee in a costume unsuitable for formal social functions.

Elmer has invited me to his house for a week and has given me a comfortable room and bed with a toilet room adjoining where I am quite at home.

The house is large and open on the ground floor, in finished with more attempt at richness of effect than, thee would like, a relic of the prosperous boom days of

of the early eighties. Elmer got it for a song and now spends a large amount of his income in trying to keep it warm during the long winters. My room is done in walnut and has high windows and a heavy looking coal grate surrounded by a heavy low mantel decorated with hand carving and machine work. It is quiet and restful and the only noises are the undertone of the water powers, (a good thing to listen to) and the children's voices on the lawn. There are three children, Maryine, Dorothy and Samuel, the oldest about nine. The

boy is away visiting an aunt in the Southern part of the state but the two girls keep the house lively enough at times. Margerie is a great reader and between six o'clock last evening and noon today had finished the last third of a good sized book and got about a third into another of the same size without setting beyond seemly hours to do it. The children all agree in taking after both their parents in the color of their hair which is red and are very good specimens. Elmer and Mrs. are going East in August and I hope we shall have them at Pightel Fields if I am there at that time. I have not found out about excursion rates yet and don't know whether there are any. The excursion Elmer is going on is an Editors' special and would not be of use to me. This morning we drove out into the country to see the wheat on a certain farm in which Elmer is interested. I am no judge of wheat crops but thought that although the yield looked scanty, it was alright in quality and had not been ruined by the hot weather

of the last few days. My work is going on slowly. I have not been down to the dam today where the men were to be finishing the coffer dam but shall go down this evening when it is a little cooler. Yesterday I had another interview with the wholesale people or one of them. They are disposed to consider long and well before doing anything. In a day or two I hope to know whether I can get tenants for my new building. I have several on the string who are to give me definite answers in that time. Now I must dress myself

and appear in public but hope to find time to continue this this evening.

Monday morning

Last evening we drove for an hour or more, E. & I and the littlest girl who was in deep grief because her sister had gone off to Swan Lake with the nearest neighbor. We took her to her first drink of soda water and then she was all right, especially when we allowed her to drive the ancient family horse. Later we talked and then had supper at about nine and it was half past ten before I got to bed. For the last two nights I have slept like a top. I hear the family coming down to breakfast and so I must stop again soon. The day already promises to be a hot one. Dearie, dearie, it is two days since I have heard from thee and I long for the next letter to tell me that thee is all right. But please don't delay going to Dr. V. unless thee has got all the information about thyself which thee needs from Dr. J.C. This is Edith's wedding day and I know it will be a busy one for thee. I hope not too busy. Dearest, with all my love

Thy Emma

[June 1900?]

No. 15 Tuesday morning.

Dearie –

It was too late last night to write to thee after we had got through talking but I have a few minuts now before breakfast. Nothing in particular happened yesterday. It was a scorching day until the evening when we had a cloud suddenly blow up and got a little drenching which cooled the air and made an excellent night to sleep. Elmer and I went to the theater where the Georgia minstrels

were billed and I got a look at the house which I had not seen before. It is a very pretty and convenient little building but the attendance was most scanty.

Two of thy letters arrived yesterday to break the spell and cheer up a longing husband who likes to get thee letters. Thee seems to me to be doing quite as much as thee ought and I cannot much regret that thee was not in the wedding.

It was good of Charles to give Edith such a substantial present. He appreciates his family responsibilities and seems to like them. Very soon thee will be writing me about having him or some of them out. So Miss Farrar is Mary and though thee did not say so I suppose she is Grace! Who would a thought it? This is a scimpy little letter, dearie, but I do it to send thee another parcel of love with the assurance that it will not diminish the supply

Emma.

No. 16 VI. 27. MCM

Dearest wife —

Your letter of the 23d after the Chamberlin dinner is sweet beyond my powers of expression. You are a good woman, Deare, and it overflows in every sentence of the twelve good long pages. I wish I could treat thee as well as thee treats me but last night we sat up again too late and now it is after breakfast and I must to work. Fare thee well my loved one and be good to thee.

Uncle

No. 17. VI·27·1900

Dearie -

The history of my life seems very brief as I try to recall it tonight. Most of the day I have spent calculating the necessary size of the retaining wall needed to hold up a body of water 15 feet high. You will be interested to know that in parts it must be 12 feet thick at the base. Quite a wall n'est-ce-pas? The men are getting along with the work of taring out the old flume which is now quite dry as a result of the successful coffer-

dam. This afternoon I had another session with the mill man and apparently we are getting nearer to a solution of the difficulties in the way of consolidating the two mills.

Another tenant or firm has agreed to take a lease in the proposed new building. That makes only two but they take five out of the twelve rooms. If I can get three quarters of the rooms rented before hand, I shall go ahead with the building and think there would be little trouble in filling it by the time it is ready for occupation. Things go very slowly here. The people are accustomed to taking time to make up their minds, which may surprise you. It is only a little country town and the circumstance that it happens to be located in the alleged bustling northwest does'nt seem to make any difference. There are a few real hustlers but most of the good townspeople are pretty slow.

Thursday morning

By this time Edith and Raymond have been married nearly three

days and I have'nt heard anything about it yet. Perhaps this afternoon will bring me a full account. Sam has written to me that he has four or five bed-rooms which I may sleep in when I go to Minneapolis. He also adds that it is rumored that you are a better fellow than I am. — Nice way to encourage a prospective guest. I may go down toward the end of this week or the first of next to stay a very few days but if I do I shall have to return to Fergus. There is nothing in the newspapers about excursions yet but don't be discouraged my dearie — Vernon

No. 18. VI·29·MCM.

My dear wife -

Yesterday there was an accident at the dam. A heavy beam which was standing on end toppled over and struck one of the workmen, killing him instantly. The beam was supposed to be secured at the top by a mortise and tenon like all the rest of the work but for some reason it was not. If the man had been active as an average man he would probably have escaped but he was slow and as it appeared

afterwards was defective in eye-sight. Being entirely blind in one eye. Fortunately he was not married and had no one entirely dependant upon him. He lived in his father's family and they are I believe able to take care of themselves.

The accident threw a chill over the work for the rest of the day and half of the men were so unnerved that they quit work. I suppose most of them will be back this morning. The weather has turned cool again and is very pleasant. except when the wind blows the dust up.

I am expecting to get your account of the wedding today.

Yours with much love

Vernon

[July 1900]

Monday morning.

Deare - I have just read over my last nights letter to thee and it is'nt loving enough. Deare, deare, I do love thee very much and I will try to arrange matters here so that I can take a vacation and go home to thee. It can not be done today nor tomorrow but I hope I can see my way to do it soon. There are men working who cannot be left without a director at present.

But my best beloved thee is of most importance, and thee must not lose all thee has gained, worrying over thy difficult problems. Try not to worry want thee deare. Thy V.

No. 19. July 1. 1900.

Dearest wife -

It would be a satisfaction to my gizzard to be with thee this Sunday morning. Writing is a very incomplete way of communicating with one's better self and it would be better to touch thee hand and kiss the dear, sweet, pure forehead. But it is not well, I suspect, to give way — either for thee or for me. So let's be patient and cheerful.

I have not found an opportunity to write to thee since Friday morning when I told thee about the accident. Friday afternoon the coroner's jury after hearing the testimony of the men who had been present reported that no blame could be attached to either my agent or the foreman who had both been on the ground

at the time of the accident and that it could not have been avoided by any precaution. I think this is true and while we may not be exempt from legal liability it is a comfort to know that there is no moral blame. I have consulted with lawyers and they advise me that there is no legal liability but at the same time the law is not well settled on such questions and they may be wrong.

The father of the young man with whom I have had a talk does not seem to blame anyone but it is hardly probable that no one will stir him up to demand damages.

We are to pay the funeral expenses and I offered to help him further but he declined saying that if he needed help he might ask for it later. The man is an American but rather shiftless and thriftless and the boy was probably the prop of the family. Two of the girls are, I believe, old enough to earn their way as domestics if they cannot get positions as teachers — for which they have been fitting themselves. Domestics are in great demand in Fargo Falls and the supply unreliable and of fourth rate.

Mrs. Chas. D. has a Polak or Pole at present — a novelty in this part of the country. I came to her house last night after my week at Elmers and feel more at home here than any where else because I have stayed with them so much. If their boy go to St. Paul's or Andover or Exeter we shall probably have

them with no sanctimo. At present it looks as if Chas. D. would wake up in time to get them packed off before the nxt school year begins but it is not safe to depend on too implicitely. But I was going to tell thee the reasons why I had not written to thee Friday or Saturday nights. On Friday night just when I was on the point of going off to my room, Mr Dick Angus called and he stayed till after eleven singing to us a little and talking to us a good deal. He is a good looking clan Scotchman of a jovial and social disposition whom I have known pretty well for a long time and I was glad to meet him again. The nxt

morning it is quite needless to say that I was late in getting up and had to hustle off after breakfast. Last night was my first night with Chas. D. and as he is quite a talker on occasions it was time to go to bed before I could escape. I feel very guilty as I think thee will be three days without letters from me and I shall try not to have thee left neglected so long again.

As to thy coming out with the Amuses, thee was right in the suspicions that I could not approve of it. If thee is getting better at home, it seems to me much safer for thee to stay there than to run the risk of getting tired out by much travel and knocking about where thee could not always

get
the food thee needs nor conduct
thyself in a manner befitting thy
condition. Thee is so much at
stake, dearie, and thee must get
thyself into good health.
Dr C. told me that thee ought not
to see too many people and I am
sometimes afraid that, the seeing
more than is quite good for thee.
Thee knows what I mean, dearie,
and what we both of us long for
more than anything else now.
It is worth while to make
sacrifices for it, dearie, is'nt it?
I think often of our future little home
and I want to see thee happy in
it and blessed with sweet little
ones who will prevent the getting
lonesome when I have to come out
here as I probably shall have to
do a great many times. Thee has'nt
told me lately about the garden.
Has it flourished and are you
having or going to have nice
fresh things from it which will
make thee all healthy and strong.
My business matters are or seem
to be nearly at a standstill. The
block is waiting for tenants to make
up their minds with a strong
chance that they will not do it.
The work at the dam goes slower
than we thought and in fact
nearly everything is waiting for
somebody or something. I hope
that another week will make a
perceptible change but the end
seems no nearer than it did two
weeks ago. Dont be discouraged

dearie, and I shall try not to be for of course the end is near.

This ~~seems to me a~~ is a very stupid and tedious letter. My head doesn't seem to work very well today in spite of good sleeping lately. But the nervous stage which came with the preliminary scheming is about worn off and now it is mostly the more quiet work of carrying out my plans which I have to look out for. I write so little to you comparatively that it seems unfair to encourage you to write nice long letters to me but they are appreciated and I shall try to earn them if not by long ones at least by frequent ones in return.

Thy very loving husband Vernon

No. 20 July 2. 1900.

Dearie –

The history of my life is getting to be a monotonous one. I do the same things every day and get a little further along perhaps but only a very little. Today I have spent the greater part of my time in the office designing the timber work for the new flume. It is made of large size heavy timbers and is interesting to do. The clearing away of the old flume is still going on but we expect to begin laying the foundations

for the new me in a day or two. It is new work for me — more engineer's than architect's work and there are some problems which I should take advice on if it were handy. But as it is I have to go it alone and do as well as I can.

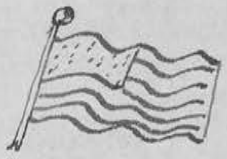
By the way there is one of the problems which they might take advice on. I mean butter-making. Unless I am much mistaken the reason why you have to churn so long is because you use ice to cool the cream. I do not think that cream should be very cold for butter but you could find out by asking The Bledgetts when you get an opportunity. I think that when we made butter at home we used to have the cream just as it came from the cellar and it used to make butter in a very few minutes.

It is nice to think of there having good restful people to stay with them and I am grateful to all such who cheer up my dearie.

My paper has given out and my pen is worn: likewise the ink is all gone and I have to dip for every third word. I must bid thee farewell again and God bless thee dearest of women.

Vernon

No. 21.



VII. 4. MCM

Dearest - It is the Fourth of July and my chief concern is a desire to know how they is spending it. Who is with they and what are you doing? My paper is all gone now as well as my envelopes and this thin blotting paper is the best I could find. It does very well however. It is now about nine o'clock in the morning and our program is to start for Swan Lake at ten. The day promises to be hot and sultry and if it doesn't rain the outing ought to be pleasant. The drive is about five miles and the sight of the settlement is a neck between two lakes where all the breeze there is can be had. It is something like Cedar Beach in character but low instead of perched up on a rock. The neck formerly belonged to my father who intended to use it for his own summer place and he had built the foundation of a house before he died which is still there. Now there are a dozen cheap cottages and it is a popular summer place for the club of Fergus Falls people who bought it. Yesterday was another day spent in the office drawing plans for the woodwork of the new flume.

and I am happy to say that that particular part of the job is nearly finished. Today the men are not working and I can enjoy my holiday. Mrs. Chas. D. and I drove out into the country a short distance last night to look up a domestic and when we got back there were callers— a one armed veteran of the prairie chicken field who has not allowed such a detail as the loss of a member to interfere at all with his favorite pursuit. The bull terrier "Nip" is lying quietly at my feet with his nose on his paws. He is a brindle also but larger than Jerry and quite fond of fighting if insulted by other dogs though amiable enough if his dignity is respected. There are also two pug dogs of doubtful utility in the family. One of them is extremely beautiful in his costume of fat wrinkles all round his little body, neck, and tail but his pet stunt is snoring and he does it loud and long. This has always been a dog family and I always expect to find new specimens when I come. My office building is hung up for the present and I dont know whether I can unhang it or not. One or two more tenants would make it so but they are

hard to get. They are all used to a scale of prices based on hard times instead of on the actual cost of buildings and it is hard for them to change. Everybody's business has depends to such an extent on the crops that the present prospects of a light yield also make it difficult to get anyone to increase his expenses at this time. But I have not yet given up and there is a chance of the scheme working out yet. Now it must be cut short and I must hustle down town to post this and get back in time for the excursion

Much love and best wishes to thee my best beloved from thy husband

Vernon

No. 22. July 5. 1900.

Dearest Grace — Another holiday has come and gone and I have had a good rest and feel refreshed. We drove out in about an hour through wheat fields that needed rain and under a sun that would have been unpleasant without the light breeze. Later in the day the breeze dropped down for an hour or more and we suffered and were unhappy but not for long. The lake is a pretty one and Chas. D. has built his cottage as near to it as possible. In high water years his steps go straight down to the water but now there is a diminutive beach. It was a day to do nothing and we all found places to lie down. My legs were heavy as lead and the rest of me likewise. We visited a little (before two o"clock dinner) with the neighbors but after dinner any effort was hopelessly abandoned until toward evening when by a great effort we got out the little sail boat and had a ~~little~~ run. The drive back was pleasant

and the night was cool and good for sleep. This morning early the rain set in and has been keeping it up steadily until now - nearly nine o'clock — and the thirsty grass feels better for it. I must hustle down to the office and get to work. Please pardon me once more for forgetting thy allowance. I had thought of it a number of times but not while writing to thee. Much love to thee, dearie.

Bruce

No. 23. VII·6·MCM·

Dear little woman —

It is a month this morning since I left thee and it seems a pretty long one. How much more time I shall have to spend here I cannot tell but it will be no more than is necessary to do the things which must be done. At present it looks as though I might have to stay all summer but I hope not and shall not unless it is unavoidable. Does thee think thee could get along for another two months if it really seemed best for me to stay? There are things which will not be done in a hurry. The mill business for instance cannot be closed up immediately but it is so important that I ought not to lose any chance of its going through by being absent. If it does go it ought to make $5000.00 for us and the little "to comes" and that ought not to be neglected. Also the office building is just about ready to start. I have tenants enough to pay running expenses of the enterprise and think

it best to go ahead on that basis and take chances on renting the rest of it either before or after it is finished. Deare thee may well believe that it is ~~not~~ a trial to be separated from thee but it would be worse to give up and leave and I know that thee will agree.

Deare it is my love for thee that makes these things important and it is the same love that brightens my days in the doing of them though so far away from thee. Good bye for another day my sweet one and "courage"

Ruan

No. 24. VII · 7 · MCM

Dearest wife —

I love thee and after that the history of my life continues to amble slowly as has been its want. Yesterday I worked on drawings for the office building which went off well and promises not to take much time of effort. A little building like that seems easy in comparison with the Engineer's work at the dam.

The moving machine for the hay sounds reasonable and I hope you will do whatever you and Wm think best. The back meadow — I mean the lower field — must get itself ploughed this year in some way. Please have Wm investigate a little and find out whether it ought to be ploughed before the weeds go to seed or whether it would do just as well to plough it in the fall. The question of cost is probably the most important and so the best time to plough will probably be the time when men and teams are least occupied. I don't know when that is but Wm can probably

find out without difficulty. Are you getting nice things from your garden? Now I must run along and play with a surveyor who is going to help me fix the first line of the new building. Tomorrow I will write more to thee, blessed woman.

Vernon

No. 25. VII. 8. MCM

Dearest Grace -

Your two letters of the third and fourth telling me of the trials with Wm + Mabel have reached me today just about the time that you must be reading my letter of the fourth asking how you would feel about my staying out here all summer. If it is necessary dearie, I shall come to the as soon as I can get away but really at present it does not seem possible and I hope the will be able to arrange these difficulties with the grumpy people. They are undoubtedly very touchy and dislike to be corrected and I think that as far as possible both the form and the tone of correction should be avoided in giving orders to them. I find the same case here in my relations to my agent. He will do anything I ask but today when I unwarrantedly gave an order to the men which practically discredited his own directions he did not like it and I felt that I ought to have discussed it with him

before giving the order so as in some sort to appear to take him into confidence and make him share in changing his own directions to the men. The position with Wm is certainly more difficult because I have noticed that men often dislike to take orders from women and a good deal of tact is sometimes necessary to make them feel that they are not being ordered. Of course thee must be firm but it should be a quiet and reasonable and easy firmness.

I think thee did right in speaking to Mabel the other time thee wrote about, and it certainly does no good to allow a misunderstanding to last for it breeds a suspicious atmosphere, one toward another. Thee will think me an awful preacher, dearie, and that I seem to assume that thee fault is all in thy management but that is not so. It is simply that I realize how difficult thy problem is and I want to help thee if I can. Wm certainly ought to have more to occupy his mind and perhaps it would serve to retain confidence to some extent

if thee would put into his hands the matter of getting the lower piece ploughed. Let him work out the best thing to do under the circumstances and discuss the result of his efforts with him and then let him do the thing in his way if it seems to thee to be all right. Cheer up dearie and keep a stiff upper lip, especially a smiling one and that may help thee not to be irritated with thee independant hired help.

If they really want to go. I should be sorry but that could do no good and they probably had better be allowed to go but I hope they dont want to. What a sentence! Keep calm and brave and dont knuckle under and thee will get experience which will make managing easier and smoother for thee in the good times to come. My much concerned and very loving husband & his sweet wife sends ~~thee~~ greeting and most heartfelt love.

From

By all means let him have his grindstone and whatever other little things he wants. J.

No. 26. VII · 10 · MCM

Deare —

Jew minits after I had posted my letter yesterday — the one with so much advice in it — I had yours describing the explosion in the Halliban family and I have been filled with my pride of thee every moment since. I am glad that thee could keep control of thereself through such a situation, glad that thee was firm and glad of thy whole management — also of the outcome. If thee thinks well of it I should like to suggest that the hired people should have a half day every week, willy-nilly. It seems to me that no human beings could be found who would stick as closely to one place and one work as they have done without getting grumpy and it has occurred to me that it might

clear the atmosphere if they were obliged to take a little variety from time to time.

How does this strike you and is it a workable scheme? I must hurry off this morning with only this apology for a letter. — Why should not thy cousin Amelia stay with thee for some time? She would not be over stimulating I fancy but might be good for thee.

Burns

No. 27. VII · 11 · MCM

Draust – It is before breakfast and I have already been out and down to the dam to see the pumps work. We have been obliged to stop work for the past two days because of the water in the pits where the foundations are to be laid but now we have a pump rigged up with a steam engine to work it and we expect to be able to keep the bottom dry enough to lay the footing stones. When they are in, the rest of the stone work will go easier. While the men have been fixing up the pump I have been doing architectural work again and have the drawings well advanced for the office bldg. It is to be called the Telephone Building for the Telephone Co. which takes a front office on the ground floor and I hope the name will imply modernness and help to give the building a character apart from those that now exist in the town. I work pretty hard but so much of my time has to spent out of doors that it is not

wearing on the nerves as office digging is.
It is lovely to think of thee brown and beautiful but alas! at this moment (Wednesday) thee may be white or yellow or green or most any old color. I hope that this time the little friend will deal gently with thee in remembrance of the last time when he took out all his spite against thee. Yesterday there was no letter from thee and I long to know the sequel of the explosion in the West wing and also whether thee collapsed after the strain of the situation.
Be good and get strong my beloved is the hope and prayer of the husband

Ewen

No. 28. VII · 12 · MCM

My dear wife – We are having beautiful days in the G.N.W. and the wheat is prospering as well as it can and much better than was expected three weeks ago. In this neighborhood, a "half a crop" is now the estimate which means a fair amount and very much better than a total failure. Likewise the work on the dam is progressing. The pump works finely and keeps the water low enough to allow work to go on without much difficulty. Yesterday I had information from one of the wholesale grocers that the arangment to have them take my building could not go through just now but that they expect to be able to take it in four to six weeks. There are changes to be made in the firm – which means that one member who is considered undesirable is to be thrown out – all of which is a secret to be breathed to no one – except thee. I think often of thee these days and of my promise to take a vacation and run home to thee for a few days. It will be

but a short vacation, dearie, and I cannot start for some days. There may be important developments in the Mill consolidation scheme about July 20th and I cannot get my new building well under way sooner than that.

If thee feels very strong and healthy and not too much inclined to worry over thy trials, thee may tell me to stay until my own troubles are over. It is surely my duty to stay here unless any higher duty calls me home and thee alone knows best about the latter kind.

Is it possible that Mabel finds the work really too hard and that the reason why she forgets and neglects things is that she is getting tired out? If this is the case, we must of course make a change or else get some one to help her. Which would be the better way I do not know but I should like to have thee think about it and make up thy mind whether

we are asking too much of a girl who is after all not very old or very strong.

Alice Winter has written & ask me to stop over with them at Lake Minnetonka when I go East.

God bless thee, my dear one, and keep thee sound and whole

Thy husband

Vernon

No. 21. VII - 13 - MCM

Dearest - Yesterday was a fairly good day with yours affectionately and though nothing in particular was accomplished, the general average was satisfactory. I spent most of the time over my drawings and they are progressing. An article in the paper about my proposed building brought me two enquiries about rooms and I hope that at least one of them will take quarters.

The principal event however was a very satisfactory letter from thee which set my mind at rest as to thy immediate condition and gave me hope that thee was not worrying thyself into little pieces. I must cut it short dearie but the solid amount of love which overflows into it is not proportioned to the length of the letter.

Thy husband

Emmon

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT,
FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

July 13. 1900.

Dear Grace -

I enclose the door and the shirt bills with checks to pay. If thee has not received the shirts will thee please send the check and ask them to express them to Lo Lincoln.

The screen man told me to deduct the freight from the bill. Will thee please write in the amount in the check which I have left vacant and enclose it with the bill and also the receipted freight bill if thee has the latter. Please let me know the amount so that I can enter it in my check book Thine U.

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY		CHECK
2			10 Pd	

RECEIVED at July 15 189 [97]

Dated Chicago Ill

To Mrs Vernon A Wright

Lincoln Depot

Arrive ten thirteen tuesday morning on local train from Ayer

Vernon A Wright

No 30 VII · 21 · MCM

Dearest wife – Already the sun is getting very low and I am in Canada. The day has gone more rapidly than it sometimes does on the cars – probably because I have been studying my new Transcona book and making figures and estimates and such like. It is a good book though somewhat overgrown with abstruse foot notes which are quite superfluous to an ordinary fellow who just wants to know how to do things. Has there been picnicing, I wonder? Before forgetting it, let me ask thee to speak to the "long armed" about the cow's needs. I clean forget to mention it to

the "meek" and the time may have gone by already. Probably the Blodgett beast will do as well as another unless he is too well bred and consequently too expensive. I should hardly like to spend more than $10 ~~$15~~ considering the chances of getting only "a little veal" as a result. Thee will have to pay the approx on thy share of this friendly old paper for which I am sorry but the dealer did not know how much to charge for it and my time was short. This white sheet recalls past days very pleasantly but they were not "better days". What a lot of quotation marks I am using! My poetic allusions are doubtless inspired by reaction from the style of Mr. Frantwine and their effect is soothing on a tired - not too tired - brain so thee must pardon the lapses. There has not been a soul to talk to today though the car has been full of transients for part of the time. I had a fair lunch on board, served in my section - buffet style - and am not going to have any dinner but only a pick-up when we get to Montreal. Perhaps I never told thee that on these long R.R. trips I take only two meals a day - generally breakfast and dinner -

or supper as they call it on.
It is a safe habit though
sometimes the fasting hours
drag slowly. I hope as best
I may that thee will be able
to get on with the new people
and that the home-keeping will
let thee get strong and keep strong.
Thy husband's love
goes with this, dearie, Emma

No. 31 VII-22-MCM

My dearie - Just before arriving in Montreal last evening the porter had telegraphic instructions that the car was to be taken off and that we should all have to be transferred. Some of the passengers had gone to bed and had to get up again. I was not so unfortunate but in the transfer lost a writing pad on which I had been making estimates. The sleeping car people promised to send it to me if they find it in overhauling the car but the loss is not great anyway for the results of the estimates are in my head. It was a good night to sleep and I improved the opportunity. Did they do so well, I wonder? Today we are speeding along through Canada over

the country looks fairly well watered and greener than it did six weeks ago. It is not a wildly exciting land at its best and one does well to have something on hand or in mind such as thinking out details of flat brick arches over front windows of office buildings and whether stone lintels would not after all be cheaper and look as well. It is a good plan also to have a handbook in which one may read how to adjust a levelling instrument in three separate phases of its outness — especially if one has a bothersome old machine in the G.N.W. which never acts twice alike. If one feels inclined, there is plenty of time also to think over and make memoranda of the things which it would be well to do in such large cities as Mpls. and St. Paul — things which cannot be done or had in small country towns and which are necessary to the construction of good buildings. Cut stone, structural iron, floor tiles, plumbing fixtures, heating apparatus, vault doors and finishing hardware are of this category and supply material for enough thought to clog one's brain unless one has a wife to turn to and to write to as an escape and consolation. The last call for dinner was called some time ago and it is now after two o'clock and time

is a large and busy void in my inside. But I turn a deaf ear to its clamorings and am sure that the two meal system is a good one for travelling people who don't and can't get exercise.

I hope the So. Boston cousins came out and if they did please thank them for me and give them my best compliments of the season. I forgot to leave them the bill of household things which I bought and enclose it with this. The plan was to go out by express separately but all the rest by freight and I hope they has them all safe and sound by this time. Now it is time for thee to be taking thy nap and so I am going to do the same. —

5 o'clock

Same half burnt over piney country and same bright sun and livable temperature. I have had a rest and have been talking to the man across the way – born in Lowell, now of Owatonna, Minn. We found some points of mutual interest or mutual knowledge in discussing the crop and land question. He owns a grandfather's original farm in Maine and enjoys watching the trees grow on it and figuring out how big they will be in twenty years. I told him about Pickled Fields (not by its sacred name) and we considered the possibilities of

growing hay. Then I learned that he is public spirited and has put through a local library scheme in his town, bragging himself the first 5000. volumes. At every station we pass, both halves of the population are on hand in best Sunday white dresses + straw hats and best white shirts + black hats and they greet us with smiles and some of them with jiggles. It is a custom which we might introduce in Lincoln. R.R. parties to see the Sunday afternoon accommodation from Boston and way stations would be quite novel and if properly patronized ought to become swell. Think it over, dearie. All the same if we lived here in this smiling wilderness I should do as the rest do and be thankful for even a look at a train that comes from civilization. We have just passed another platform loaded down with population and among them were a number of Squaws dressed very properly in decent black.

Write to thy husband when thou can dearie and then may know that he shares with thee an absorbing interest in the outcome of fatal Aug. 8. May it not be a fatal day this time is the hope of thy husband

Vernon

No 32 July 26. 1900

Dearie — Here it is Thursday morning and I have not written to thee since Sunday on the Soo train. I am still in Minneapolis at Sam's but hope and expect to get away tonight and return to Fergus. They have kept me going so hard that three days seem like two weeks to one who is not accustomed to metropolitan life and hours. Monday evening we went to St. Paul on the electric cars, they to visit their people and I to see Charles and his two oldest. We had a good visit and they showed me over their

newly made-over house. It is much improved and is now adequate to ~~for~~ their present family needs. Sam and Mary called for me a little after ten and we drove back to Minneapolis, about ten miles and then after a little lunch got to bed at midnight. ~~Monday~~ Thursday morning Sam and I walked down to his office where I am doing my work and in the evening we drove to Lake Harriet — the Jamaica Bond of Minneapolis — on the line of Park boulevards similar to those of Boston. There with many hundreds of other people, in carriages, on foot, in boats and on bikes, and we listened to a very good band which performed much music dressed in beautiful red coats. Again we were late in getting ourselves tucked away. Wednesday morning we were invited by some friends of the Hills whom I used to know slightly to drive out to the Minnekahda Club for breakfast so we rose betimes and sat on the front door steps till the three seat wagon arrived. It is a country club on the shores of another lake and is just now the fad.

Evenings there are sometimes two or three hundred people there but yesterday morning we had it all to ourselves — unless we except the caddies who to the number of at least two dozen cast longing eyes on us. Mr Edgar, the host, is a very clever and desirable person who entertained us amusingly and his wife is also a sprightly person who has had her native wits sharpened by contact with him. We got back at about ten and I put in the rest of the day toiling. In the evening we drove to the Town & Country Club, an older

but now somewhat deserted place on the river between the two cities and again it was eleven before we got to bed.

This is the sixty of my life from one point of view. From another I have been working up drawings for the front of my new building and as usual the two days allotted have grown into three and four before I could let the thing go out. Now I am about ready to order the brick and cut-stone and hope to get away tonight.

I have heard nothing from the office since I came but perhaps there

will be a letter for me this
morning. I long to hear how
thee is and how the new
people are working in and
whether thy cousins came and
all that thee is doing and thinking.
Most of all I want to know
whether thee was too tired after
I left thee last Saturday morning
and whether thee has been set
back again in thy condition.
Thee is very dear to me, my wife,
in spite of every thing. I hope
I shall have better opportunities
to write to thee in the coming
days. With best love, dearest.

Thy husband Emm

No. 33 Fergus Falls, VII. 28. 1900

Dearie –

My delay in Mpls. made the correspondance pile up here and yesterday morning there were two old letters and one new one waiting while during the day another came and this morning still another with a special delivery stamp. There was also a telgram two days old which I promptly answered and in a few minuits came a repetition of the same message. In regard to the important matter of the Bellus land and the piggery it seems to me that to buy

would be an expensive and not necessarily effective protection. If Mr. Magee or any other person wants a piggery he would not be deterred by our buying a certain six acres of land and while it would be less offensive to have it farther away the difference would not entirely cure the evil. From another point of view there may be an advantage in having the thing as near as possible. The piggery question has got to be settled sometime by the discontinuance thereof — that is ours I think. If it is very near to us we shall be in a much better position to fight it than if it were at a distance with perhaps an intermediate neighbor who did not object as strenuously as we do and whose inertia would make our efforts more difficult. Moreover it seems to me strange that Mr. Magee should want that particular piece of land. It would bring his piggery more into evidence and nearer to a number of houses and would presumably increase the feeling against him and his business. Is it not possible that the Bellus man is using

pigjeny as a cudgel to frighten and stampede us into buying his place. Is there other evidence that Mr. Mayne or someone else wants to put a pigjeny there.

If so and if you can reach him indirectly it would be well to have him know that we are prepared to fight any extension of the business as far as it is possible without regard to the cost. The matter must be settled and cannot be effectually done by buying land it seems to me.

They will think me severe on they scheme and perhaps I

dont know all about it. I appreciate thy feelings on the subject of another fitting at any rate but I hope we can cure the evil permanently. Now I must hustle down to my job which I cant now take time to tell thee about. Cheer up dearie and we shall come out all right sometime.

Thy
Elmer

VII. 30. 1900.

Dear wife -

Yesterday Elmer and I went out to the Lake at which they all have cottages and were late in getting back. It was a hot day and we did nothing exciting or enterprizing. Elmer keeps me sitting up too late nights and I am going to rebel and re-establish by "chez habitudes" of regular hours so that I may get more time to write to thee. This morning I must hustle off and ease my mind

about a circumstance in
connection with the mill
deal about which I shall
write thee more fully. It
bothers me some at present
so I must find out how
the land lays —

Thy F.A.W.

July 31. 1900.

Dearest -

Yesterday I had two letters from thee, the latter of which told about the dinner with the new Farrar friends. It did not appear that anything startling happened but I am glad thee had them and liked them. I passed most of the day with the local lumber man and ordered the stock for the new building.

The only thing about which I said I should tell thee is this. Mr. Allen of whom I was to purchase the stock was absent when I left Fergus Falls suddenly

and I left the matter with the agent. He went to Mr. Allen two days before the expiration of the refusal and offered him a check but Mr. Allen refused it saying he wanted to talk with one about it first. Mr. Wright asked him to acknowledge the tender which he did by writing on the back of the refusal the words "tendered and refused July. 17. 1902" signing his name to it. Now he refuses to carry out his bargain on the ground that he was not offered legal tender, a check not being of course legal tender. I was astonished to find that my agent did not know this. Now the question is whether by writing what he did he acknowledged the tender and waived any right of objecting to the quality of it. My lawyer's partner broke his collar bone and ribs in a bicycle fall yesterday so I have not been able to consult with him. In any case I do not think I shall go into court about the matter but shall try to reduce him to terms in other ways. He ought to be hung, drawn and quartered etc. etc. for such a

creaking trick of backing out and going back on his written word but that does'nt trouble him at all. He thinks on the contrary that he has been rather cunning and is pleased with himself. —

Dearie if thee is dissatisfied with the letters thee writes, thee must try to improve. Thy husband is not dissatisfied but I know what thee means and how thee feels and have felt that same way for several days myself. Things that are to be done should be well done (now) and it pays

to put the time and effort into them which will make me satisfied with his own efforts.

It takes a lot out of one sometimes to make the effort to write and then must not do it to the tiring or waring point but just stop if they feels done up. They know that the husband loves them dearly and trusts and believes in them and so dont be discouraged.

Yours

VIII - 1 - MCM

Deare -

Thy 16-page letter of 27th and 28th came yesterday to rejoice me and I have just re-read it this morning. I am sorry thee is having trials with the "long armed" and hope thee will be able to get along with her for the rest of the time. If thee cannot get along as the allowance thee must not worry about it but do as well as thee can and let me know how much more thee needs. I am not going to have thee growing thin and skinny over that question as

long as we can raise the
funds to prevent it. This
reminds me that it is the
first of the month and therefore
time for the allowance. Thee
will please find enclosed a check
for $100.00 When thee goes
to town unless thee has already
done so will thee please take
in the deed and have it acknowledged
and double witnessed – I mean
the deed I left thee. There is
no special rush about it but the
man would like it when convenient.
In regard to the cow, has James
found out about the bull does
thee know? If she does not
give enough perhaps we ought
to give her food besides the
grass she browses. Ask the
faithful about it, he ought to
know. Here in Fargo, business
is absorbing and requires much
attention on account of its
diversity. I cannot write thee
long today but must move on
to work. Sweet one, thee is
the object of my efforts and
thee must bear up and I will
try to do the same.

Thy husband

Vernon

Minneapolis.
VIII. 2 - MCM.

Dearest wife -

Yesterday I rather suddenly decided to come down here again to hurry up the cut stone work which has not yet got started. The contract for all the brick work was let before I left and the building is getting on well though not as rapidly as I could wish. Now while I am here I am going to try to do all the numerous things which I hoped to do the last time and left undone because I could not stay longer away from F.F. Besides this, I have to see a

woman who owns mill stock and also my step-brother who writes me that he has a business proposition which I ought to jump at or words to that effect. But it will be only a short stay of two to three days. If I can find Tom Winter I shall perhaps spend the night with him and Alice at Lake Minnetonka but otherwise shall probably go to St. Paul and hop down to Charles and his diminished family. They ought to have plenty of room in their newly enlarged house. Leslie's room is more like a bowling alley than a bed room—with numerous bayous and side tracks shooting off from it. Today I shall have no letter from thee, my beloved, nor tomorrow but the feast is preparing for the return and I look forward to it. This morning as the train backed into the station at 6:30 there was an astonishing individual on the platform waiting apparently for us or some of us. I was standing on the rear platform and just as I noticed him, the trainman observed "Well here's Jesus Christ come to meet us."

The person certainly suggested

the same idea to anyone who saw him. He was bare-headed with an abundance of somewhat curly hair flowing down over his shoulders and he wore a black robe with a sort of outer garment lined with blue and thrown back to show the same. Standing alone on the platform he was a most extraordinary sight though on closer examination his face was not inspired or attractive and I thought he was a bit self-conscious. It would be fun to introduce him into a salvation army meeting and see what would happen.

By the time thee gets this it will be time for the premonitory symtoms to appear if they are going to and dearie, dearie, thee can immagine the interest of thy husband in the case. Does thee like to have it called a case? Never mind, if I could'nt find the right word, the interest is not the less. What will thee write me about it?

Thy very loving husband
Truman.

7:30 A.M.

St. Paul. VIII. 4. MCM.

Dearie

I am here alone and have dined alone while Chas + Mayard are at White Bear Lake and Lesley is at Minnetonka Lake. It is now half past nine and I have been writing the whole evening to my respective step-brother and brother in law between whom I am acting as go between with a fair prospect of getting myself disliked by both sides. It seems ages since I have

written to thee or heard from
thee — The family has
come and I must postpone
this with big bumps of love
that is busting my ribs.

Until tomorrow, dear.

St. Paul - VIII. 5. MCM

Dearest wife - It is now 9 P.M. of Sunday. After I wrote to you the measly little note last night we talked for a while and then went to bed to try to make up lost time. Somehow I have'nt had quite my full allowance lately but I caught up by lying abed late this morning. The days have been very hot and today was no exception. We talked after breakfast and Charles read to us from W. S. Gilbert and afterwards gave me some information about forming corporations. So the

morning flew and presently it was dinner time. We had set an early hour for dinner so that we might go up to Mpls. on the electric cars and hear a band concert — a bit of enterprise which considering the weather was most praiseworthy. The cars were jammed with people and babies and such and the distance long so we did well to get back to our ice cream at six o'clock. Does thy freezer work or does thee have any cream to work it on? If not thee should have

James get some bran for the cow for hot weather without ice cream is not admirable.

It is a little discouraging to put in much time and get so little done. I expected to be down here only two days and have now put in four and the end is not yet. Tomorrow evening however I hope to go back to Fergus again and get thy letter! It was only yesterday that I was able to let the cut stone contract for my building and I fear it may delay the work. We shall try to find a

way of going ahead with the back part of the building before the front is built. There must have been city houses and that way in which the front seemed to be the last part built.

Dearie, I feel strangely guilty and helpless at the same time without thy letters. Things might happen to thee or thee might want to advise with me about our home and here I am out of touch with thee and unable to be of any use to thee. I have had no opportunity of writing to thee since Thursday morning

without stealing the time that was much needed for sleep and I did not think that right. Moreover I find that when I am so full of business it is sometimes — not always — difficult to bring myself to the right frame of mind to write thee as I want to. This surely is not as it should be and I am not going to allow business to prevent me from falling back on thee, my wife, for the support which correspondence with thee seems to give me. It is the state of mind of feeling that

we are in intimate relations that always assures me of proper relations to the rest of the world and so I know that it is necessary to keep in close touch with thee all the blessed time. I have thought much of thee today between sentences and street-cars and I want to be of more use to thee than I am at present. When I get the accumulation of letters at 77 there may be a way. The first night (Thursday) I spent at Lake Minnetonka with Jim and Alice. They are very happy together and made me long for thee. We sat out all the evening, which was warm, and talked about animals and Letty Thompson. The children are blooming and run about in bare feet and bare legs and have a good time. The next evening I came down to Charles's and ran into a dinner party which he and Mayard were giving to the entire Dr. Davis family — seven in number. It was agreeable though not brilliant and I talked most of the evening to Mrs. Davis' brother, Jim Holyoke, an architect

about whom I think I have told thee. Last evening I spent writing necessary letters to my family as I wrote thee. My days have been spent in hustling about the two cities looking up tubs and elevators and what not. Margaret asked to have her love sent along. She is a nice girl and thee will not mind having a bit of her I am sure. Dearie, thee is my light and guide and I hope thee is well and happy. With all the love of thy husband this goes on its way — Vernon

Aug. 8. 1900.

Dearie -

This is the morning of the fatal day. What is it bringing for thee and for me? Dearie, that is the very important question which will occupy my thoughts until thee writes me deffinite news. Thee can well believe my surprise and astonishment yesterday when I read all about thy experiences with the down-easters - and without them. Thee relieves my mind by the business-like way in which thee took it all and established another régime. It is also most satisfactory to think that thy Stover cousins

are there to help thee out. If thee does'nt work two hard and get tired, perhaps it will be a valuable experience for thee to do thy own work in thy own house for a while. It will give thee self reliance in proportion to the experience thee gets and the actual knowledge of house keeping which thee acquires. Here in Fergus things have gone on slowly but not badly. At Elmer's every one has been laid up including the domestic and so we are going to sleep ~~there~~ in the house and eat at a restaurant for perhaps a week. After that I may go to my cousin Chas. J. Mrs. Adams is away with the children and will not return until after their eastern trip. If I get back before they leave the East I should like to have thee invite them to the Pingles. "Fairfield" as a name has significance that would make it a prable but to the uninitiated would it not be a little commonplace? It seems to me open to that objection. It is before breakfast and I must run and get some and get to work. Dearie, thy letters make me very happy.

Thy husband
Elmer.

VIII · 9 · MCM

My dear wife -

The weather has been hot and muggy for many days and there is no indication of a change. I dont try to do much except watch the work that is going on. It is difficult to get men on account of the harvesting now in progress so as the whole the dogs are having their days. Yesterday however I finally bought out the mill stock which had been offered me. The

was raised by the wily manager who had refused to carry out his contract and I thought it better to take it rather than lose the chance of the mill consolidation trade. This stock was necessary to me in order to make this trade. I have got to ask thee to do a chore for me. When thee goes to town next time will thee please take thy safety deposit key and the mistick word "Hegira" in thy pocket and thy heart in thy mouth and get over top and take it into one of the little rooms outside the vault room. Then will thee please hunt through the same for stock of the "Fergus Flour Mills" One batch thee will find in the envelope marked C.A.W. loans and these should be kept separate from the others. Thee will also find in another envelope (I think a square boxed envelope) more certificates of the same kind. Will thee please put them into an envelope and send to me by registered mail. If there is a notary

public in thy uncle's office
in his absence, I wish thee
would also take in the Banner
and have it sent up.
If the weather is hot please
dont go in on account of these
things but when it is convenient
I should like them.
Poor Jenny, is it then. alas,
too true? We shall certainly
have to find another and
larger and completer dog.
Fare thee well my own
sweet one. I love thee
dearly.
Yours

VIII · 10 · MCM ·

My deare-Oh

The day is fast approaching when thee will tell me thy news and thee had just better believe that it is a matter of interest thy husband. It is a difficult thing to get up much interest in the ordinary run of affairs in Fargo Falls just now on account of the heat. The rain falls at night and still the temperature does not fall and we cannot keep up to concert pitch. If I did not have the mill deal on hand, I should languish but

that is sufficiently important to keep me from entirely succumbing. Yesterday we had two sessions and as a result have covered all the ground of details to be arranged but I am going to write out the scheme as I have understood it and submit it for approval in order to be sure that there is no serious misunderstanding. If there is none I can then proceed to the actual business of carrying out the plan which means preparing the articles of incorporation and the necessary by-laws as well as some resolutions of the old board in order to prepare the way for the new one. This all has to be cut and well dried beforehand. Now then has the history of my life. The last three evenings I have put in making calls on my respective cousins and their wives and children. First on Hattie Miles who is well and cheerful, doing her own work in the absence of a domestic and enjoying the rating of it and the cleanliness of her kitchen. She will undoubtedly appreciate her feelings. Next I spent an evening sitting on Chas. D's piazza. His family

are all at Swan Lake and he is living alone and feeding at a restaurant during the week. He asked me to go out with him for Sunday. Last night I walked up to Chas J's — a half mile out of town. They were picking bushels of crab-apples and fighting heat and mosquitoes meanwhile. Probably I shall go to stay with them next week. There was no letter yesterday but I hope for one this morning. With all the love of the husband's heart. Thy Vernon

VIII - 11 · MCM

Dearest wife -

Yesterday I had two letters from thee and in other respects it was a good day. Thy letter written from the station after taking Marie Minor to the train was especially good to my gizzard.

The atmosphere of contentment and courage in it is sweet and joyous to me as nothing else can be. I spent most of the day working on by-laws for the new milling company, varying the labor by occasional visits to the dam to see how the work is progressing there and

also made a call on Chas. J. taking the plans of my building along to show him. He says there is a good chance of his taking office in it but is not ready to do it now. I want to catch him about all persons here as he is the right kind of tenant to have. Tonight I shall probably go out to Swan Lake with Chas. D. & stay until Monday morning so thee may not get any letter from me for two or possibly three days unless I write Monday morning. The rains have apparently begun to come and today it seems cooler. There was an astonishing sun-rise of copper red while a thunder storm of blue black was going on in the West this morning. It would have frightened an ancient believing ancient out of his skin. Dearie, dearie, they news that all was well and hopeful on the 5th was encouraging and I hope for confirmation this morning. By the time I get back on Monday morning it should be certain news one way or other.

Hopefully and lovingly

Owen.

Aug. 14. 1900.

Dearest wife —

Thy beautiful long letter of the 8th and 10th written while the war unwell brought the news that we have still to wait for what we both want. It is disappointing of course to me as it was to thee but it is easy to be reconciled by the thought that thee is getting stronger. But dearie, thee must not presume on the new-found strength. Thee will please find or make time for thy afternoon rest, wont thee? I know how hard it is when one has things to do but the little fellows are more important are they not dearie? Be good my wife and thy husband and thy

little ones will thank them and they will be happy though they may not get all they wish for. I went out to Evans Lake Sunday morning and yesterday afternoon moved up to Chas. J's where I have a pleasant room looking off into the tops of the trees. There are women visitors besides myself and the machinery of household work is much in evidence. Business is very absorbing just now. The milk deal is the principal object of my efforts and I hope to put it through shortly after Sept. 1st. In the mean time there is a good deal of figuring and arranging of details. I ought to be able to write more to them this morning but for some reason did not sleep very well in my new quarters last night and my head has not got up to them yet. Just now has come a message from my step-brother in Minneapolis saying I must come down on this morning's train or he will lose the trade. I do not think it necessary or wise to get drawn into any business relations with him and shall not run to catch the train as I should have to if I went. It may be wrong but it is difficult to decide. Dearie I shall write longer and better to-morrow.

With love and love and more love,

Yours

VIII · 15 · MCM

Dearest Ann -

It is morning, after a thunder storm and after breakfast. The sun is now shining brightly and would make us all very warm if there were no cool breeze blowing. My work drags along. Yesterday afternoon it was hot and about when Chas J. came over and invited me to drive up the river to see the improvements which the city is making on its water power. I immediately thought well of the plans and set the work. In my absence the mason for the building laid out the lines and managed to get the foundation too far into the street by 3 inches. I am expecting it yesterday I

should some annoyance and have since been sorry. It is not the way that would like to have me do and that has a way of making standards for me. I will try to do better next time, dearie. That seems to be the history of my life up to date. Perhaps that will be over to write some day. The hot waves we have been having has gone down East so we are told. Dearie, if that feels it that must not go to town on any old errands of mine. Charley is going and I must go with him. My best love dearie to the best dearie.

Vernus

VIII - 16 - MCM

My precious wife -

Another hot day has gone and another has come. I got in a good day's work yesterday and felt tired in the evening but slept well and long and now am in good order. Last evening I tried the piano in the dark in my favorite aimless fashion and played over such little songs and snatches as I could remember from thy repertoire. It is pleasant to hear and play again the little Irish ballad which thou used to sing for me and "Oeuvre ton nez" and the others. I ought not to criticize my Presbyterian cousin but when I see and listen to her, I think what a difficult lot a woman has who runs a house and raises

children if she tries not to be lost and overwhelmed in the details of the undertaking. Thee must not do its deaire and I know that thee will not. Thu is getting lots of experience this summer and it will be very good to have as a background in all thu future only thee must not get too much for thy health. When one gets too tired it is difficult to read and think and I was glad that thee liked to read Browning + Lanier.

I too feel that I am getting more experience this summer than ever before and we must both be satisfied and cheery over it, n'est-ce-pas? Yesterday I got another lease signed for my building which was good. But two or three days a/o I was notified by some attorneys that they had been retained by the father of the young man who was killed that they had been retained to sue for damages. Of course that means that they have got him to agree to let them take the case on speculation as he has nothing to pay them in case they lose. I shall probably settle by compromise if possible though my attorney does not advise haste in the matter or too much zeal. Dearest little woman on earth, I shall now have to leave thee with all thu love and all thu good wishes of a husband who is much devoted to thee.

Thy Vernon

C.P.R. - VIII · 23 · MCM

It is a rainy afternoon in this dreary land. The car is pretty well crowded but I have a section to myself for day purposes. For night purposes I have an upper birth with two women folks under me. They must feel secure in the confidence of their superior numbers. I passed most of the day after leaving Thea, in the smoking room getting my clothes well scented and listening mostly to the volubility of a 2 wooden legged engineer. He had only been walking less than two years but gets along much of the time without a walking stick and enjoys showing off "his cork" and talking about it. He has several friends who have been unfortunate in a similar way — also a brother and remarked that it seemed to run in the family. Every crook in the crooked road

was well known to him. At one stop he told us that just about 500. feet further was where his brother lost his legs and then pointing to a hill remarked that the said legs were buried "up on that side hill" — Rather more than "one foot in the grave"

I cant immagine a happier time than his must have been when he was laid up with his absorbingly interesting case in the hospital. I know that he enjoyed every moment of it.

Thy advice is bearing fruit for I have thought less about business than usual and am getting rested.

Is thee doing likewise? Thee will perhaps come back as brown as thy Uncle Joe — I hope so and should be consoled for not being able to think of thee in thy Jamaica hat if it might come to pass. I have'nt yet thought of any necessary articles left behind or duties left undone in Pighted fields. It is always Sunday on this railroad. The people come to the trains to salute us as they always have and the poor little towns all seem deserted by business of any kind. It is a perpetual wonder how anyone can live here and there does'nt seem to be any reason why they should ever die, unless by slowly drying up.

I wish I could write thee a proper birthday letter but the air is not good or invigorating and I am somewhat let down by the process of resting to get a fresh hold.

But dearie my sympathies are ever with thee and my feelings very tender toward thee for without them life could not have the joy it now possess for thy husband

Vernon.

Minneapolis - R. R. Station

VIII · 24 · MCM

Dearie -

It is evening and I have a few minuts before getting onto my Northern Pacific train to go to T.T. The Soo train was late in arriving this morning but it left me plenty of time to go out to the stone yard where my window sills etc. are being cut - or to be cut. The stone had only just arrived from the quarry and another week will be required to cut it.

Also I had time to visit with a tile man and to look at hardware with two different dealers. The hardware is to be smooth dull iron finish and should look well against oak doors and sich.

I must tell thee about the sympathetic young woman on the

Soo train. She suddenly remarked to me out of a clear sky yesterday evening "You two must have left a very dear friend behind" When I looked astonished and stammered out "Oh! you saw me writing" she said "Yes, but you looked lonesome" Then she told me that she had had waves of lonesomeness all day and in about five minuts had first hinted then openly explained that her plans were suddenly altered within a week by becoming engaged to a Sacramento druggist. Fortunately something occurred to limit the confidence to the said five minuts or perhaps I should have told her the history of my life in another equally brief period. I think she assumed that I too was engaged and I allowed her to. This morning it was quite touching when she asked if our letters had left the Soo by that time on their way back East.

After that I cut paper animals for two little kids and attained a moderate degree of juvenile popularity It is one of the things kids can do on trains and Chas & Mary used to always take an equipment for the purpose. Now I must post this hurriedly and run.

Good night sweet one

Ever Vernon

VIII-26-MCM

Dearie wife -

It is Sunday evening and this is to say that I have been driving most of the day and am too tired to write without doing more tired than thee would approve of. I shall try to finish in the morning when mail time —

Monday morning -

Now it is a bright and cheery day. The 25th of Aug. is passed and the last dog should have had his day and we ought to have good bracing weather. I am not quite keyed up to business yet but am all right and thee need not

worry. Yesterday we drove up to the City electric light power in the morning and inspected the improvements going on there. In the afternoon we drove out into the prairie country and inspected some ploughing that C. J. is having done. We saw a great deal of land and some water and as it was hot, got pretty tired. I had a letter from thee yesterday morning which matched the one I sent thee from Plymouth. Thine had been three times over the road between So. Lincoln and Fergus Falls.

It was a dear little note written when thee was tired but trying to keep up stiffly. I hope thee is not going too much into gay society but only just enough to brace thee up and make thee whole and happy.

I am sorry to cut it so short but thee must allow for my fibbleness under de hat of a Monday morning.

With much love and more

Vernon.

VIII · 28 · MCM

Dearest wife –

It is as beautiful a morning as ever was seen – something like June beauty but with the feel of October beauty. A few such days will undo the effects of the long hot days and make me brisk and blythe – think of that.

Yesterday was a good day. It began with a somewhat overpowering sense that there were too many things to do but as it wore on the things got straightened out and fell somewhat into place so that I feel now as if I had my hand on the lever again. It is a very trying situation to feel that things

are getting the best of you, ~~it~~ is'nt it dearie?

My step-brother continues to bombard me with letters and telegrams and I have now told him that if he will agree to let Jennie into his scheme, I will go down and investigate it thoroughly. His idea so far has been to get help from them and from me without sharing the possible profits. He wants me to loan him money to carry through his enterprise & that if it succeeds I shall get back my advances with interest while he takes all the profit but if it fails I shall stand all the loss.

This is not really quite as his part but only lack of business sense. I have turned down the proposition and suggested his letting in Jennie who already has her money tied up in the land and now I am waiting to see if there will be an explosion at such a monstrously traitorous idea. These things take time, dearie, but they are necessary demands & obligations and I ought to feel more enthusiasm about helping out both my step-relatives. I hope that Thy uncle and N.H. air are doing well for ther, dearie, though the absence of letters makes me a little feely sometimes

Thy V.

VIII - 29 - MCM

Dearest wife -

Yesterday I had thy first letter from Holdenick and was relieved to know that thee was weathering the difficulties of indigestion and gaining wisdom from experience. I have taken to writing to thee here in the office the first thing in the morning for the reason that I have no ink and have not memory enough to provide myself. The quiet room looking into the trees is a fitter place and I shall go back to it but there is also a certain fitness in writing from the office. My life is all business here and so

a letter from the office might be the best expression of it.

I took it easy yesterday, consulting with my lawyer about the mill consolidation and with a plumber about the building. Between times I watched brick laying and talked with a machinist about altering a water wheel. These things are interesting and I think tire me less than office work. The mill business is apparently going along without hitches and if none develops we shall have finished the deal in about a week. It will be a satisfaction to have done with it if all goes well. Now we have considerable money tied up in it and I naturally want to get some of it back again. The building goes on slowly, likewise the dam work — sh-sh- but the latter is nearly done by. Now I must close and hasten to the P.O. to send this this poor little letter and love enough to make thee well — at least it may, I hope, help to make thee better as it helps to make me poorer. Thee is a lovely woman, dearie.

Bruce

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT,
FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

VIII · 30 · MCM.

Dear Gracie –

Thee has made me sick this morning with two
long letters of last Saturday & Sunday. I have not had
time to read them but only to look over them to see that
thee was all right. I have written thee first from Soo.
then from Milwaukee or N.P. dept Minn. then after a lapse
of about two days I think I have written every day.
I am filled with contrition at not being able to make thee
feel sick with long ones but dearie thee must put up with
limitations of thy devotedest very fond husband

Elmer.

IX - 2 - MCM

My dear wife

It is Sunday and I am sitting in my room overlooking the crab-apple tree tops of the foreground and not exactly overlooking but looking into the green oak grove just beyond. Since the rains began a month ago, a new spring seems to have arrived. The grass is fresh and green and the wheat fields after being shorn of their scanty crop have hastened to bring forth a luxuriant growth of pigeon grass — we call it — which is good enough for hay and in many cases is being cut for fodder. A plum tree on one of our lots near the river in the center of town had given up the season as hopeless and had shed most of its leaves while the fruit was ripening. But along came the rain and with

it the hot sun and presently the astonished plum tree found itself completely flowered out again while the ripe fruit was still hanging from its branches. After a day or two of respite the weather has been hot again so that in my office it has been simply impossible to exist between 10 and 2. They must know that my office is the front part of a store, the back part of which is partitioned off and let as storage. The Windows are high and immense and face South and there is no possibility of ventilation except by leaving the front door open. Of course I do this but when the sun is up and shining, no hot house could be hotter and no incubator could grow more flies than thrive behind these windows. I say thrive but they dont thrive for there is nothing for them to eat except me and I am lean and not apt to be there during the dinner hour. So they die off by hundreds and the floor and scanty furniture is covered with dead. We shall have an office in the new building soon and I do so I put up with conditions and think of the future.

Tomorrow if all goes well we shall go through the form of completing the mill deal. There will still be details but we expect to do the principal business before noon. It will be a relief to get it off my hands and head also a relief to the budget which is now well tied up in carrying the deal and looks for needed supplies from this source when the surplus of the old mill is

divided up. I have been talking over the ways and means of making the transfer of the mills to the new company we have organized this morning and the prospect is encouraging. The building too is going on though not as rapidly as I wish it might and I begin to think that another trip West will be necessary later in the season to attend to the finishing up.

I shall have to correspond with Coolidge about this and about his vacation which he usually likes to take late in September or even in October.

Thy very nice long letter written just after thy arrival at Jefferson came this morning. It was rest and recreation to me to read of thy boat trips down the Asquamsa big and little and among the shady

boughs and in the society of the Yankees. They are a pretty good people, take them for all in all and I am glad we are of them.
Dearie, it is not altogether a disappointment to me this time to know of the premonitory symptoms. I have thought since I left thee and home that we were both more tired than we realized and therefore it may be better if nothing happens except the usual little friendly arrival. I am glad thee is going to Annisquam where thee can again get a breath of thy beloved sea air. Take one or more for me dearie and I shall feel the refreshing draught here in sunny Minnesota and love thee for it.
How long I shall stay here at C. J.'s I cannot say but it will probably be a few days more.

Then I may go to C. D's. again Mrs. C.D. said something about my coming there again when she came in from the lake. Her boys will be packed off about the middle of the month to St. John's at Delafield, Wisconsin and I believe have decided to prepare for Yale. A wise choice n'est-ce pas? The other boy cousins will stay at the high school another year before going away from home and unless some awakening happens cousin Myra will find good reason for her eldest boy to stay at home for the rest of his natural life. She lacks confidence in the world and does'nt want to trust him out of her sight. Her point of view seems to me a result of her closely confined routine of life and daily work — routine which she has now held to too long to be able to see over the barrier she has herself erected.

I like thee better dearie and think thee will make a better and more efficient mother to thy little ones. I am glad the desire for them is growing in thee. Thee must not get discouraged, dearie, thee is all right and they will come in due time. That it may not be too long a time is also the wish of thy very loving and very dependent husband. He needs thee dear one as thee needs him. That is our joy.

Ruan

to Grace

IX · 4 · MCM

Dearest little woman –

Thy letter from Jefferson which I received yesterday gave me some anxiety on thy account. Of course by the time thou receives this the story will be an old one – correspondence is so slow in such cases. Deare, if thee and thy uncle both think I should not have left thee behind you are probably right. I thought the mountain air would be good for thee and perhaps did not count enough on the disadvantages of mountain food. I do hope that thee will not get played out again but will be able to pick up and get along for a while longer. I can come home about Sept. 15. as planned but I should not like to come sooner

unless it is necessary for thy sake. Thee will try to get along I know.

We have gone through the formalities of our Mill deal and the mills are now working under the management of the new company. Several days however will be necessary to clear up all the loose ends. It was a hard day's work with directors' meetings and stockholders' meetings for two companies and no end of arranging and red tape to say nothing of revenue stamps. One cannot turn round without having to lick a stamp for something.

Dearie, I appreciate thy position in the army plane because I am in somewhat the same condition here. Not as much so and then I am busy all day but just enough to make me feel what thee means. Thee must try to keep all planes right planes as I know thee does. I am more apt to retire from the field which is of course very wrong.

Yes, dearie, I try to obey thy good counsels and be hygienic and good and especially not to think about business out of business hours — in all of which I succeed in various degrees. Still the trying goes on because, dearie, I love thee.

Thy Vernon.

IX · 6 · MCM

Deare —

Where is thee and will this ever get to thee? Thee seems to me nothing to write about except that the principal event of the day (thy letter) was more consoling than the last one. This is the fatal day and I trust it will not be too hard for thee, blessed woman. Thee has much to endure and I shall sympathize with thee all day long. Deare I cannot write thee more but know that I am well and trusting in thy

goodness and loving thee.
That is how I get my own
strength to work for thee.

Thine in Christ

IX · 8 · MCM

Deare

It is very pleasant to write to thee at Annisquam. Just why I dont quite know but the idea of going there struck me as appropriate when thee first suggested it. Perhaps the pictures on the green wall helped to make it seem a friendly place for thee. I have written about three times to Hotel Bellevue, mere epistles from a stub, unworthy of being called letters but if thee has not had them thee might write and have them forwarded. Yesterday I had two long ones from thee, both written at Jefferson and both encouraging in the atmosphere

and tone of them. I think I never answered thy question about the Squam proposition of buying land and building home. It would be fine especially if the other nine were appraised of and approved of but I am afraid it would be too costly for us. I should like to build the club house and want to talk it over with thee when we meet again. For the past two or three days I have puttered and got nothing accomplished. My razor went off to the State Fair for a three days visit without saying anything and without making proper arrangements to have the work go on in his absence. Still things are getting along. The dam work is nearly completed and yesterday my cut-stone arrived. It is so beautiful that I am afraid to touch it for fear of breaking or chipping it. The greatest care will be necessary in unloading and getting it hoisted into place on the building. I think I can leave about Sept 15. but shall in all probability have to come out again before long. I shall stay more than three days with thee however. My dearie.

With best love

Thy husband

Bruce

House of C. D. W. IX-9-MCM

Dearest

Thee will understand from the above that I have moved camp again. The oldest boy at the C. J. house has been down with cholera morbus and as he does not pick up rapidly and the family is much taxed with sitting up at night, I have thought best to give them less to do by clearing out. It was about time anyway. Today we expected to work at the dam in order to get it cleared up so that we could turn on the water and let the mills go to work Monday morning but a slight rain early in the morning scared away the men and so nothing has been done. For my own part it has been a good program. I have rested in

in the forenoon and now have just risen from an afternoon rest besides sleeping late this morning and consider myself a dutiful husband. In a day or two more I expect we shall have finished the mill consolidation business with the exception of dribbets which will continue to dribble for some time to come — I mean collections of the old company which will not all be made for some time but the main work of consolidating will be closed and we shall get the balance of our money with the exception of the aforesaid dribbets. The water power work is also nearly done and the setting of the water wheel in the new flume is the only important thing remaining undone. That is out of my hands so that I shall be able from now on to give most of my time to my building. It has been going slowly of late. I think I told thee that my brick contractor had gone off to the fair at Minneapolis without saying anything or arranging to have his work carried on in his absence. Deanie. I dont see how I can leave within a week but perhaps I can see my way to do it. The cut stone has arrived and it is important to see it set properly. Unless I attend to it myself, something is practically sure to go wrong but I am in hopes that we can get it up in the next ten days — I mean the stone can be built in in that time. As a preparation for writing to thee I read over again thy last

two letters – both from Jefferson
They have the right spirit and
I thought I might catch some of
it for my own but my head so
so taken up with business details
that there is no room for anything
else. Without thy balancing
influence I should be a machine
entirely but thee keeps me in
sight of other correcting ways and
means of working out our destinies.
By this time thee has gone through
thy pangs and I sincerely hope
thee is comfy and peaceful in the
atmosphere of thy beloved ocean.
The natural features of the landscape
from which I have been getting
daily pleasure in my morning
walk from C.J.'s home to town is
the sky line of a good portion of

the horizon. Fergus Falls is in the valley of the Red River - not much of a valley but just enough to have the surrounding country cut a sharp line against the sky in some directions. In this particular South Easterly direction there are no trees to break the contours and there is the native raw prairie in broken hilly lines just as it was pushed and crowded up by the immeasurable force of the glaciers but softened again by the constant labor of the centuries or aeons (Is that correct?) It is peaceful too without being tame. My astronomical inclinations appeal to me and I hope we shall not be crowded out of our just desires for knowledge

of the worlds in which others perhaps live by things less or more important as the case may be. — To change the subject somewhat violently I think the engaged girl on the train certainly did think me in her own imperfect condition and I allowed her to think so without discussing the matter at all. She was entertaining to consider objectively but I did not have the vital interest in knowing about her Sacramento druggist which I ought to have had. Mr Ames would have wanted to know all about a fellow mortal with whom he was so closely linked by similarity of condition. Poor man I wonder how his health is standing the strain of his great interest in the political situation.

As Ther has said nothing about Edith and Raymond I presume my correspondence with them has not been voluminous. If this finds this letter singularly free from news it is because I am just resting along and not seeking or gathering news. I find it difficult to put in practice my precept of trying to remember the trivial or important incidents of the daily life and must make another effort at it. With much love and hope of seeing Ther before very long — seeing Ther in good health and spirits if possible

Thine now

Emma.

IX · 11 · MCM

Deare —

The history of my life yesterday is a record of nothing in particular but several things in general. I stood most of the morning on the second floor of the building superintending the building of a chimney so as to get the ventilation brought into it satisfactorily and lengthen the lives of my tenants. At noon I got thy telegram enquiring about letters and announcing thy voyage to Annisquam. May it do thee good. In the afternoon I made details of inside doors and wood work until a little before six

and then went down to the dam to see them finishing up the work there. By seven o' clock the water was turned in and this morning I am anxious to know if it is going to work all right and shall hustle down as soon as I have had my breakfast. The weather was showery yesterday and this morning is cold and cloudy and windy but the air is refreshing and invigorating as it always is even in hot weather when it comes from the N.W.

Breakfast is ready and Dwight close and run with love and love and love for the little wife

Bruce.

IX-13-MCM

Dearest little woman –

Thy teary letters of last Sunday and Monday pull hard on my heart strings and I shall put my business into shape so that I can leave it just as soon as possible and return to thee my own. I wish I felt that I could go today but unless it is very necessary it would be better to stay a little longer. The stone work is just beginning and it is a very particular business to get it right and satisfactory and is almost sure to be botched if I leave it to a not over careful mason. I am sure that what thee needs is to return to thy own home and proper food and care.

Not however before thy husband

can be there with thee to take the work of getting installed off from thee. Does thee not think that the variety of food is responsible for thy frame of mind? Nothing is so discouraging as indigestion in an ordinary case but in thine it acts with double force because of thy nervous condition. Dearie, I shall take care of thee and not let thee eat things that ought not to nor do things which tire thee and thee will thrive again as thee did before thee overworked running the house without proper help.

It will be necessary to come out again but not for a long time and I will come back as soon as I can. Let me tell thee a story which my cousin Lucy told about her husband my cousin Charles D. He is fond of dogs and always has a number on hand.

Last year their old spaniel got beyond his days of usefulness and on Saturday night when they were going to the Lake to stay over Sunday Chas. said that the dog must not go. He must be done away with. So Lucy and the boys and all the other dogs piled in and drove out leaving Chas. with the spaniel. Next day they were sitting at dinner when they heard wheels and going out found Chas. and in the buggy with him the old spaniel. He (Chas) had been unable to dispose of the old fellow. Little was said and in the afternoon Chas drove in ahead of the rest of the family. The next morning

Lucy found a man to remove the old spaniel and went into town with the rest of the family. Chas. met them at the house and looking into the carriage a little anxiously asked "Did you bring in all the dogs (without any accent on the all) Lucy simply replied "Yes" and the matter has never been spoken of again.

The finish seems to me as dramatic and perfect for a short story as any one has written or could write and knowing Chas. is quite touching. Now dearest be of good cheer and the good world will right itself and God will continue to bless thee and thy husband to love thee fondly.

Au revoir

Emma

IX · 14 · 1900

Dearie

Now that I have set about leaving it seems easier than I had supposed it could. Things will be left undone of course but that would be the case if I staid a year and I can have many of them attended to for me or can do them at arm's length from Boston. It looks as though I could leave Fargo on Sunday night and Minneapolis Monday night. By this arrangement I can have Sunday free from other interruptions to talk and arrange matters with the agent and can have one day in Mpls.

and St. Paul. Unless thee is in pressing need of thy husband I think I ought to stop in Michigan to see my mother also for a day and if I do that should get to Boston about Thursday. It seems a long time but I hope thee will be well enough to bear our separation cheerfully until then. If thee is well it would be great lakes to spend a little time together at Annisquam. I too should enjoy a breath of sea air, especially with thee my beloved.

Yesterday I had no letter from thee and passed the day in some anxiety drawing out details of interior finish and such like and making visits to the building to see my mason. Incidentally I got a check for $5000. from the new manager of the mills which completed the transaction and puts me in sight of the funds needed to complete the building.

Dearie, dearie. I long to see thee and wish it were right that I were leaving and that there were no intermediate stopping places.

Au revoir my dear wife and be of good cheer if thee can.

Amen.

Even my writing paper indicates that it is time to be gone. This is the last sheet.

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT,
FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

IX - 16 - MCM

Deare - To quote thy words "I wish thee could have seen the transformation when I received thy letter" telling me of the transformation which mine had worked in thee. A load of many millions of tons was instantly removed and I worked all day with a light heart. The weather has cleared now but for two days there has been a real storm of wind & rain and cold. The work had to be abandoned on the building and in consequence I have decided to stay over until Monday night instead of Sunday in order to get it properly under way. I have been working today (Sunday) but dont count it a transgression of rules because I shall make it up by resting on the trains going East. — also because it is easy to work

when one is going home to one's precious wife.
—I cannot take time to write to thee because I have my preparations to make and my bread and butter calls and my blue plate and saucer to get.
Moreover I dont find it easy to write. It was the same before when I was getting ready to go back to thee. Things dont seem important enough to put on paper when I am so soon to see thee.
The mood is not conducive because everything resolves itself to one thought — I am going home.
May thee keep in good cheer, dearest.

Thy Emma.

[Sept. 18, 1899]

MINNESOTA CLUB,
ST. PAUL.

My dear —

I've has been much neglected of late but it is because of hustling to get back & then on I hope thou will forgive.

I am here with Thomas Holyoke, architect and an old time companion in a foreign trip and expect

to leave for Chicago after dinner. I have not been able to figure out the hour of arrival in Boston or Quincy but will let them know from Battle Creek so that they will get word in plenty of time to get on the best welcoming smile.

Adieu for a little

Sept. 15. V.

Approaching Montreal
D. & M. R. R. – XI-1-1900

Dearest –

The train arrived promptly and I had a full hour for my little jobs on the street and to collect a few things at the office. The November International Monthly was there and I took it along to read on the cars, mentally determining to return to there by mail. Coolidge came in just as I was giving him up and walked to the station with me. We talked business prospects i.e. architectural prospects but not business relations and he wants me to work the dormitory. I hope I shall find time to do it but

fear I shall not. The grandpa was waiting at the gate with the box which Raymond had brought to the office in vain the afternoon before.

The day has passed quickly with reading and studying some sketch plans of the proposed appartments I told the about, varied by lunch at ~~Newport~~ Plymouth on the regulation chicken pie and a good nap in the afternoon.

The Boston & Maine chicken pie is much superior to the Nickle Plate dough-nut or the Wabash ham sandwich and is rarely equalled at Reg. lunch counters. It is tough but filling and sufficiently palatable.

The Int. Monthly seems to me less technical than some of the earlier numbers and I have enjoyed reading an eulogistic paper on Li Hung Chang by John W. Foster. The venerable Chinee must be a good deal of a magician for he makes an indelible impression on every one who has ~~had~~ the fortune to meet him.

There is also a good Anti Imperialist article by Prof Sumner of Yale which begins with much effort at impartiality and ends with lamentation at our follies.

Perhaps it might be admissable to add that the thought of thee has been very sweet and pleasant all day long and I had almost forgotten to say that I talked with Dr Chamberlain going from L. to Waltham this morning. He intends to go to see thee he said or rather he had intended — whether he will do it now I cant say. He may feel that he has done his duty by seeing me instead. His are both well and thriving.

Will thee remember the compact to keep it wholly?

Thine own

Vernon

Canadian Pacific Ry.
XIth 2 - MCM

Dearie —

This is the zone of perpetual Sunday. If one were in need of rest he would do well to come here, where apparently nothing else goes on. Last night just before getting to Montreal I struck up an acquaintance with a middle aged lady of humble and respectable condition who comes from Beverly. We had nearly an hour to wait so I took her out to view the cathedral which some one had told her about. It was too late to get into it and in a few minutes we turned back to the station. I did'nt want to get left again in Montreal with strange ladies.

She knows Miss Howe and Miss Kilham who sat opposite us at Miss Hayden's in Rome.

She asked me to post a letter in Montreal for her because she saw that I had me to post but made me observations about friends left behind in California dentists and our relations have since remained cordial and kindly but ~~not~~ have not become confidential. She is now being talked to by a young gentleman of some six years dressed in gray uniform who bears a striking resemblance to busts of Napoleon or the young Augustus. I have looked at my plans a little again and have come to the conclusion that I can't tell what to work for until I can talk with the agent and get his views of the local demands. Perhaps few suits of many rooms and perhaps many suits of few rooms best I can't tell. From such estimates as I can make it looks as though any improvements must be made cheaply or not at all. I have also read some more of the Int. Monthly including an article by your friend Prof. Giddings which I can't understand but which indicates clearly the immense amount of work that is being done by the many scholars of less ability who collect and classify all in waiting for the occasional master mind who happens along and uses

and straighten out their material. From Aristotle to Spencer is a long stretch but Mr. Giddings seems to place these two only in the front ranks.

This is thy fatal day. I hope the pains are light this time. They ought to be after last time. Thou must write to me all about thy daily life for it will all be daily food for me as once I could not have imagined. Be of good cheer and if thou is well enough I sincerely hope thou will decide to go to Orr's Island with Miss Thyng or Thwing or Chase. It will do good to thee, dearest.

Thy Vinnie

501. Grand Ave. St. Paul
XI·4·MCM

Dearest wife -

It is Sunday at one o'clock and I have been to church with all the Aunts except Theodora and am now so hungry that I could eat a white pine log if it were fresh and tender. The older Aunts stayed to Trustee meetings and Margaret and I walked home together, the very young ones having left earlier after their own part of the Sunday Children's service was finished. It is sometimes a good thing to go to church quite independently of what you hear but it would be a chore to have to listen to the young man they have recently taken in here. He lacks immagination which is a grievous fault in a minister

Still he or the church or the hour made me think of my sins — mostly of omissions —

The description of my sins was interrupted by a call from Jim Holyoke and later in the afternoon Chas + the kids and I went to Mpls. to see Alice from whom home I hear just came to the station to take the train to Fargo Falls

Hastily but with much love. V.

Fergus Falls.
XI-6-MCM

Dearest

There are a few minutes before breakfast in which to salute thee with the best salutations of election day. I am comfortably established at the house of C.D. and cousin Lucy whose house must seem empty to them now that their two boys are both gone for the first time. They get heaps of letters however and are reasonably proud of the good standing their scions at school. It was a measly little letter that I wrote thee on Sunday and I should have taken the time for a bigger one if I could have found it. But Tom Holyoke came to dinner and later someone else came with his grandaughter and incidentally the young father and mother of the grandaughter and so we were delayed in starting for Mpls.

Alice house is charming and big for its size at the same time.
The thirteen foot wide room is all right but would not be without the swell opposite the fireplace which gives room for a seat with high windows above it.



~~Alice~~ makes her home attractive (or perhaps the architect is entitled to credit) by the good color schemes in the down stairs rooms. The work room in the cellar is also a great institution. They say they live there a good deal of the time and they are building and carving a settee for the hall. When we get strong and well we shall do such things shan't we? Chas. is looking well and says he feels better than he has for a long time. He thinks that the absence of business worries is accountable for most of his improvement so I have concluded not to business worry.
This morning I woke rather early and I found an opportunity of trying my resolution of not thinking of business out of business hours. Success was partial only but nevertheless "a step" — a distinct step. It was trying yesterday when I got my first view of the new Telephone Building. They have not followed my drawing accurately and the result was disappointing. I had expected something of that kind for such matters never go without supervision so I was able to control my feelings but am seriously thinking of taking down the cornice and rebuilding it. If I find that it can be done without disturbing the plaster on the inside and without much cost I shall probably do it. No letter has come from thee yet and I am

hoping for me this morning.

She is my constant companion dearie and my supporter through all the days and nights that separate us and that bring us together again each time with deeper and more certain ties of love.

Thy Norma



Nov. 7. 1900.

My wife Grace –

Two letters from thee yesterday written on the 2d & 3d made me very happy and cheerful. They were so full of thy best vein which is a very sweet and beautiful vein and one which overflows and warms the heart of thy husband.

Warming is needful here just now too for it has been quite cold and clear for the past two days. Dearie will thee please send me instanter by mail one wash-cloth. I am in sore need of something to clean up with and forgot entirely to put a rag in my bag. The tax bills may just as well wait till I get back! I am going to try for a small reduction in the Wayland bill for personal tax and also for

Jersey taxes which I believe we have paid in both towns — too much for so small a dog.

So we have to wait a bit longer. But we have reason to hope it is better so on account of our respective and collective strengths and we won't be discouraged, shall we? I putter and do very little out here but am gradually getting my hand into things and perhaps they will begin to move. That is just the way things strike me — as though nothing had happened since I left and the ruts had grown a little deeper out of which it is necessary to pry them now. It isn't quite fair but it is an impression. I look at my building a good deal and am slowly deciding whether to tear down the cornice and rebuild. At present I incline to do it. The greatest obstacle is the lateness of the season and the necessity of crowding other work to get the building ready for occupation.

Last night Chas. D. and I went down to hear election returns and got to the fountain head, the very presence of the ticker from which reports were coming in as fast as they could be read. At half past nine the country seemed so safe for the Republicans that interest turned to local elections. This is a very prosy letter in reply to thy spiritual one but don't think it necessary to emulate my style in consequence. I like thine better, dearie.

Yours.

XI - 8 - MCM

Dearie —

It is awfully cold and the wooden sidewalks are covered with frost but the sun is shining and the air is still and crisp and invigorating. Quite a contrast to the condition which thy letter tells me about in Lincoln. I think I wanted thy to go to Ar's Island not more to see the island than to have a good time with a nice lady but as thee seems to be busy with people at Pickles it is doubtless better so and anyhow thee knows best. It is beyond understanding how workmen will puzzle their heads

to work out problems which have already been worked out for them. I make drawings with plain figures of dimensions and they change them for various complicated reasons and then I have the work taken down and changed back again. The font must stand. I think, until spring for it is getting too late but I shall probably reserve part of the payment due & correct the work. It ought not to pass as it is and I think it can be altered without great difficulty or expense.

I don't know why I haven't written about my interview with the manager of the Mpls. Journal. It was not a succesful attempt. He talked frankly with me and said that a monopoly of such material was of no value to him except in his own district and that he always got articles & that sent through "syndicates" or rather agents who "syndicated" perhaps twenty-five papers in the country and were able to supply each paper much cheaper than they could get similar material by themselves. He advised going to some of these agents which he says are mostly in Boston or N.Y. and thinks that if arrangements could be made with them a better price could be had than any one paper could afford to pay.

Chas. Ames said that this was undoubtedly the case with all the other western papers or at least

local papers and so I did not try to see any others. This does not seem encouraging to Kathryn's scheme but I hope she will not be too cast down and will try to see some of the syndicate people. She would have to fit it them through some newspaper I think. It is getting late for working men and I must go down to my building.

With very much love

Emma

Fergus Falls
XI-9-MCM

Dearest wife –

Before I forget it let me ask if Thea has written to Cousin Hattie – which is Mrs. Geo. C. Miller I have'nt seen her yet but shall do so soon. My mother has just written me asking about you. She had heard in some way that you were sick and apparently thought it might be a serious illness. I shall assure her that you are doing a tiger of a days work every day and eating fiercely several times a day.

My building has occupied most of my time since last Monday but now I am getting to the point of beginning to think about

other things and shall try to advance my mother's affairs with C. D. There is a party in the house today to which some 70 ladies are bid and things are being turned up side down while people like Chas and I are being turned out altogether. The preliminary stages have not lacked the interest which comes from a conflict of dates with the Schumann Club and the injury to many feelings from various other causes. I must go and offer my help at moving out the furniture in my room. Peaceful days and sweet nights to thee, my wife

Vernon

LTON MASS 1900 BONE

Fergus Falls
XI-14-MCM

My dearest wife

This is Sunday morning and I am quite rested and reasonably clean. My red check stockings are resplendently glowing and my patent leather pumps are shining with their best Sunday morning shine.

Outdoors the ground is white with the first winter comforter and the sky is grey after the manner of Sunday skies in Chestnut St. Does thee remember that they ~~used~~ were always gray on Sundays?

It is all quiet and as peaceful as distance from thee will permit.

The missus did not come down to breakfast and is probably tired out from her work and excitement incident to the party. Out ~~of~~ of 70.

invitations very few sent regrets and even a number of those decided to come. It was a great success and much food was eaten and some of it still being eaten by the family. Parties here usually begin at two and refreshments are served at six. In this case it began at three instead but the interval was long enough to get up good appetites. As it was a ladies party. Chas & I were of course left out and had to walk the streets or find occupation till about seven or half past. Tables were then being hastily cleared away but the sherbet was still all right.

My work goes on slowly but I can see that the confusion is straightening into orderly arrangement and nearly everything is now provided for at the building. Of course providing for things is not doing them but it is a step. and before I go I think it will all be in fairly good condition to leave.

Yesterday morning I spent a long time between the ceiling of the second story and the roof — a space of some three feet — arranging a ventilation system of pipes and it was hard work crawling about in the semi-dark. It ought to be a good building when it is done. I am constantly confronted with the local standard which is very different from the one of Boston and workmen don't seem to understand why one way is not as good as another or why a preference is worth spending time or

money or when some other cheaper way would accomplish a practical end. I have told the brick man that I should have the cornice taken down and rebuilt in the spring but I don't think he half believed it. Probably no one in the town would know the difference after I had made the changes. In the afternoon we — the agent and I — had a look at the books and the book-keeping and considerably more work will have to be done in looking up accounts.

In a few days or perhaps a day or two I shall be ready to take up my mother's affairs with C.D. and shall probably make him an offer to buy ~~some of~~ my mothers one third share of some of the property in exchange for debts which she owes me. I think I told thee about this plan. If we can

agree on prices it would be a good thing for both sides. My mother could pay off her debts by exchanging property — which is easier for her to do than to pay with money — and I should feel it an advantage to have our property divided. The water power is in need of more important alterations next year which my mother is not able to help do or ought not to do and the brick block which I have told thee about ought to be revised and made more livable. But perhaps the principal advantage would be the elimination of the possibility of having my step brother as joint owner and manager of the property. That

is a thought which, as would be said in diplomatic circles, cannot be viewed with unconcern. I hope very much to accomplish this trading business and feel that it would be a decided gain in settling my mothers affairs which have been so long "out of joint".

Thee must not think that I am laying out a long programme which will keep me away from the wife of my buzzums and fizzard for a long time. It would be a very compelling circumstance that would prevent me from dining and being with them on Thanksgiving day. If thee needs me before, thee must say so but I hope thee will not be obliged to call on me before that time. Thy last letter written in bed at the 8th came to me this morning and fills me with tenderness for my poor but brave little woman. I can feel that there is brave in thy cheerfulness and I bless thee for it dearie. His hand after thee had been doing so well with thy Uncle + Aunt Crosby and I hope thee will recover long before this gets to thee. Thee must know that my sympathy and love travel faster than the quails and I hope thee is telling them at this moment.

Thee must practise the good advice of thy husband and stop before thee feels tired — even with thy Aunt Kathryn. If thee finds it

hard then must take a little consolation from the knowledge that thy good advice is also hard to follow. I am working at it however and find that the thought that it is thy wish make it easier to put off everything than it would be if I were only doing what is just plain good for me.

That was very interesting about the fence along our road. It does'nt make much difference to us of course whether we have a few feet more or less and I am glad it is settled. It is quite a blow though to have our pine trees objected to but I dont feel like putting them thus against the protest of the neighbor. It is'nt well to be at

had teams with neighbors and if we were farming we should doubtless feel the same way.

If thee has any substitute to suggest in place of pine I hope thee will have Chas. act as thee wishes. Perhaps he will be busy enough on other work until I get back and then we can work it out together. I am glad he has taken up or is going to take up the ditches. They ought to be made before the frost freezes.

Thee will find Mr. Farrar's bill in my upper bureau drawer but thee could send him a check on account without reference to them.

The West Pub. Co. has sent us a check for $150.00 which will keep

as a few days longer and I think I shall take from F.F. two or three hundred dollars which will pay our bills and keep us until Jan. 1st when I ought to get about $570.00 to start the year from the 1st Natl bank of this town. Anyhow we shall rub along and perhaps be able to have thy new dress made up. I don't think I shall be quite happy till my extravagance in clothes is balanced by thy having that dress. Dearie thee is in my mind and my background as thee calls it all the time because "thee sees" we are married.

Thy very loving husband
Burns

Fergus Falls
XI-12-MCM.

Dearie—

The days are passing which bring one nearer to thee and my best hope is that thee is holding out well and cheerfully and not getting tired. Monday morning begins the week with another gray day—quite wintry in spite of the grass which still shows green through the half melted snow.

The nieces is down stairs again after a day of neuralgia and looks none the worse for it. She is a useful go-between for two such knights as C.D. and me and smoothes the social way for the family. To change the subject

does the cellar keep cool enough for our apples and vegetables. If not then will have to have the window kept open in the milk room and when I get home I shall have to build a partition to keep the warm air from circulating in that end of the cellar. What a lot of work there is to do and what fun it will be to do it! A much better arrangement than Thy Uncle Joe's where nothing is left to be done. I am sorry to cut it short dearie but I must get busy work so as to cut that short too.

Thy very own

Emma

Fergus Falls.
XI-13-MCM

Dearie—

There has been more snow—just a little and it is blowy and probably cold outside. Yesterday was a fierce day in which I spent most of the time on the books looking up receipts and expenses on the kick block so that I can form an opinion of its value in the prospective trading. We have to pick out the separate items in many pages and foot up the results and it is a long job. Sunday I called on the C. J. Ws. and C. J's mother gave you (through me) a tiny tin-type of a small boy which is quite cunning and was me and will go very well with the other little one which was thee

It was nice of her and I thanked her in my best style but thee will have to thank her for it was given expressly to thee.

2. No 1. — Yes I think it would be well to buy a calf but we take chances of course as no one can tell whether a calf will make a good cow or not. At any rate I think we can raise one cheaper than we can buy.

2. No 2. Yes I should give the walls a thin coat of oil if they have been thoroughly cleaned of way but should not put ways on top of the oil for some time. Not until I get home at any rate.

Dearie I want to thank thee for the beautiful letter written the day after thee was in bed with a headache and a heart. It warmed the cockles and the pickles of my heart and all other organs including of course the gizzard. Thee must not get tired of having me reiterate the caution about stopping before thee gets tired. Thee must know approximately now about when thee can expect to begin to be tired and thee should anticipate the moment. My heroic struggle continues. With lots of love from thy husband to his beloved wife Grace

Yours

Fergus Falls
XI-14-MCM

Dearest wife –

After a cold night the snow has again begun to fall lightly and perhaps it is a little warmer. Yesterday I felt that distinct progress had been made in getting affairs into shape. It is like digging a tunnel. At first you work at an apparently impervious mass but by and by you find that although you cannot see light ahead you have certainly gone ahead and count the distance by the things left behind. Then at last you really see light and are able to count the distance ahead by the things plainly in sight which are yet

to be done. I cannot say that I have arrived at this last stage but unless something new turns up I am certainly near it. You must think from this that my only object is to get through with the work and this is more or less true but it does not prevent enjoying it by the way. I like the work and its only drawback is that it is so far from Pinglo and thee. Shall we accept the Thanksgiving invitation of our grand parents? I suppose we shall if thee is well enough. I shall try & be at home the day before so as to dress up thy dear condition and if thee is not up to it we can give thanks all by ourselves. Will thee please send me Miss Hofer's address as I want if possible to make another try for Kathryn in Chicago. I am afraid I gave her false hopes as I was more confidant than I ought to have been. Deare I am sorry to cut thy letters so short but I like to write them in the morning when I am fresh and I sense that is the time when business begins to press also.

With all the hopes and fears and wishes and love that make life valuable between husband and wife Thine own Vinnie

Fergus Falls.
XI-15-MCM

My dearest one

Thy two letters telling me of Dr Chamberlin's advice came yesterday afternoon and by the time thee gets this thy week of bed-staying will be up and so I hope will thee. But dearie the moment I read it the idea of going to bed struck me as a luminous idea and I cannot but think it will do thee real good if thee can stick to it. Yesterday noon I felt rather tired and instead of going back to work lay down for an hour and the result was most satisfactory. I got through the day easily and comfortably and felt better in the evening for the rest. It is a great remedy — is resting and all tired people

should try it. Deare I feel very tenderly toward thee because I know that it is hard for thee to get on without thy husband and I can see that thee is making an effort to keep chearful and I love thee for it all.

If it were possible to cut and run I should do so but I ought to stay out my time here. It is half over and little more now.

Yesterday it turned cold and we had to hustle i.e. the agent had to hustle and get in a couple of sheet iron stoves to keep my building warm so that the plasterers could go on with the second coat. I made a start with C.D. on my brothers business and hope we can accomplish something for the lady. This morning it is bright and clear and at eight o'clock the thermometer stood at 4 below zero — real winter weather.

With thy letters yesterday came one from Dr Hart in reply to my question about the piggery. There does not to have been any action and the death of one of the members of the board seems to have delayed matters but he gives hope that joint action of the boards of the two towns can be arranged and said that he was going to take somebody else to look over the ground again. By keeping away we shall get it fixed sometime. I also had a letter from my step-brother in which he seems to be coming to my proposition to let in his sisters and wants me to give him some time. I shall try to do it before going home.

Deare thy husband is working for thee and thinking of thee and living for thee daily. Thy Truman

Fergus Falls
XI-16-MCM

Dearest -

Yesterday was another uneventful day. I talked in the morning with the lawyers about the P.O. site case. You remember that the opposition got a squatter to lay claim to part of the land. It will come up for trial probably in December or January and does not affect the location of the P.O. for the Govt. has taken the land by condemnation. But the question is who is to have the money to be paid by the Govt. Later in the day I spent a lot of time looking over our old books searching for evidence that the squatter had paid rent but found nothing new. The second coat of plaster was begun yesterday morning in spite of the cold. We have to keep ~~=~~ fires going all night long in the three

stoves. Late in the afternoon I went up into our brick block to take a look around. It is pretty bad. Only half the rooms are occupied and they are not exactly cosy. The ceilings are so high and the windows also while the plaster is cracked and ought to come off entirely in some if not all rooms. Still I think it possible to fix it all up and am going to measure it and make a sketch which can be drawn out in Boston and from which I can make studies for alterations. Altogether it was a day which did not seem to count much and to finish up there was no letter from thee as thy Monday letter managed to get a day ahead and came the day before with the Sunday letter. It is a real winter day and as I look out a great lot of birds settle down into the road which may be sparrows but look too large. I should think they would be hard put to it to find a living in this country and climate. This is a very dull letter and I wish I knew how to make it different so I shall have to beg thee to pass it over in anticipation of the occasional day when I scintillate. That is thy theory, is it not? Perhaps by tomorrow morning I shall be vibrant with merry emotions and captivatingly droll but today I am plain. All the same thee knows one thing and that is the best thing isn't it. Thy very fond

Vernon

Fergus Falls.
XI-17-MCM

My dearie—

The day went off fairly well yesterday in spite of the doleful beginning and at eight I was less tired than usual and sat up till the late hour of nine o'clock without the superhuman effort sometimes required for such a feat. Part of the morning was spent with the carpenter explaining stairs but the greater part of the day was passed in measuring the old part of the brick block. Now I have rough sketches from which I can lay out the floor plans and then study the alterations to be made. It is a rather forlorn looking undertaking at present for the rooms have been occupied by poor and cheap tenants for a long time and it has not paid to keep it in repair. Some glass

is broken or missing and the plaster is in bad condition while the paint is dried up and brucky and will need hard sandpapering to prepare it for another coat.

My building goes on slowly and I shall not have the pleasure of superfising some of things which I hoped could be done while I was here but it will go on just the same and I hope that some of the tenants can move in by Jan. 1st or soon after. I have had two letters from my mother lately and think she is not as chipper as she ought to be. The trouble seems to be with her teeth and she has only just found it out and is going to have them fixed. I am glad she wrote to my cousin Hattie and I am sure it was a sweet letter which will make her love her. I have been two days without a letter from her now and hope to get one this morning. I long to know how the resting experiment is succeeding and hope for great things from it. It made me lonesome last night to have no word from her and I thought how bad it was of me to ever let a day pass without writing a line to her in my desertion. But cheer up and we shall soon be together again and the meeting will be sweeter and deeper joy in our hearts than ever before. I shall probably leave here about Wednesday so as to have some time to give to my step-brothers and to my own affairs in Minneapolis and stop in Chicago and Battle Creek. With all love

Bruce

Fergus Falls
XI-18-MCM

Dear wife Grace –

It is Sunday, quiet and cold. More snow fell last night and nature looks even more wintry and the long season of overcoats and mufflers has probably set in. Some of the old inhabitants still have buffalo coats in good repair but the majority have to content themselves with coon and dog and a thousand other substitutes. Nothing is quite equal though to the buffalo. I used to have a beautiful one and I well remember that it was a perfect protection against the most extreme cold. I am glad that we don't live here dearie for it would be too much like imprisonment for half the year. It is bore in on me though that next summer we shall have to shut up Pinghe – I mean Hattie – and make a long visit

with thy new relatives. How should thee like that as a substitute for Avis island? When it gets too hot thee will have to go to Lake Minnetonka and stay with thy Aunt Alice. I am sure that thee doesn't want to stay at home without thy mam so much again and that I don't want to stay away from home so much without my lady — observe the subtle distinction of tenses. —

It does not look as though my presence could be spared there as much as in the past — not until my affairs are more settled than now at any rate — and so it may come to a migratory habit for a few years. Think of bringing thy two youngest out to the Middle West! How should thee like it?

Dearie, dearie, thy letter saying thee was happy in spite of having to lie in bed without reading or doing much made me happy in turn. If thee can do that thee is learning the peace which will make thee wise and finally well. But how long it takes for a complete round of our correspondence. This is in answer to yours which was in answer to mine of just a week ago. Thy letters were sadly out of order this week. The one which should have come Thursday was a day ahead and Friday's was delayed a day so that from Wednesday to Saturday there was nothing. But the total count is correct and the average high and all is well as may be. I think I said that

I should leave here Wednesday. That is the present plan at least so that after receiving this thee might write to 501 Grand Ave. St. Paul where I shall sleep and eat most of my meals until about Saturday or more probably Sunday night. Thee may count on two days for letters to get to St. Paul from Lincoln so that after Thursday thee would be very good if thee would write a few words to an interested husband at 48. Mc Camly St. Battle Creek, Mich. Please be sure to send me Miss Hofer's address for I shall try to make an appointment with her by mail so as to waste no time in Chicago. If I leave St. Paul Sunday evening I shall get to Chicago ~~Sunday~~ Monday at 10. AM. and shall have to see Miss Hofer and get away

again same time in the afternoon which will not leave me much time to see Newspaper men but I think that a little time will do as well as more. I can show my wares and tell my story and find out whether there is a chance of business in a short time. Of course if it seemed desirable I should stay another day. By leaving Chicago Monday afternoon I could get to Battle Creek late the same evening and could have a good talk with my mother the next morning and leave for home in the afternoon by the same train I took the last time. Whew! what a venture! As complicated as the program itself but all the same by strictly following these directions

I should get to Boston Sunday at about ten and to Lincoln not much later. If any change occur in the program I shall let thee know of course. Since dinner I have been reading in the Atlantic Monthly and I think we ought to take it or get it in some way. There is a charming little sketch in the contributors' Club of the way poetry came to a child in successive steps which I should like to read to thee when we are together again and an article by Mr. Crothers which is about literature and is probably very good and healthy. We must do reading this winter as we did last. Does'nt thee remember the reading as part of the best part of our travels? It is a good way of getting away from ourselves and if taken in proper doses should rest nerves and brains.

Yesterday C.D. and I arrived at a probable basis of trading for the water power and brick block. $20,000. for the former and $6,000. for the latter or one third of these amounts for my mothers share. They are a little high if based on the present income received from these sources but it should be possible to make each pay a fair percentage on these figures. Of course I do not feel like beating down the prices and prefer to take them as high as possible if only they can be made to pay. By turning over to me these properties or her one third of them my mother will cut off quite

a slice of her indebtedness and I am trying to buy up the remaining two outstanding claims against her estate held in Minneapolis. They amount to something like $4000.00 and if I can get them her creditors will be reduced to the 1st Natl Bank here, controlled by C.D. and myself. We can then take her estate out of the hands of the assignee and put it into the hands of trustees if we think best. For my part I do think best and hope C.D. will. She could then be allowed a certain share of the income of her property which she is not now allowed and it would please her immensely to be independant again. Dearie, dearie, be of good heart and of stout cheer and we shall soon be together again. Thy husband Lyman

Fergus Falls.
XI-19-MCM

Dear —

Monday morning and this will very likely reach you at the same time as Sunday's letter. So that may regard it as a supplement.

Nothing particular has happened since yesterday afternoon except an invitation to supper tomorrow which I have to decline for lack of clo' and because it is going to be a party. It is beginning to snow again and is very wintry and you are a dear girl and I like you pretty well

Thine V.

Fergus Falls
XI-30-MCM

My dearest -

How the time flies and how little I accomplish. It will always be so and there is no use of getting excited over it. If I should stay all winter there would still be just as much to stay for and perhaps more. At any rate I am mighty glad I am going home to my diaries in her little "Hattie in the Pingles". Isn't that an attractive name? Or if we wish to make it sound quite English we might drop the in and write it "Hattie-the-Pingles". That would be distinguished, n'est-ce pas?

The snow is falling again and the sleighs and sledges are coming out. The history of my life was uneventful yesterday. I am trying to round up some of the loose ends and get matters tucked in to their winter berths. That is about all I can do until the hibernating season is over again.

The brick block will go on and will go wrong in small details which will worry me when I come again but will trouble no one else. Other things will also go on or else wait. The latter alternative is well known here and occupies a dignified and respectable position in the philosophy and practice of the town. Poor little town! It has had nothing else to do with a great deal of its time for the last 15 years and has in consequence developed a whist team that has finally won in the ~~state~~ national games. Thy letter yesterday was charming and braced me up as ~~like~~ our own fresh brewed cider might do. Please do not spurn the resting ladder by which thou has risen but look at it rather with affection and keep it on hand against another day. Thy husband greets thee gentle lady and sends thee his love and best wishes.

Emma

Fargus Falls.
XI - 21 - MCM

Dearest woman -

This is the last day in F.F. and this is the last morning equib. It was too cold in my room so I have come into the living room to write and the two pup-dogs are careering wildly about and barking at innocent children out in the street going to school. So if my ideas are mixed it is no wonder. Yesterday was a fairly good un and I got one piece of business cleared up at any rate. The rest will be fairly well arranged by this evening I think and unless something wholly unforseen occurs I shall be on my way to thee deare. It is really exciting and I could almost jump up & down.

Last night Mr + Mrs C.D. went to the party in their good clo' and I went to call on the cousin Hattie. She says she is going to write to thee before long. We talked about the coming marriage of the minister which is making great talk in the town and I am glad we did'nt have to be married by a village. It is too cumbrous machinery for such delicate work. Thank thee for Miss Hofer's address and I shall try to see her. Are there not some syndicate agencies in Boston that Kathryn could see before going to N.y.? I hope she is pleased and profitted by the result of her exhibition. The Ex's Island idea is attractive and if we have loads of money and nothing to do with it we must buy something somewhere. I don't think 15 acres is too much or $1100. either if the acres are well situated and attractive. It would be fun to go down the Sunday after Thanksgiving if thee and the weather and everything else are well but leading a cow back seems to me going it deeply into enthusiasm. Miss Thwing is a hypnotizer, I think and we must look out for her or she will do us up brown "just like two simple gillies" I hope thy domestics will hold out till I get back at any rate. Good-bye dearies and good cheer till next ~~Wednesday~~ — one week from today.

Thine — Truman

Office of the Genl. High Ginks
of the West Pub. Co., St. Paul
XI-22-MCM

Dearie —

It is five P.M. and I have just come up from Mpls. and am going to put in some time waiting for Chas. to get ready to go home. He is a working man and does'nt take 3:05 or 4:00 o'clock trains in the afternoon — the worse luck for him. I got away from 7.7. last night after a busy day and had a tolerably good night. The train was late fortunately so I did not have to get up at an impossible hour. After an errand chez the plumbers' supplies people, I called on Chas. and then went up to Mpls. to call on some bank people

~~and~~ to see how cheaply they would sell some of my mother's notes which they have been holding for a long time. I have hopes of getting them at the face value with all interest thrown off and shall take them on that condition if they will sell. Then we can make a real advance in getting my mother out of her difficulties.

At one o'clock I met the step-brother by appointment and passed the afternoon looking into his building scheme. It is too early to give results but I fear it will be an unfavorable report that I shall make. Chas. is ready to go to bed.

V.

Chas. sends his too.



Auditorium Hotel
Breslin & Southgate
R. H. Southgate, Manager
Chicago.

Mich. Central R.R. — X1-24-MCM.

Deare -

It is half past three and I have just taken the cars for Battle Creek and worked out a program, as follows:—

Arrive Battle Creek Sat. 7:28 P.M.
Leave " " Sun 2:42 PM.
(via Mich. Central - N.Y. Central - Boston & Albany)
Arrive Boston (Southern Station) Monday 3:00 P.M.
Leave " Monday 4:00 P.M.
Arrive So. Lincoln " 4:38 P.M.
Arrive Pingles (Hattie Station) 4:46 P.M.
(If S. is at So. S. read 5:00 instead of 4:46)

Isn't that a fairly good itinerary?

Chas. was going to Chicago Friday evening so I hustled and got ready to go with him. We had a good visit on the cars and parted

after breakfast with expressions of mutual regard. He narrowly escaped Thanksgiving dinner in Boston but found it unnecessary to go so far. Miss Hofer was lovely and good to look at. I shall tell thee about the visit but alas! she could give me no direct help toward getting at newspaper people and rather confirmed what I had heard in Mpls — that newspapers get such things as K would sell from syndicate agencies. It did not seem promising to raid managers' offices without letters so I was obliged to give it up.

It is a rainy gray day and I hope for better in Lincoln but all days and all weathers are better at Pinglis than at any other spot on the earth when we're ~~shut~~ together again.

As usual on the home trip I have more wishes than words to send the dearies and this is loaded with the best wishes which I keep specially wrapped up for the dear little woman.

A bien tôt.

U.