



George B. Wright and Family Papers

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
Architect
22 CONGRESS STREET

BOSTON, Apr. 29. 1901.

Dear Grace -

I send you \$25.⁰⁰ in bills, your bank book, your two certificates of Genl Electric stock and my one little certificate of same. After you have received the dividend which will be about June 15th you will have to assign your certificates before a witness just as I have done and also sign the printed form as I have and then send them all in to the Am. Loan & Trust Co.

I have deposited to your credit check for 265.20 as follows. Two months @ \$175. = 350 less amounts advanced in April (including \$25 herewith) 84.80 = 265.20

If you have checks to deposit, I think you may endorse them to N.E. Trust Co. and send them in by mail with your book. It is getting late - 12:30 and I must go to the Southern Station to check my trunk before going to lunch at the Amers. Hastily and with much love

Vernon A. Wright

Mrs. Vernon A. Wright
So. Lincoln
Mass.

IV-30-MCM1

Michigan Central
Leaving Detroit

Dearest Grace -

It was a busy half day yesterday and I can't tell yet how much was forgotten and left behind. In the first place M. Ruth Brown had not heard of any arrangements for shipping another boy west and had none to spare. I asked her when she could come out and she seemed doubtful but would much like to have you come to Milton to see her. She will be stopping with her mother often now until I don't know when. She is dieting for headaches and is well but weak. At the office a note from Chas. said not to wait for the boy. Various errands and small matters filled the morning, such as doing bank business for us both, buying this paper, buying R.R. tickets, paying

one or two remaining bills and calling
on your uncle Fred. He was cordial
and wanted you to make use of him
whenever you could - also to come
and see them sometime. A note
from Burrage said that the M. W.
case might be reached in June.
I saw him for a few minutes
and if it does come up, my
testimony will probably be taken
in Fergus Falls before a notary and
read to a jury of my peers in
Boston. It was one o'clock before
I got away from the office for the
last time - of course something was
forgotten the first time - and I
hustled down to the South Station and
got my trunk checked and left my
bag and weapon at the parcel room
then jumped into a swift rolling
herdier and reached #12 at 1:20.

Besides the regular family, Mrs.
Leslie was there and a young
person from the West. I hope
that before this reaches you
Edith will have kept her promise
to go out to So. Lincoln on Tuesday.
Raymond left the house with me
and after going back again from
half way down Walnut St. to get
my over coat, we separated at
Beacon. he to go directly to the
station and get my bag and bow
and I to go back to the Old
Colony Trust Co. to get a blank check
book which may be useful.

It was hot and I was glad I
had only one suit of a.c. on
and I got to the station with
a little to spare in time but
not much in breath. I recommend
oranges for breakfast. Yours with all love
D.

St. Paul.

May 2. 1901

My dearest and most neglected -

In Mich. I found my mother
pretty well and the old aunt also.

I stopped only four hours and
took a train arriving late in
Chicago and another leaving still
later for the Sw. Arriving
Wednesday noon in Wpts. I
thought I might perhaps do what
I had to do in an afternoon and
get away again the same evening
but it is now Thursday night
and I shall not leave for F.F.
until tomorrow evening. Nobody
can be found in his office and so
I have to go again and again.
There has been no time to do

out to Alice's with the bows +
arrows and they are left in
Jon's office waiting his return from
Devil's Lake, Dakota, which is
beyond the last ditch. Possibly
I can find more time tomorrow.
The specialist Doctor has been
detained somewhere and that
is one of the chief reasons why
I stay over though investigations
of electric motors for Fergus Falls
require more time than I expected.
They are all well here except
Chas. who looks run down to
me. Leslie is practicing for a
half mile run and incidentally
going to school like the rest of
the children. Last night we

eat up late and tonight
not much better so there has
been no time to write to thee.
dearie, but I hope to do
better when regular habits are
established in F.F. The weather
has been very hot - 90° I think -
and the trees are all green
and some of them well grown
in leafage. It was as tho'
Michigan, Wis. + Minn. coming
from Chicago and I hope that
by this time it is so in the
blowed spot on the ~~Old~~ Bow Road.
I shall hope to have
something from thee on my
arrival in F.F. Good night
dearie with much love V.

Fergus Falls, Minn.

House of C.D.W.

Windows looking Eastward

Sunday May 5. 1901

Dearest Grace -

It is pleasant and quiet and the church bell is calling some people to meeting. F.F. is well leaved out as to its trees and green as to its grass. Its citizens ask me if you are with me and I can only reply that you are always with me - not that I say such things to all of them but I just want you to know that they inquire about you. Two of your letters were waiting for me here yesterday morning and, dearie, just let me say a propos that I love you and like to get letters from you.

It is good to know what you are doing and whom you are seeing and how you feel about it. I stayed longer in Minneapolis than I had expected for it took longer to find people and to investigate electric machinery and Dr. Vanderhorst was not to be seen until Friday. He confirmed what Dr. Chamberlain and Dr. Hill had said. He had made a thorough examination (\$10.00) and was satisfied that the trouble was syphilis. He does not guarantee cure of course but he thinks that if she can be induced to accept treatment at once there need be no serious disfigurement from the sores now on her nose and lip.

The disease has attacked the bone but he does not think it unusually

dangerous. Dr. Hill says it is a disease which yields readily to medical treatment and that relief is generally to be expected in a few days or say two weeks but that the treatment must be continued and the patient must be kept under occasional inspection for a long time. This is generally most difficult for the patient feels well and there are no evidences of disease after a few months.

I did not see the step-brother because it seemed undesirable to me. I thought it would simply be an occasion for endless discussion and I have written him as kindly a letter as I could in which I tried to ^(impress upon him) that my decision was final without too much offence and without stimulating

his combativeness. It remains to be seen what the effect will be and of course you will be duly informed. I hope she will be reconciled.

Charles and Mary and the large and growing family are well. Sister is much devoted to running half miles and Margaret is fast becoming grown up. Leslie has adopted the idea that unless he runs till he drops he has not been quite sporty. To his mind it seems logical that if he is not "dead" at the end of a race he has not done all that was "in him". Charles has doubts but as he has forbidden Leslie to play foot ball, he feels that he must allow this lighter form of exercise.

The West Publishing Co. wants to pay off some of its bonds, and as it offers a good premium for the privilege I thought best to sell mine. They would be taken up before long by the company in any case and as you know I have use for funds this summer.

Therefore, dearie, I feel constrained, much against my will, to ask you to go into town at your earliest convenience (if you have such an article) and get the two \$500 bonds in the Safe Dep. vaults and send them to the West Pub. Co. by reg. mail.

If it is inconvenient to go to the P.O. in Boston, Mr. Shepherd can register them (or it, the letter) just as well. There is also a deed which

I shall try to send tomorrow which I should like to have back, executed and acknowledged as soon as possible. Please don't forget to have two witnesses to your name. The ~~practice~~ differs in Mass. and they sometimes forget this detail. You can believe, dearest, that I am very reluctant to ask you to go to town for any purpose whatever and you must not do it if you feel unable but as soon or whenever you do feel like going, I should like to have you do so. The agent is quite firm (for him) in believing that the six room suites will rent at the necessary prices of \$18 to \$20 per mo. and we expect to begin the preliminary

tearing out tomorrow morning. This is encouraging as it means that the alterations can be simpler and the cost of fitting up less than for a larger number of smaller suites. It also means dealing with a much more reliable class of tenants. I have not yet seen Chas J. (the fat) or Geo. Miles (the rheumatic) but expect to call on them and their families this afternoon. Dearest when thou can get to it will thou please write to thy cousin Lucy (Mrs. C.D.) because I told her thou intended to and it would give her pleasure. Her boy George seems to be making a fine record at school. He played on the Eleven last fall and now he is on the Varsity crew and incidentally

does track athletics. He is also ambitious in his studies and stands high. He has just been allowed to purchase a specially fine sweater with an intricate monogram on the chest of it which is the proud privilege of 15 boys only and corresponds to the Chinese yellow jacket.

Murray is at home and is apparently well though thinner than he used to be. He is comparatively a lazy boy but not more so than most boys I think. As I remember it is not an uncommon complaint among them.

Yesterday afternoon Lucy and a lady friend with CD as driver stopped at the new office and took me to a base-ball game to see the 7-7 high school nine badly beaten

by the Fargo³ Agricultural College.
I think you would have thought
the free distribution of comments
by players and lookers-on quite
truly breezy and western. The
Supt. of F.F. schools always attends
to act as a restraining influence on
his boys and girls and why not
did the latter lose control of their
enthusiasm sufficiently to be heard
on the other side of the field.

The town is just now pleasantly
subject to a spring cleaning up
attack. I believe some of the
old residents think it quite revolutionary.
C.D. is chairman of the street committee
of the City Council and Corin Lucy
occupied her leisure yesterday while
we were driving by pointing out

tin cans and rubbish heaps to
him. As I saw various lots
scattered about town I came in
for a dig too. where people had
been emptying ashes on my property.

I shall be only too glad to
do some cleaning up if the rest
will do as much.

This seems to be all that I
can remember and so my thoughts
turn toward Lincoln and the Ex
Bos and the — well perhaps
the can guess and has Dr I.C.
been to see the yet and if yes
what did he say and do?

Life has a great many things in
it but somehow this particular
thing seems important and sweet
and normal and good rather more

than other things. It doesn't
separate itself from other things
though but just pulls everything
together and especially the and
me, dearest wife.

May thy days be peaceful and
thy nights likewise.

With much love

Brian

Telephone Building
V-7-MC111

Dear Grace -

There were two letters from you yesterday but none this morning so I may not repine. The day (Monday) was spent in talk mostly. In the morning I saw C.J., not having called the afternoon of Sunday, as I expected, for fear of a drenching. We talked of Electric Railroad prospects and agreed that they were not particularly encouraging at this moment. The country may have to pass some more before the project will work out though I am going to investigate one or two more possibilities.

We started the work of tearing out
in the brick block with a force
of two men and one agent as
superintendent. This morning
there are seven men and the
progress is apparent. Yesterday
afternoon the talking was
continued with a roofer and a
plumber and numerous men
who dropped in to get a job.

Incidentally I talked with a
prospective tenement tenant and
between times tried to write letters
to a couple of agents of electric
machinery but made little
progress. The weather has
changed from warm and sunny
to the kind which we had for

so long in April and the fires
in the furnaces have again been
started. Being accustomed to
seeing my breath, I did not
mind it but the tenants of the
Fel. Bldg. were freezing. Such
is the superiority of the
inhabitants of Lincoln and Italy.

I see your smile now when
the congress of assessors decided
to give us our choice and I
share your hilarity. How is
the picture and has anything
been heard of the Crocker and
your E. Rice scheme? Now I
must to work, keeping a smiling
corner in my heart for the wife and
Thine V.

7.7. - V.8. 1901

Dearest one -

No letter from you this morning
either. But there ~~was~~ another
from the step brother and one from
the mother adding her appeal to
his. He says that his wife
starts Thursday for ~~Hot~~ Springs and
asks me to guarantee the doctors'
bills. I have replied that he
has a right to his own opinions
and to act upon it as he sees
fit but that he must do it at
his own risk. I added however
that if his wife should be in
need of medical attendance when
she returns I should be glad to
help him if he needs it.

Perhaps I am too stiff necked about it but on the other hand if he succeeds in carrying out his own plans without my help it will do him more good than anything else could. It does not seem to me fair to throw over a reasonable offer and then demand help to carry out his own idea. The mother will be much disturbed when I write her this. She does not ^{place} ~~assume~~ any responsibility upon her son's shoulders or consider that he can or ought to help himself in his difficulties but she takes it all onto herself and blames herself

for not helping them out.

Yesterday the work of tearing out was well commenced and the men will keep me busy finding work for them. I had another long interview with the plumber and made some progress.

In the evening I went to the cooking Club feed, having yielded in an unguarded moment to Elmer Adams's invitation. This is the oldest institution in the town - some twelve years - and illustrates the advantage of being organized on a vital principle.

They ate picnic food and afterwards

the men went up stairs to smoke
and the women stayed below to make
arrange the menu for the next
meet. You will remember the
high church parson I wrote you
about last year. He was then
attired in a dark blue velvet
dinner coat with black lining
and black satin high waistcoat.

He wore a gold cross of perhaps
four inches in length suspended from
a ribbon round his neck and a large
jewel ring on his 3^d finger. He was
silent and interesting to look at.

Hoping for good news of thee and
all thy doings — Thine V.

7.7. - v. 9. 1901

Darwin Grace -

These are busy days and also sunny and at present. Yesterday we made great progress again in tearing out and this morning we have actually begun building up a few partitions and resetting stairs in their new positions.

The daily discussions with the plumber continue but are nearly finished and he will now be able to give me a figure. Mr. & Mrs.

Nixon of Burlington, Vt. arrived suddenly yesterday afternoon and spent the night with the C.D.W's.

They have been in California for the winter and we had a comfortable

and agreeable time. Mrs. Miner
owns two old houses here with
me and we are going to look at
them this morning. One of them
is sold in the deed which I said
I would forward to you and forget.
It goes this morning with this
letter and when you feel able to
go to town please have it witnessed
and acknowledged. After I wrote
yesterday there came two letters
from you telling about your
real estate manipulations in behalf
of the Crooks. I am longing
to know the outcome but fear the
rent will be too high for the Crooks.
They ought not to pay \$200. in the
country and I don't see how

they can afford to. Ten dollars
a month is as much as they ought
to pay. Perhaps if you come to a
stand still in the negotiations, Mr.
Smith will offer some further
inducement to E. Rice.

I don't think you need bother
about the fence. If the Old
Bew is not a town road what
is it? If it is a private road
I don't see that E. Rice would
have any greater rights. Judging
as well as I can from this distance
I think I should have George
string his wires on the posts as
already set and if E. Rice objects
tell him to wait and see me,

about it. There will be no mind
before I get home to trouble him.

What a business woman one
gets to be when one's husband
abandons one! But there is
one bit of caution which I
take from the advice given me
by a sincere friend. Do not
~~do~~ business for too long hours
and in any case do no business
out of business hours.

By following this rule strictly
the health and happiness of the
rising generation will be secure.
Bless him! And thee too,
beloved wife
Thy Friend.

77 - May 10. 1901

Dearest -

Another day and another night
much like their predecessors. Further
discussion with the plumber and
further progress in the preliminary
work at the block. They are now
rebuilding one of the flights of stairs
and changing the location of doors.
The Miners left last night. Mrs.
knows Harriet Richardson though I
don't know how well. Perhaps you
will remember about a queer
minister chap whom I met at
their home in Burlington. I think
I told you about him and his collection

of games and decorations. Mrs. Miner
was much interested in him and
was one of his main supports.

He has gone over to the Episcopalian
and has left the ministry and
taken a position in the Department
of statistics in the Boston Public
Library. Mrs. thinks he needs
society and asked me to look him
up and I said I would invite
him to come out to Lincoln some
Sunday. He is a queer fellow
and if he comes may decide
to spend all his time in the
woods or may talk continuously
as he happens to feel. Your

pencil note from the station where
Mr. Crook had just arrived. Cousin
Lucy told me this morning that
she had planned to leave her house
with us if you had come out, while
she and C.D. and the boys made a
visit East. It is not a settled
plan but if they do it they will
probably go in August. How
far along did the portrait get and
how do you like it? Please
try not to be too excited over
your new plans and gladden
the heart of your very loving
husband who thinks of you
very often. Yours

7.7. V. 11. 1901

Dearest Grace -

The only news which I can think of at this moment is that I have about determined to buy some golf clubs and try to play every afternoon from about four o'clock. There are so many little things to get into my head and the tendency is to think about them too much and too long.

For two or three nights I have not slept as I ought and while I am feeling very well, I think it would be a good thing to do something to change the current of business ideas and give one poor brain a rest.

It doesn't seem quite right to
waste any of my time out here
for that would seem to be equivalent
to staying longer in order to get
a given quantity of work done (240)
but I am hoping that I shall
do more work instead of less by
giving myself exercise. It is
worth making the experiment any
way and I don't think I shall
become such a crank as to suspect
business. The thing that I
am now trying to work out is the
question of hot water for bath tubs.
I am writing to Coolidge this
morning to give me the address
of the Pittsburgh arrangement which

Guy Lowell investigated. I am
trying to find a satisfactory solution
without having to use paroline and
if possible shall not allow it in
the building. One woman who
was formerly a tenant used to fill
the receiver habitually while the
flame was burning and I don't want
to continue such a risk.

As there was no letter yesterday
I assume that you were busy
with the Crooks and I want to
know about it and them.

Also about the most beloved and
lovable little woman and her
offspring. With all my love
Brewer

7.7. - V.12.1901

My dear one -

This is Sunday and cold and
blowey like the rest of the days of
last week. It has been a continuation
of the April weather in Mass. except
for a few days of warmth and sun
while I was Travelling and staying
in the Sun Cities. You know of
course that Uplo. + St. Paul are called
by that happy name. My good
resolution to buy clubs and golf balls
yesterday was checked when I found
that the unusual demand ~~and~~ had
reduced the supply to 0 and that
not even a single ball could be had
in town. The small boys play
with one ball and laboriously mark

the spot where it falls and then carry it back for another boy to play with. I was rather too busy anyway for E. Adams is going away to Duluth to be a grand juror and we were trying to make the arrangements to close up the P.O. site deal. We are in a fair way to do this soon and the prospects are that we shall come out better than we expected last fall. A good part of my time yesterday was spent talking with tenants who take power from the dam and trying to persuade them to put in electric motors to be connected with a generator which I propose to put up or put down at the power. It involves an extra

expense to each of them of from one to three hundred dollars while it is not so apparent that they will get a real benefit from the new system. At present they get their power by transmission through long steel shafts. These shafts consume a large portion of the power in transmission unless they are kept perfectly aligned and this is practically impossible. The advantage of substituting electrical transmission ~~for~~ the old system of direct transmission is then a large saving of power which is now wasted, but the tenant is not so much interested in saving any power provided he does not pay for the waste, which was the old system.

Of course the tenants understand
that I have the advantage and
can (in at least two out of three
instances) shut off their power but
there is no more advantage to me
than to them in such a course and
so I try to show the reasonableness
of my wishes and to keep as perfectly
good terms with them. So far I have
succeeded but the end is not yet though
I have hopes and shall feel proud
and haughty if it all comes out
satisfactorily. Such are the ameliorating
effects of the marital influence on the
disposition of the male. Seriously
dear I think it is just that and
it makes me happy and well with
the world to know that thy influence

is doing these things. and quite
 contented to know that it is not
 my own doing but our doing for
 without these I am practically sure
 that my point of view and my
 general attitude toward other people
 would have been less satisfactory
 to me now conscience. How is
 that for self gratulation? Don't
 you expect to see all my wrinkles
 of care smoothed out and an expression
 of placid contentment sit on my
 brow and bald head when you see me
 again? What a lot of business
 you are doing! Yes I shall be
 glad to have a neighbor. My friends
 are though that E. Rice should make
 the Crooks pay \$200.00 for his house.

Does the whole of the five acres
go with it? If not the price
is certainly too high and in any
case I think it could have been had
cheaper. Mr. Cook is not a business
man as you so justly remark. I
don't think he right to make a
lease for more than a year at that
rate. Of course you had better
not tell him what I think about
the price unless it will do some good
such as preventing him from making
a long lease. I hope you will
enjoy the Mrs. It all sounds
like a fine scheme. How about
the fire-places? Did you have
no time to discuss them in the
press of business? And how is the

lower single when the healthful
cow feed is to grow? Has Geo. got
it hammered and planted with corn
and potatoes? And has he got the
fence made so that the cows can
be turned out and did he fence
in the oaks first as originally intended
You are more enterprising than
your woolly husband. He thought
it would be too much of an under-
taking to plant syringas or any
more things this year. I hope the
~~will~~ not wear themselves out this
year for their mustent. It is
a gratification that Lacey finds
you looking well and you must
be glad that she thinks you a good
fist I am sure. Two weeks have

gone and I have been here in
7.7. only one week but it seems
a long time already. That ought
to be an indication that many
things have been done in the same
time for full days always make
the time seem long in ^{looking} back upon
it. How about domestic arrangements
Is Libbie going to stay and has
Miss Stokes been notified that you
are going to let Mary go or has
something else turned up? I want
to know all that happens at the Ex.
Bow for though my time and
thoughts are well filled here the
center of importance has not been
transferred from you and all things
that concern you, dear wife, Thy v.

F.F. May 13. 1901

Dear ones -

Monday morning and probably this will reach you at the same time as my Sunday letter, still I must write a line to tell thee how happy thy good letter received this morning makes me. They generally come in the afternoon but yesterday letters were not delivered and this one therefore came this morning. It is the best kind of a tonic to begin the day. C.D. and I walked over the golf course yesterday just to show me where the holes are and incidentally we took with us a couple of clubs and

one bruised and battered ball which
Murray surreptitiously procured
from a neighbor. The last
one that C.D. owned was plumped
into a pond or sewer the day before
on the very first drive, to the
immense gratification of Murray's
friends who saw him do it.

In the afternoon I visited the
Misses and the C.F.W's staying
to the very late hour of 9 P.M.

The steam heat man has
come in and I must cut this
short with much love

Yours

7.7. May 14. 1901

Dearest Grace -

The sun is out again and the wind is in the South and nature and I are smiling. Doubtless it will be hot before long but now the air is still cool and bracing.

Yesterday was like other days, spent in heating discussions instead of plumbing discussions as the chief variety. In the evening I attended a directors meeting for a few minutes and made a proposition to the coffin makers to rent an office in the basement of the Telephone Bldg. I stayed only ~~a few~~ a day

my story and left them to ^{their} ~~the~~ ^{own} ~~particular~~ ^{particular} considerations. In the afternoon an early settler occupied my time and regaled me with anecdotes of more or less interest for more than an hour. So progress is not rapid but still there is movement. I have no word from the step brother but had a letter from the brother-in-law informing me that the deal is not yet closed and that we can still come into the salmon packing if we are so disposed. It is for his interest to have us come in and I am sorry to turn him down but

I am doing all the things I ought
to this summer and Chas. Ames
is in the same condition. Did
I tell you that he had gone deeper
into New Year gold mining?

He and Leslie may go out to
Montana to see if they are
really there this summer. I
should like to go with them but
do not expect to. Have you
found out what clothes you will
need at Seal Harbor? I hope
you will not give that scheme
up if it is possible to go. It
would be good for the
you both With very much love for
Vernon

May 15. 1901

Draic an -

No letter from thee for two days so I imagine thee is a busy woman. So ~~thou~~ I a busy man but I like it pretty well and hope thee does too.

The agent has not the faculty of catching on and is slower than the wrath but he means well and I try to accept his honesty in place of efficiency.

The golf balls have at last arrived in town and the famine has been lifted. The weather is beautiful again and I hope

& try the clubs this afternoon.

The people who have made inquiries concerning rooms in the block do not come and say what they want which leaves me somewhat in the dark.

Mrs. C.D. has told some of them that I should be glad to talk with them and perhaps I shall have calls. We are just settling up the last large outstanding claim against my mother and if all goes well shall be able to arrange the trusteeship soon. That will be a good day's work done

when it is finally settled.

I stayed longer at the building than usual this morning and must get this to the P.O. and myself to work. The plumber has arrived for another talk — they are endless — so good bye and be good and happy and love thy husband! Thine ever

Vernon

May 16. 1901

Dearest Grace -

At last you are heard from
and a very sweet letter it is,
telling about your visit to Belmont
and your visitors at the Osborne.

Yesterday I had a very charming
letter from thy Uncle Fred enclosing
the letter to Mary. Why it was
sent from my office to him and
why he sent it out to me I don't
know. It must have put Mary in
a fury but very likely it did
no great harm to delay it.

Thou must try to picture to
thyself what a joy it is to hear

that Dr J.C. thinks the is looking well but the must profit by the experience and not presume on the first strength but on the contrary must sleep great slugs every afternoon in spite of duties and such like. Nothing in this world is quite so important as the and Peter and the must not forget it. Yesterday afternoon I went out and played golf with a Scotchman. It is good exercise, just about violent or rather moderate enough and I hope to do more of it if I can get clubs of my own. The balls of have come

but the famine in clubs still continues. I have practically decided to put in tubs in all suits, little as well as big and to furnish hot water from a central plant to all tenants. This will do away with the kitchen range boilers and settle the question of how to get hot water in summer or when a kerosene stove is used in preference to a real range. These are weighty questions at this moment and occupy much of the time of your very loving, loving, loving
Yours

7.7. May 17. 1901

Dearest wife -

It is hot and sunny at 9 A.M. but I have just read a beautiful letter from my wife which will bear me up for another day.

I sincerely hope you will not be persuaded to keep Mary any longer. Her influence is too pronounced and I think it will do her good to be brought up with a turn.

I am very glad your friend Susan is coming but do you mean that you are not going to Seal Harbor when you say that you are fixed until July first? I should be sorry to have you give up that visit unless

it is pretty important to do so.

Is there any news about the
fire-places? Yesterday I bought
a golf outfit - all except the
appropriate clothes - and in the
afternoon went out again after
four o'clock. It was pretty
hot but good exercise and I got
more sleep. As a substitute.

~~I~~ for a golf cap I bought a
75 cents straw hat which is
quite presentable by comparison
with my yellow shoes. I have
not ventured to get them out
yet but shall be forced to
it by the hot weather.

With much and best love

Wm.

CRANE & CO DALTON

F.F., May 18. 1901

Dearest Grace -

Your letter saying that Miss Stokes was expected has just come and I await breathlessly the tomorrow letter telling of the outcome. There is a limit to all things and I think that there has fairly reached it with Mary. You haven't told me whether she is to go at once or to wait for the Portage. Will you please convey expressions of my appreciation to George for the fine account of him which you have been able to give. It fills me with particular pleasantness to think of the ones Rosie and Annie contentedly

grazing and cud-chewing in the
laxness of the new pasture. Has
Anne improved in milk since she
has been out? With your
letter came one from mother in
which she appeals for money to send
to Hot Spring. She feels
solely responsible and it troubles
her a good deal but I think
I shall have to keep to my ground.

Mrs. Ed. went down at her own
risk without any right to expect
any support from me and she
~~has no~~ right not to ask it
now. It is hard but it seems
to me the only reasonable course.

I have just borrowed the money

to buy up the last of mother's
outstanding indebtedness and she
cannot think that I am unwilling
to do what seems to me right.

Yesterday it was too hot to go
out into the links and so I
amused myself for an hour at
the end of the afternoon by drawing
in the lettering on the door of
my agent's office. There is no
sign painter here capable of doing
it so I expect to outline all
the signs in pencil on the ground
glass doors and let the local
man fill them in with paint.

With lots of love for the dearest
girl
Yours ever
Fanny

7.7. - V. 19. 1901

My dear wife -

It is Sunday again and
three weeks gone. The sun is
bright and warm and the air
is blowing cool from the East.

A combination that makes the
best possible weather to live in.

I have been to the P.O. but
there was no letter from you
so I console myself with thinking
what a nice girl there was to write
to my cousin Lucy. She says
it was a nice letter and I thank
there for it. Cousin Lucy Chapman
a picnic party at their Lake house

yesterday and came back with
marvelous tales of the food that
was consumed by a boy who had
missed his dinner in town. Fourteen
sandwiches to begin with and installments
of two, three and four at a time to end
with besides great quantities of other
things washed down by numerous
cups of coffee and finally by three
glasses of milk which were left over.
So you will believe that the air
of the Far West is all right as an
appetizer. Yesterday afternoon I took
my clubs and went to the links
and finding no one but the band
of caddies, started around alone.

I had been reading up on form
and it gave me an excellent opportunity
to practice strokes without the
distraction of competition. I think
I can see that the real satisfaction
and value of the game is in doing
it properly without much regard to
the relativeness of your fellow
player. Probably it is like the
difference between angling for the
art of it and angling for fish, and
I shall no more scoff at the fisher
with flies and four ounce rods who
catches less fish than the boy with
a pole cut from a tree and a pocket
full of "worms for bait".

The wines of 7.7. have begun to come in to see the plans and enquire about rents. One wife seized me by the throat and whiped the walls of the office with one for charging extortionate rates. When she had done, I did'nt know where I was at. Others were more contained and when they thought they could'nt afford the best suite in the building, were willing to enquire about others. Only one is rented, a three room suite which I am to change into two rooms and a bath, for a couple who don't want to eat at home and are content with

a large living room (14x26) and a bed room. I think I wrote that I had decided to furnish hot water from a central plant to all tenants and I shall put in hot water heating instead of steam unless it costs too much. The question of the kind of tenants to try for has settled itself and I am planning for the best kind the town affords - those who are respectable and "more in the best circles". It looks now as though three room suites were too small for most people and the size too big. Four and five rooms would be the best sizes but the building did not

divide well except on the multiple of three basis. You will think I talk a lot of shop on Sundays.

It is difficult to get away from it for that is why I am here away from the little wife and it takes something positive like Golf to drive business out of my brainlet. There are birds here chirping and twittering in the trees but not ~~so~~ many and not so interesting as on the Caymans. The trees are nearly all soft wood and of rapid growth - (I mean the planted trees) and they do not get food and attention enough to become large. The willows, planted

twenty years ago now have large
trunks but they are dirty and
are now being cut down and
replaced with elms and other better
kinds. What a pity to waste all
that time on temporary expedients.

If I can find time I mean
to improve some of the ground around
the water power by planting up or
grading the ground and seeding it.

The river banks might be made
green and pretty and would be
appreciated by the tenants in the
rear rooms of the flats. Have you
found an appropriate name for them?

With my best love for you and him - Bless him
Your son Vernon

7.7. - May 21, 1901.

Dearest one -

It is another bright day and in an hour I am going to drive out to Swan Lake with C.D. to stay only a short time. Mrs. went out yesterday and supervised house cleaning and is going out again today ahead of us. She is also making improvements - a cellar and a room ~~over~~ the kitchen, the latter first to be moved a short distance from the house and connected by a passage. I have offered lumber from my old torn-down skating rink which will do part of the new work. Yesterday

was another busy day with much talk and little done but I did not feel as sometimes that time had been wasted. Two ladies and one baby came in to see plans - one of them (with the baby) looked tired and a little worn. She is the wife of the school master and enquired with feeling after Mass., saying she had heard that I had come directly from that favored region. I got no golf and so am entitled to the drive this morning. In the evening I sat in the office with Elmer A. making a plan and schedule of lumber for a shell of a boat house

which he wants to build at Swan Lake. It was a very nice long letter from thee in the afternoon telling about Miss Stokes and her searching eyes. Far be it from me to sternly forbid but all the same I don't want you to keep Mary and think it would be well for her to be brought up with a turn as well as a relief to thee to have her gone. With the best intentions on thy part she is still very wearing and I don't count thee worn. I hope thee will be firm and finish the business up as soon as may be. A letter from Chas. Ames announces the arrival of

the bonds - their Hegira in fact.
I smile to think of thee smiling
in the face of the sober trust
depositer. Thank thee also for
the deed which came yesterday.

There is little to say this
morning but my heart is full
of thee and it is happiness
to think of thee and thy doings
and thy prospects. Thou has
my hopes and good wishes also
for thy trials and my love
in all things. Dear, dear,
wife good bye for another day.

Thine ever
Bryan

7.7. V. 22-1901

Dearie -

Yesterday proved a vacation day more than I had expected. I understood that Chas. D. was to drive out to the lake to see somebody or do something and then return. Instead of that he stayed all day. I wanted to come back to my mittens but couldn't say so and passed an idle day instead. A sleepy day too for the air and the pleasant warmth and the lap of the wavellets or something else unknown made both C.D. and me so sleepy that we with difficulty sat up to eat lunch. There was an oriole and a lemon yellow vireo

small bird and a tame chipmunk and hell-divers with yellow throats which came near to the house and looked in and I put up a board under the eaves of the house and moved the nest with the three young robins in it and that is about all.

Have you ever looked into the orange throats of young robins stretching their necks for worms?

I had seen sketches which I supposed to be caricatures and the real thing was quite surprising.

In the evening I sat on the flame and considered how to rebuild and presently the heating man came along and said he would have his figures in to-day. He

told me about how much they would be and pleased me with a total some hundreds below what I had feared and a little below what I had hoped.

The plasterers will be able to commence before long as one end of the building and soon I shall have it well enough in hand to begin work on the dam.

It is interesting planning how to do it —

A half hour has passed in close intimacy with an agent for plumbing and heating supplies and so goes the time. With buckets of

Wm

Yours and
Brewer

May 23. 1901

Dearest Grace -

It is getting late for letter time because I have been having another seance with the plumber and have finally let the contract. Yesterday I let the contract for the heating and adopted the hot water system.

So there are two big things started and off my hands for a few days.

Yesterday afternoon I went out with my club and had not gone far when a bad stroke made the ball fly off sideways and hit my caddy on the left side of the left eye. He thought he was done for and howled lustily for a moment but stood it pretty bravely. I got

him to take down his hand and let me look and the eye was closed up but the skin was hardly broken. He went off home which was not far and before long appeared with a bandage which he said contained a lot of vaseline. It was a hard blow but I think no serious damage was done.

He was standing well to the side but I shall try to be more careful in the future.

You will be interested to know that I have two or three weeks washing stood up but at last have a good washerwoman who is said to know her business.

The shooting on crabs

garments will be reported later.

Golf is funny. Some days you can hit it and some days you are "off in your form" and can't do anything. I have been out four times and for the first three times lowered my record each time. Yesterday I did not keep tally after losing the caddie but I am sure that if I had the total would have been high.

Write to me dearie and tell me what thee does. Is not thy friend Susan with thee now?

Thy very own
Kimm

F.F. May 24. 1901.

My dear -

Ther seems to be doing lots
of business and it is good to see
that ther bears up pretty well.

I hope ther wont do too much.

Thy lettuce are well spring &
one and a great chunk. I think
we can undoubtedly arrange to
give George a vacation in
Sept. It is a good thing for
every one and ought to be encouraged.

Yesterday it rained and was
cold. I stuck close to the
office nearly all the day and
let the plumbing contract and
wrote a good batch of letters.

The building will probably be called officially the "Riverside Flats" and unofficially "The Riverside".

It is a commonplace name for a commonplace block. Will that do? I shall have to have leases printed soon and must settle on something. The chief obstacle just now is the Sash and Saw Factory which rents power. I have asked them to change to electric power which would involve putting in a motor at an expense to them of about \$350. A few days ago the manager (my former agent) made a proposal to furnish the steam to heat my building which is close at hand. He intended to use his

refuse wood for fuel. This would have required an expense of about twice as much as the motor but now he declares that this expense would bankrupt the concern and says he prefers to close up the business and retire. It looks like an unreasonable bluff but he talks as though he meant it. The unreasonable

obstacle is sometimes quite as difficult as the other kind.

In this connection let me thank thee for encouragement in the step-brother business.

With love and best wishes
Kron

May 25. 1901.

Detroit -

Yesterday was a fair day and I spent most of it at the building attending to small details which try their best to go wrong. In their attempts they are abetted by the good intentions of most of the men. The only good mechanic I have is nearly stone deaf but he has a knack of catching on when you speak to him or even before you speak which is very admirable and satisfactory.

The agent is pretty slow and calmly allows lathers to cover over

spaces which are intended for windows and doors and plainly shown as such on the plans.

He also allows them to cut out penins for doors without knowing or inquiring what the size of the door is to be. But these things are always to be expected only I am getting a little more than the usual amount.

At five o'clock I went out to the links and thought I was doing fairly well but the caddy kept score and it figured up just one hundred so I concluded I must have been off as my

form - I think that is the expression when one can't hit the ball. In the evening we attended - C.D. & I. - an organization meeting of the F.F. golf club. We elected officers and appointed a committee to make constitution and rules and fixed the initiation fee at \$1.00.

The principal business of the club seems to be the regulation of the caddies. At the C.D.'s we are entertaining a couple of high school athletes from a neighboring and competing town. With love and lots of it. Kumar

7.7. - May 27, 1901

Draught on -

Just four weeks this morning since I left there and I wish that it was more. Yesterday there was no time to write the usual Sunday letter. At breakfast there was a telephone message asking me to come to C.J.'s office. He wanted me to drive out into the country with him and a prospective settler to look at land and try to sell him some. It was a beautiful day and an all day drive of some thirty-five miles. The country was green and fresh and lovely. We had a demonstration of the effect of

customary environment. Our
immigrant had come from one of
the Southern Counties of this State
where the land is level as a floor
and took comparatively little interest
in the pleasant rolling lands we
first showed him. He found them
too rough but as we went farther
west we gradually got into the
flats of the Red River Valley which
is, geologically speaking, the bed of
a lake. Here we left the roads
and drove across country over ground
that was as smooth as the boundaries
were limitless. This was just
what he wanted and he felt at home.
The voyage was the best I have

ever seen. Lakes with Trees
on the farther side which were
reflected in the water apparently
not more than a half mile away
would shift position in a few
moments and show again the
measureless stretch of level grass.
It is quite impossible to judge
distances or signs. Dearie, what
a good girl thou must be to
make people say such nice things as
Mr. Batchelder said and it makes
me happy too. Poor Mr. Crook! Do
you understand that he is trying
to cart in Portland or Keneb Cement?
We agreed on the latter before I left.
By all means get the door-stone though
the price is high. Yours always D.

7.7. - May 28. 1901

Dear little woman -

Yesterday was a Monday day -
an after Sunday or after holiday
day and instead of sticking to work
in the office I poked about
and talked with one or two people
about things I wanted to know.
In the afternoon I sat on the
mill dam and considered how to
do the alterations. My plan is
practically settled as to location of
the new flume and water wheel but
not as to how to do the work.
In a day or two we shall begin
and find out things as we go along.
It looks as though some of the rooms

in the Riverside flats would be taken for ours and I hope to rent all of them. I have an inquiry from an osteopathic woman who is expecting to purchase the practice of the local man and would like to change a few doors and use the apartment for business as well as a residence. I don't know about it but am inclined to be doubtful.

She writes me that "myself and my husband will practice together"

If other tenants can be had I should prefer not to take the new school people. Just now the most serious problem is what to do about bugs. I have

seen none in the building but I think it unlikely that it has escaped them. Probably all the old wall paper will have to come off. Someone has told me that paper hangers put something into their sizing which fixes them and Cousin Lucy is going to find out how a certain woman got them out of a log house - a job supposed to be impossible hitherto.

Architecture is a funny thing and some branches of it are not taught at the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

With love for the dear dear wife and dear little one
Yours

F.F. May 29, 1901

Draught and bustle -

Life goes on with the same regularity. Much of the time I vibrato between the office and the brick block. The chief event of yesterday was the renting of my best corner suite - the highest priced of them all - to a good tenant. One half of the building is partly lathed and we are just beginning reconstruction in the other half. Again I spent part of the day talking. The sack and door business about which I wrote there is in need of consolidation. There are two factories, both crowded

with work and both cutting
prices to a point which leaves no
profit. One is managed by an
unyielding and somewhat
unscrupulous man and the other
by a very suspicious and somewhat
jealous man and they simply
cant stick to agreements to maintain
fair prices. It looks a little
now like a repetition of the
consolidation of the mills which
went off so well last summer
only I am not interested in the
factories except to lease power and
store room. I may have to take
a hand in bringing them together
in order to keep my tenants.

In the evening C.D. and I drove
out to look at some property
of my mother's and afterwards
I went across the street with
Mrs. C.D. to call on some
neighbors. At this time of the
year when people sit on their
piazzas, calling is informal to
a degree. It is too bad
that Susan is unable to come
to the Osborn farm for rest
and recuperation and I know
this worries her. The good
reports of thy son's behavior
fill me with affectionate thoughts
of him and his beloved mother.

Thine ever, dear one, Vernon

7.7. May 30. 1901

Dearest -

It is a very beautiful morning
and reminds me of another just
two years ago when two giddy
things went out to spend the day
at their farm on the Ox Bow Road.

It seems a long time, doesn't it
dear? And of all the things
that have happened there is nothing
that seems more important than
that which is happening every
day now and growing and growing
and its name is Peter. What
a dear good little woman there is
to have a son or a daughter
named Peter and how I love the

for it. It was a good letter yesterday and I will try to answer questions variation. Alas! I do not know whether Polygala grows here nor what it is. Is it possible that the iron masonry is done at last and is it done rightly so that it will go into the door without chopping them to pieces. There is a good girl to go to see Richard and I want to know about it. The landress has not brought back the things yet but I will report as soon as she does and also will find out whether she mends. There will be need of it I am thinking.

Now I should love to see Annie and Annie in their summer dresses! Do they too wear blue stockings with white dots? Yes, dearie, we shall have to have a new harness before long but I must make some money out here this summer first. In regard to the W.C. I too hesitate. Wouldn't it seem rather funny to an unprejudiced person to make a letter of it? I should rather wait until I can mention it casually. As this is a holiday the carpenters have not come to work in the block but I am rather glad for today we

are beginning work on the dam.

Three teams and a number of men are scooping out the earth where the new flume is to be. It will be a hole twenty-five feet deep and lined with stone wall in the middle of which a water wheel will turn and turn and grind and grind for the flour mill. I am told that the cash and door manager has shown evidence of a change of heart and I am to see him today if possible. I hope to get him to agree to buy the motor and use electric power as I had planned. These things go slowly just as they did last

year and people must take time
to think even though they know
in advance what they will think
when they come to think of it.

Brother's set of rooms has been
rented this morning but yesterday
afternoon I am afraid I got myself
disliked by not being willing to
make certain changes in the arrangement
of our suite unless the tenants would
make a longer lease. I hope they
will come in just the same.

Dearie thou pleases thee husband
immensely when thou tellest of thy
work with a constant thought of
saving thy precious strength. Be good
and continue. Thine own Vernon

F.F. May 31. 1901.

Dear one -

Yesterday being a holiday, I
dawdled most of the morning
after writing to thee - that is
I sat on the dam and talked
with the agent about ways and
means of doing the dam work
while the teams of horses scraped
dirt, and later I sat in the
bank with C.D. doing more talk.

There was a procession of a few
G.A.R. and a many small school
children besides the fire department
in its new uniform. We had
two boys from a neighboring town
who had come down with a mine

to play baseball with the Torgas
High School. So at 3 o'clock
or thereafter we drove up to see
the game in which F.F. wiped the
ground with the visitors. In the
evening they danced. This sort
of thing is becoming quite usual
among the towns it seems to be
an excellent idea. Since I
began this letter I have been
talking paints and wall papers to one
of the prospective tenants. It opens
up a limitless vista of possibilities
of spending time and I don't think
I can do it with all the tenants.
There were my bestest ones and I
have to be considerate. Moreover

They are good people. Poor things
they are past middle life and
have no children for their six
room flat. It is getting so
late that this letter will now
miss the regular train and will
reach you a day later.

With much love from my
best assortment

Thine

b.

F.F. May June 1, 1901.

My dear wife - what delicious letters
thou writes me. They make me
ashamed of the scrappy little sheets
which I send with their continual
repetition of the same story of tennant
houses and lands. But it seems
impossible to write of anything else
when tennants and lands occupy
so much of my time & thought.

Yesterday I spent nearly the
whole afternoon sitting at the old
flume watching the excavations for
the new one and superintending the
shovelling to stop a leak which
started in the bank which separates
the river from the deep hole which

we are digging within a few feet of the water. It is a little like the Dutch dikes that the boy preserved by holding his finger in a tiny leaky place. If the water should get well started it would be impossible to stop it without letting the water all out of the mill pond and then the mills could not run and that would make trouble.

The afternoon was enlivened by an episode of a horse falling or rolling down a bank some twelve feet high. He turned completely over and landed in muddy water at the bottom. When he went over he was a white horse but when he went to work again

about ten minutes later he was anything you like as to color.

We must have something to culminate the dull times so we arrange these little pleasantries. Please give my best regards to the Crooks and my well wishes for their new venture on the Op Bow Road.

How good it must have been to find Richard improving. This must have been relieved on his account and on the parents' as well as thy own. The clouds which have covered the sky all the morning since I have been up, are breaking away and I must do likewise and get to my toil. With love Emma

June 3, 1901

My dearest -

Yesterday morning I started down town after breakfast intending to get a letter from thee if there should be one and then go to the office & write thee a quick Sunday letter.

But the agent was there at work on accts. and I had to help until Elmer came along and I fled with him to sit a few minutes on his piazza before going home to dinner. In the afternoon we drove out to Swan Lake in two buggies. There we talked to some people who had taken possession of the piazza by the water side

Mrs. C.D. and I called on a neighbor for a few minutes and I had the excitement of poking a big mud turtle out of the lake into the beach. Swan Lake is a very sleepy place, especially on a Sunday afternoon and it needed that much excitement to keep us awake. On the way back C.D. and I drove across country to a miller's house to get a book on construction of dams and then home a little before eight o'clock. The book is large and abstruse though the preface informs us that it attempts to avoid equations of the sixth degree

and sub-cotangents of logarithmic curves. It has pictures in it and the most I can do with it is to try to profit by the results without bothering about processes. In the mean time the scrapers are scraping gravel out of the pit where the wheel is to be located entirely unconcerned with formulas. Cousin Lucy was afraid you would not get her letter addressed to North Lincoln. She has my best wishes and affection in thy dealings with Mary and I hope thou can be strong and calm in thy conduct which I believe to be right. Thine own Emma

7. 7. - June 4, 1901

My dearest m -

It is a bright morning with the sun breaking through rain clouds of last night. The dust was deep and the wind was high but now nature has had a bath and looks clean and fresh. The digging is progressing and I have leased me more flat. That makes only four out of eleven but I hope for more before long. Last night I went to hear my cousin Rolla Wright (son of C. J., the fat) deliver his address to the Juniors at the High School class day exercises. He was

tall and thin and awkward but rather funny, standing half turned toward his audience instead of facing them and leaning like the ~~Tower~~ of Pisa. By contrast with the girl who preceded him and who named over the full names of all the class twice in the few minutes of her historical address which I heard, he was brilliant and an honor to the family. I had hoped for the story of the interview with Mary and shall not be quite easy until I know it. Thy position is a hard one and

I hope thou wilt come out of it without too much dissatisfaction. There can hardly be much pleasure so perhaps profit will compensate. My mother writes me that the Hot Springs doctor says there is no trace of Syphilis in the step-brother's wife and that she is improving under treatment. We shall see but I hope for her sake that he is right and that my doctors were wrong.

With love to thee, dearie, and
to thy little Peter
Kear

7.7. June 5. 1901.

Dearest Grace -

It is a rainy morning and the digging is called off. Your good letter telling me of walks with the Crooks and talks with Mary has just come. It is ~~just~~ to be expected that Mary would try to turn the blame onto you by assuming an injured air as acct. of the two weeks notice. But I hope she will not allow it to weigh on her. Two is really as good as run to her and a longer time would only be drawing out a period of tension to no good purpose. Dearie I am glad she

took thy work so properly and
did not allow thyself to lose
sleep or get ~~flustered~~ flustered. It was
an undertaking which I had
some anxiety about. Now I hope
thou wilt get on without too much
piction for the remainder of the
two weeks. It is a great
satisfaction too that thou likes
Mrs. Crook and finds her livable
and not wearing. Poor man!
I hardly know what to think
or do about his misfortunes with
casting. I hope he hasn't paid
Ginotti anything for spoiling six
months work. If the casts
are not acceptable I rather wish

they had not been taken from
the shop. I think the trouble
has come from a mistaken zeal
to save money by employing a
cheap man. I wanted to have
Caproni do it but Mr. Crook rather
discouraged the idea by saying
that Caproni did not want to do it.
Has Mr. Elms put in the hardware?

I am glad thou finds the auditions
satisfactory and I hope Mr. Elms
will not have to cut the doors
to pieces to get the latches in place.

Rainy days make one think
much of the dear wife and her
doings and beings. She is such
a sweet wife. How about

the Portage? When is she coming
and will it be before thy journey
to Seal Harbor and how does
Sibley take the change, present
and future? It seems to me
that thou is doing a great deal
more business than I am though
I devote myself all the time
to trying to get things done.

Just now is the moment ~~of~~ in
which the Sack and Dorr factory
is making up its mind whether
to buy a motor. They have
refused now but are beginning
to come around and I am
hopeful. In spite of such things
I love the dear wife and child. Vernon

June 6. 1901

Dearest Grace -

Another cold and wet morning with just a chance that the sun will break through. Last night it was almost cold enough to freeze and this morning I have started a fire in the heater of the Telephone Bldg. to take off the damp chill.

The electric business is now the engrossing one and the agent of the Genl. Elec. Co. is coming up from Minneapolis today to try to sell me some machinery. Of course I should rather buy of our own company than of any other but the difficulty so far has been

That our company charges more for
its machines. Many men have
been coming in since I began
this letter and now it is mailing
time so with much love I
must finish. Sweet little
woman!

Yours

7.7. June 7. 1901.

Draught out -

The sky is about cleared by the cold Northwest wind but big clouds are still sailing by. It is cold and the tenants in the Ld. Bldg. where I am writing are sending in to enquire about fires. I have been down and started one but a water system does not heat up very fast. Yesterday afternoon I spent fiddling with the agent of the Genl. Elec. Co. and talking or rather trying to get information about watt's and rheostats and many other things which mean nothing whatever to me. He cut his prices pretty well but

they are still higher than others.

Finally he asked me to make an offer and I did so. He is to submit it to head quarters and give me a reply at once and I rather hope he can accept for I should prefer to have machinery from our own.

The handles were intended to go both on the living room side of the doors but if you prefer they might go one on each side of the same half. Of course one half (the half that shuts first and is attached at top and bottom) can be closed from the sitting room side without a handle. Try it and see

which way you like best. I have a letter from Mr. Crook which I shall answer as soon as I can get time for it. What have you decided to do about the inferior carriages. I should be rather sorry to take the edge of our enjoyment by putting them up but it is hard to judge at this distance. I am so glad that Thue is doing well and Peter is growing and that Thue seems to be remarkably happy. That makes me happy too, dear me.

Yours ever
Bryan

7.7. June 8. 1901.

Dearest wife -

The skies have cleared this Saturday morning and I hope to clear the business skies of me or two clouds today so as to have a Sunday undisturbed by crowding cars.

Not that care is doing any undue amount of crowding but it is satisfactory all the same to finish something Saturday night and begin again with something fresh on Monday morning. The particular thing which I want to finish is the order for electric machinery and I expect to sit in the office all this afternoon waiting to be

called up from Minneapolis ~~for~~ by
a final proposition from the Genl.
Elec. Co.

Last evening C.D.
and I called on the Elmer Adamses
who have some relatives visiting.

Nothing particular happened but we
did our duty. The missus had
had a headache the day before
and didn't go with us. She is
looking forward to the return of
her boy Geo. B. of whom she
and he and the rest of the family
are justly proud. It was such
a nice letter this morning and
I was particularly glad that Libby
was happy because I had been
afraid that the tuition in the

kitchen might react on her and
keep her out of sorts.

How I should love to see thee
in the dear Osborn house.
I am almost afraid to say so
because it went do to stir
up any vain hopes either in
thee or me. After all these
are halcyon days in spite
of our separation for we have
so much to hold us together.
It is so different from the old
life — and so much better.

With much love, dear one.

Thine
E. Brewster

7.7. June 10. 1901

Draught -

My beautiful hopes for a calm and self satisfied Sunday were rudely dispelled. The electric deal was satisfactorily arranged and we are to have our own make of machinery. But Saturday evening we had a workout at the dam. The water got to cutting round the end of the dam where my new excavation was being made and before we got the water in the mill pond lowered, the greater part of the river was going through the cut. A large quantity of gravel bank was moved suddenly down stream a hundred yards and left in the form of

banks which rise above the level of the water and probably will have to be removed to give a good channel for the river. This was the principal damage done to me but it has also occasioned considerable inconvenience to the mills which wanted to run until July 1st before letting the water out. There may be some damage on this account but I think not a large amount. It was an ugly sight; the flood of water washing through just at the foot of the mill and danger lay in undermining the foundations but we got it stopped so that I think no harm was done in that direction. It

gave me a wholesome respect for the power of water turned loose and it was simply the best of luck that no real damage was done to the mill. It was probably my fault that the wash-out occurred and I hope that I have learned my lesson. At any rate I shall try not to run so close to the danger point again. The possibilities of damage are so unlimited that the pratest care and ~~most~~ closest observation are not out of place and will be the business of your houry from this day till the thing is done. Your letter this morning was good cheer when most needed.

Yours
Finn

7.7. June 11, 1901

My dear one -

It is a bright morning and the work is going cheerily on.

We began a coffer dam immediately and with no mishaps shall have it completed in a few days - this week I hope. The excitement has about passed off and the round of details is claiming attention as before. It is quite late in the morning because I had to spend some time at the Riverside Flats arranging work for the men. Just now a Norsk farmer has been talking to me about the

difficulty of finding hay land this year and the high price of machinery and low price of wheat etc. etc. One would think the country had gone broke - but it has'nt. The objection to food tines is that you have to pay high for what you buy as well as for what you sell. This is not correctly expressed but perhaps thou wilt understand. Is thou going to leave the house to Geo. and Libby in thy absence? Or is someone to stay and look after it and them? If thou find out the full name of Mr. Batchelder will thou please send it to me.

It is so late that I must hustle this to the P.O. with the wish that it were longer and more interesting.

But it brings thee love, dearie.

Thine

Vernon

F.F. - June 12. 1901

Dear Grace & Peter -

I hope you are both well and are enjoying your food and sleep and are both growing finely and are happy. I think of you often and of what nice companionable times you must have together and how you must be planning all sorts of delightful experiences. Please do not forget to include your absent husband and father in some of your pranks for it would make him feel very lonely to be entirely

left out. He is out here
in this far Northwest trying to
earn a living for you both and
he wants to be included in
your plans and your thoughts.

That is what makes life for
him. He has been vaccinated
lately and his arm is getting
quite itchy so he thinks it will
probably work and make a big
swelling and then he won't have
the small-pox — not even the
mild variety which is prevalent
in this region and which no one
gets sick ~~if~~ enough to feel sick

with. Some of the doctors say
it is not real small-pox and
others say it is but nobody
takes it seriously and the people
who won't keep quarantine and
get sent to the pest-house
organize base-ball teams. But
they can't find anyone to play
with them so they don't like it
very much. Now you must
be good and not take problems
too seriously and get strong at
the sea-shore and come back
healthy and big.

Your loving man

Bruce

F. F., June 13. 1901

My dearest -

It is getting warm again after a long spell of cold and occasional wetness. The coffer-dam is progressing under the management of the agent who knows much more about that sort of thing than I do and I devote my time more especially to the flats for the present.

The great high building with its tall windows is going to look queer when the tops are filled in with brick and about every other window closed up entirely. It was intended

for officers and the front is now
so open that it is like living
out doors - to exaggerate a little.

The change will make it more
domestic inside if more flat and
barren outside. On the whole
I should say that yesterday was
a singularly ~~un~~eventful day for
I don't seem to remember anything
about it. I told Cousin Lucy about
your visit to Mayja and she thought
it was nice of you. It would
be fine to have the Labers or
some of them near us but I
should hardly like to recommend

the chicken business to anyone
who wanted to earn a living and
knew nothing about it. The
business is all right for one
who knows how and is willing
to devote his entire time to it
like the man near the Williamsons
on the Great Road. If you
have confidence in Esther Lober
that might settle it. The
vaccination continues to itch but
does not swell yet. With love
to you dearie and best wishes
for all you do and want to do
Thine
Fanny

F.F. June 14. 1911

Dear wife -

One day is much like another but I will try to remember what happened yesterday. There were two nibbles at flats; one from a family in town which did its nibbling by proxy and one stranger travelling man who would like to make this town his headquarters. He is to write his wife and let me know in a few days.

The coffer dam continued to make good progress and the flats dry along slowly. Most of the day I figured on cement and supplies and studied plans for the flume. It is not a job that can be

advantageously drawn out on paper but must to some extent be decided and developed in the progress of the work. In the evening I discussed with C.D. the possibilities for improving the power which I have told thee about. He made a suggestion which had occurred to me before but which had not struck me with sufficient force, that the State Hospital (Lisane) was a fine field. They are now burning many hundreds of tons of coal annually and possibly water power might be substituted for a large part of the coal to furnish power and lights. This morning Cousin Lucy had a very bad head-

ache - perhaps as a result of straw-benies and cream which she says poison her and the osteopath had just come in when I left the house. He usually relieves her in a short time. I am waiting to learn the outcome of the visit of the Defiant Angloman and feel as thou does that Mary needs a stricter kind of looking after than Miss Stokes is likely to give her. Is this the last letter to be directed to So. Lincoln? If thou leaves on the 17th I must begin to direct to Seal Harbor where my box carrier will go before thee.
Thine Kinner

F.F. June 15. 1901.

My dearie dear -

What exciting times we are having - thee with thy fire and I with my wash-out - and at nearly the same time. This makes me proud of thee by the way thou takes hold and bears up in emergencies. either of the kitchen or the field, and if thy hand was shaky after it was all over. I can sympathize for I have lately had the same feeling. While the work was to be done I worked away with the rest but for two or three days and nights afterwards

visions of a mass of water with unlimited potential damage in its wake troubled me and I think my hand was not quite reliable.

Last evening the last flap in the coffer dam was put in and of course the water began immediately to rise outside.

The men worked steadily until seven putting in bags of gravel at the base and then we left it thinking it safe for the night.

But within an hour trouble began to show and the agent hastily got together another force of men and kept them at work until

four this morning. The river has risen more than was expected and the dam is not safe yet but we are putting in gravel as fast as possible and if nothing breaks today we shall probably have it well banked up by tonight. Thy long letters make me quite ashamed of my dribble but if all goes well I shall try to write thee a longer one tomorrow. I address this to South Lincoln at a venture and hope for more definite instructions today. Thine, Davis.

Bruce

F. F. June 16. 1901.

Draught wife -

Today seems likely to be the peaceful day that was expected last Sunday. I don't know of anything that is all wrong today and though we ought not to be dependant on outward fortunes yet it is easier to be peaceful when all seems well. It is probably good for your character to try to be cheerful and even under disappointments and trials but it is wearing on the nervous system just the same. The coffee dam is practically tight and the excavation where the new flume is to go

and when the greater part of the flow of the river has been for the past week, has now only a tiny stream flowing through a crowded heap of boulders, washed clean and left high and dry by the receding flood of water.

So tomorrow morning the real work of rebuilding will begin again and I think it can be said that the washout has advanced the job about two weeks by allowing me to get to work now instead of July 1st.

The building is just now in a slow stage. I am nearly sure of another tenant for a 6 room flat for there are two applicants for

me suite and if one does not take it the other probably will.

The other in the case is the Osteopath lady who wrote me some time ago that "herself and her husband would practice together".

If she takes the rooms she will use them for business as well as living purposes and I shall be rather glad if the plain people decide to take the flat.

The weather has been about equally divided between hot sun and violent showers with an occasional thunder report that shook the lights and livers out of the houses. Yesterday afternoon there was a

sharp hail-storm for a few minutes
which set everybody to wondering
whether it had been more severe
"off East". The safety of the
wheat crop is the underlying care
of every body from the clergyman to
the blacksmith and is a serious
matter. If people don't talk all
the time about it, they at least
never talk lightly on such a sacred
~~subject~~ and worldly subject.

The boy came home from his
military school yesterday. He is
over six feet and though rather
lanky, the rowing which he has been
doing has broadened his shoulders
and straightened him up well.

He appears to me to be the typical Wright as I have come unconsciously to think of the type.

He has their virtues of honesty and uprightness derived from the old New England stock and also their unbendingness in an equal and uncompromising degree. Probably plenty of sentiment in concealment but very little real poetry. He likes to stick to facts and finds it difficult to let a loose statement go unchallenged. He also is handicapped by an excess of reticence or timidity or disinclination to society and has not the gift of gab except in familiar surroundings. Quite

apart from these family inheritances
I think he also has an intellectual
strength and a force of will and
energy which are above the
family or the general average
and if nothing goes wrong with
him I look to see him do
things. Perhaps inelasticity will
be a stumbling block but he is
fair minded and will generally
have good reasons for his un-
yieldingness. I think his father
is quite proud of him and so
his mother finds herself obliged
to befriend the younger boy who
is of a different temperament and
not so well understood by his

father. As I am not quite sure
of thy whereabouts I have thought
it would be best and surely easiest
for thee if I sent a check directly
to the Mr. Frost ^(#175) to be passed to thy
account. I will do it today and
dear me I hope thee will always ask
me for money or anything else
when thou wants it and I will try
not to make it hard for thee to do so.
I have a deed and another thing
which I want thee to sign before
a Notary Public but do not dare
to send them now. How would it
be if I should send them to Bangs
before thee returns from Seal Harbor
and then ask thee to stop at his

office on thy way out to So. Lincoln

If this could be done it would save
thee a trip to Boston but will
depend on the trains from Maine.

Please write me about this so
that we can arrange it.

Thou has written nothing about the
garden and the hay crop. ~~At~~ the
pea crop and the corn crop and
the other garden crops successful
and isn't it time to cut the hay?

My idea was to stack it near the
South door of the barn so that it could
be taken in easily. Thy letters
are daily food and they bring a
deepening joy and inspiration.

Thy own Friend

F.F. June 17. 1901.

Dear -

This is the day on which I hope thou is leaving for Bangor and Seal Harbor and if it is as lovely a day in thy neighborhood as in mine, there will be happy by comparison for none could be otherwise on such a rare June morning.

After writing to thee yesterday forenoon I did nothing in particular except to drive out to the Lake with C.D. to see what progress had been made in the small addition and cellar which he is building. In the evening I read (and between times during the day also) at a book by

Lucky - The Map of Life - which
is a summary in one small octavo
volume of the wisdom of the world.

It formulates and fixes your philosophy
and rules of conduct and covers
the entire ground by devoting a
few words only to each problem,
condition, or what not. Every sentence
reads like a digest of a long
and well considered train of thought
and you will therefore not be
surprised to know that my progress
is not rapid. It would mean
nothing at all taken in bulk
any more than reading a dictionary.

Thy cheerful letter enclosing the
note from Kathryn has just come

and I return it (Kathryn's) herewith.

Poor girl! I wish I could give
her a job but I don't know
of any way to do it.

If she can keep well perhaps
there is no use of wasting pity
on her but we must keep in
touch and be able to take care
of her if she gets sick or wind
up.

I am glad there is
emulation of Peter and takes
such good care of him and
hope he will be grateful for
it and not bother thee too
much.

With love and lots of
it
Thine
Bessie

F.F. June 18. 1901

My dearie -

Here's hoping you are now
in Banjer and that when you
read this you will be in Seal
Harbor breathing in great draughts
of Atlantic Ocean air. It is
different but can't be better than
the Rocky Mountain kind that is
now fattening these wheat fields.
We are having warm days and
cool nights - just the thing for
the wheat and incidentally very good
living weather. Last night I went
to a wedding - a golden wedding - and
saw many people greet a well
preserved and very good and respectable

couple. Three or four young (not too) ladies were dressed in the ancient clo' of the bride with plaited hair, snuff boxes and old time manners and they carried off the scene well. The old clo' were well preserved and I thought exceedingly pretty. One was white, one was green and one a flowered silk as good as new with ample skirt and a pocket that went to the floor somewhere inside of its voluminousness. They all had style and character and were much prettier than any of the modern dresses present. Friday evening there is an "at home" which

I shall go to but there will not be many such frivolities - perhaps no more. I wonder if thou sent in the General Electric papers. I have lost my note book but I seem to remember that any time after June 16th they were to go. Will thou make a note of it and send them when thou gets home for I may forget it. Alas! the note book fell into deep water and sunk. There had been many warnings as thou will remember. Happy days to thee my dearie and may they make thee strong for anything and everything the future may have for thee. Thine Ever

F.F. June 19, 1901.

Dear me -

It is another bright day and
nature and I and perhaps others
are smiling. The chief event
is the discovery, long suspected,
that the plaster will all have
to come out of the brick building.

Therefore since the plastering will
all be new I think I shall have
it sand finished and tinted and
no wall paper. It will probably
be healthier so and it will be
easier to fight crawling animals.
It will cost a little more to
plaster all over than it would to
leave part of the old plaster and

then paper all the walls. It is
custom here to paper ceilings as
well as walls while in Mass.
I think it is not done except
to cover defects in a bad ceiling.

Did I write you that the plain
people did not take the six room
flat? The Osteopathic lady
physician did however and I have
hoped that the plain people will
take a four room flat.

Last evening I dug dandelions
on the lawn. They have become
a pest of great proportions and
it is difficult to get rid of them.

I used a gauge chisel at the
end of a ~~long~~ stick to cut the

tap root as deep down as possible
and then pulled them up. You
will have to try it before you can
appreciate the elation that comes
of successfully getting out a big
root 3 or 4 inches long without
disfiguring the sod. No I don't
play golf any more because the
grass has grown too high.

Perhaps the committee will
have it mowed and then we
shall all begin again. In
the mean time the cows
are ranging over the links and
enjoying the long grass.

With love to thee, dearie.

Edna

F.F. June 20. 1901

My dear wife -

A note written Monday from Dr. J.C. came last evening to tell me of thy back-ache and that thou was not in any danger of real trouble. "Dear woman!" I wonder if thou was much frightened and I kiss thy forehead in spirit and in sympathy. Dr. J.C. said thou would stay in bed until Wednesday and that was yesterday so I am hoping that thou is doing well today.

Two or three letters have gone to Seal Harbor and I am wondering whether thou will change thy plans. If it is just as well for thee to go I hope that thou will go.

I am sure it would be a valuable experience and I hope a helpful and healthful one.

I took it as one of the signs of thy genuine improvement that thou wast taking the going away so easily.

It will make little P- dearer to thee than ever, will it not? And I am sure that everything that happens to thee makes thee dearer to me.

My work goes on steadily but cannot be much hurried. If only it were nearer to thee it would be much more satisfactory but it looks as though it would be our fate to be separated much

of the time for a number of years though not for all time I am sure. These long, continuous visits will not be required after some of the important things which I have on hand have been attended to. Very likely it is a good thing for us! as thy cousin Nancy said, and at any rate I don't seem to make us grow less fond of one another. I have fancied too that this summer has been good for thy self reliance. Doesn't thee think so? It doesn't look now as though I could finish before Sept. and probably it may be a little later. But dearie thy husband loves thee and will come thee whenever necessary. Thy ever loving

I have more paper at the house but not here
F.F. June 21. 1901

Dearest wife -

Your letter telling of your giving up the Seal Harbor visit came yesterday afternoon. Of course I am sorry that you have to miss it but if it is best, it is best.

Dr L.C. had not told me your other news about Peter's advanced age. In some ways I should rather have him come in December than earlier. It would give me plenty of time to finish up out here so that another trip would not be necessary. Perhaps it will not anyway but I think likely that I shall have to come out later if the little fellow comes in.

September. The worst side of it
is the uncertainty you must
feel at not knowing when to expect
him especially because you have
probably told your friends that
the important date would occur
in December. On the other
hand it is a satisfaction to know
that the waiting time is more
than half over instead of less
than half and that there has
come through so nobly up to
this time. Dr. J.C. spoke most
discouragingly of your condition
and ^{that} is now the most important
thing to consider - both on your
own account and on his (not
the Doctor's). Whichever way it

goes, dearie, I shall be contented
if all goes well and I have
such confidence in you that
I think all will go well.

It makes letters from home all
the more important and precious
now that Peter is becoming more
of a reality. This is the
anniversary of our wedding day
and I hope it will be a
bright and cheery day for you,
blessed woman. Of the love
and well wishes of a distant
husband can make it so then
all will be well.

With love for you both
Bessie

J.F. June 22. 1901.

My dearie dear -

It was so delightful to have another good letter from you yesterday afternoon and to be reassured that you were getting on. I have been obliged to stay so long at the building this morning that I have very little time to write before train-time and then I must go back again.

Yesterday I expected them at the building and spent the whole afternoon investigating the electric plant at the State Insane Hospital and talking with

an expert (or called) who was
in the city about electric plants
and particularly about charges for
power in other towns. Rents and
all sorts of charges and prices
are on such a bed rock level
in F.F. that it is difficult to
get anyone to think about anything
that will cost half as much as
is paid elsewhere. But things
are changing and improving.

In the evening we went to the
reception at the Augustas. They
are the people who are in
disaccord over the marriage of
the younger daughter (about 36)

to the Episcopal Clergyman. It
was an auspicious occasion and
the elite were all there. We
talked ~~on~~ in competition with
the orchestra of three pieces
and ate refreshments.

I must hurry to the P.O.
With love, dearie.

Yours

just now F. F. June 23. 1901

Dear little woman -

Will you object, I wonder, to being called little now that you are becoming a complete woman?² Motherhood will make thee more complete and more beautiful than ever in my eyes and I will say big instead of little if politely requested. The day is hot if one stirs about out of doors but at my window in the shade and in the breeze it is comfortable and restful. I shall probably put in a good part of the day resting but shall have to call on the other cousins late in the afternoon.

Yesterday morning after writing
a hasty note to you and going
to the train to post it (too late
for the mail at the Post Office) I
went back to the building and spent
most of the morning in a leisurely
fashion, attending to numerous small
matters. It is something ^{like} doing
our house only it was not in such
bad condition and therefore the pulling
out of one thing does not make
it necessary to pull out quite so
many other things. I have decided
to take out all the plaster and
probably shall tint the new walls
and not put wall paper on them.
This will make a lighter job and

make it easier to fight small animals,
the terror of the whole undertaking.

The dam work goes as well and
the agent is really a first class
man at that kind of work. He
gets on well with the men
and they like him and work pretty
well for him. He knows how
to do the things that I want to
have done sometimes much better
than I should know. We hope
to be laying stone this week.

At the reception which I told
you about, I met a Miss Welch
from Boston, sister of the physician
in charge at the State Hospital
in F.F. She is visiting her brother.

and recognized my name as a member of the 20th Century Club, to which she goes not much oftener than we do. She also knows Richard Fisher and says he comes to dine every Friday with them. She is not young and would pass for a representative of her town anywhere. Do you know her or anything about her?

To go back to yesterday again I spent almost the whole of the afternoon down in the hole where we are digging for solid foundations for our store work. It has something of the excitement of prospecting for gold only it is plain blue clay that

we dig for. Blue clay is as solid a foundation as can be found and it is absolutely impervious to water which is most important for my purposes. I had located a heavy wall and we were digging down in what I supposed to be original gravel when to my surprise we came to a stratum of brush which is used in making earth dams to bind gravel together. A few minutes later we came to black loam and roots of hazel brush which had never been disturbed and I soon found that my wall was located exactly as the slope of an old river bank which had been

filled and covered over for thirty years. The fibrous parts of the hazel roots were as if just pulled up from living plants. It is strange how wood is preserved when in water or damp earth below the action of the air. I am to use heavy timbers which have been under ground for 17 years and look fresh as if just cut.

My head is more crowded with electrical possibilities of late than any other business though Chas. Ames writes me that he has returned from a visit to the New Year, Spotted Horse, Old Batch, Lilt Edge region and that the

mine is all right and that there ~~has~~ been no over statement of it. He says it will be five or six months before it can produce bullion and wants me to put up my share of the necessary funds for building the over head trolley on which our dividends are to be transported from the mine on the mountain to the mill in the valley below. He thinks this the only link lacking in the chain. I shall probably put in \$500. more on his recommendation. These things fill my head when I am out here and it is difficult

to think of anything else now
but when I get back to the
Old Bone Farm again, you
will see me chop and dig again
in genuine apicultural fashion.

Has the garden been a success
and how are the trees getting on
which we planted - and the vines
and lilacs and climatis? It
is a dear spot and you must
keep me posted about these
important matters. Is not if
it troubles you to sit up and
write or if it troubles any of
your family, ~~my~~ family, our
family. Dearie, with love and
lots of it. Yours

F.F. June 24. 1901.

My dear wife -

Your sweet little letter of
21st was waiting for me this
morning and told of your
sewings and cuttings out and
that D-I.C. says you are
getting on well. All of which
things are grateful to the heart
of the husband. Yesterday
was a pretty good rest day
and so was the night and
this morning the wind is blowing
and the sun is shining but there
may come a shower at any time.

There really isn't any news
this morning except that there
is a war and that my heart
is running over full with
thee and that I love thee
very much. Now I feel
better and I hope thee will
when thou reads it.

I must go and borrow a pump
to keep the water out of our
diggins or good-bye till
tomorrow with much love and
news.

Thine

F.F. June 25. 1901.

Draught -

It is a rainy sultry morning and out-door work is stopped.

There will probably be a good storm before long and then the cool north-west (far not middle) wind will come to relieve us.

That is the usual history of the weather in this region and is pretty reliable. Yesterday afternoon I sat on a rock down in the pit again watching the digging for food bottom. It ~~is~~ looks as if we had all but found it and we expect to begin laying store very soon.

The evening was sultry and I read some of Lecky's Map of Life.

It was the chapter on the
management of character and
while he admits that the will
cannot in hopeless cases do much,
the general trend of his opinions
is that constant cultivation of it
can modify failings and weaknesses
to such an extent that it is our
plain duty to keep trying.

There is nothing new in this
but it is worth while to go over
the ground once in a while with
a good and reliable man and
have plain every day truths
rubbed in again. Ledy seems
to me remarkably fair and
broad minded and comprehensive
in his knowledge and experience.

I am not sure that it is
as well to read his book at
one continuous or semi-continuous
reading as it would be in bits
at intervals. It would be a
good book to read a chapter from
at an occasional fireside reading
at the Os Bow Farm.

The Minnesota Children's Aid
representative has just been in
and extracted \$2.00 for the
support of his charges. I looked
over the list of subscribers and
the town is doing pretty well for
him. With love for the and
thy charge - little Peter - and
hope for our future.

Wm

J.F. June 26. 1901.

Draught -

The rain did not come and yesterday was scorching hot. For a half hour in the forenoon the air was dry and hot as if from an oven - the kind of heat I have heard about but never experienced before. If it had lasted, everything would have withered. Today promises to be like yesterday but the air is not bad. I am getting tanned and if the heat continues shall probably lose a pound or two of my surplus fat. The day was uneventful and consisted in supervising several different kinds of work. In the

evening I read a little - not from Mr. Licky but the newspaper - and dug dandelions. I have selected a part of the lawn about fifty feet square and am trying to get all the dandelions out of it.

The little ones keep coming up and I think I found many of them in the same space I had been over before only a few days ago.

They don't seem to flourish in long grass so if we grow hay in our front piece we shall probably not be troubled with them. If they once get started they are a great nuisance. I am now thinking about an interesting development

in connection with the flats.

You know I have told the tenants that parolene would not be allowed. They will therefore be obliged to use kerosene a great deal and I fear that kerosene will be very smelly in spite of modern improvements so I have about decided to put in a ventilation system to be worked by an ~~fan~~ electric fan which will draw air out of the kitchen, scullery and bath rooms. This ought to be an effective cure for smells with but low and wishes for this, best of wishes.

Brown

F.F. June 27. 1901

My dear Mr -

Have my letters been forwarded
from Seal Harbor - about three of
them? In your last letter you
speak of sending your Gul. Elec.
dividend. I sent \$175.⁰⁰ a few
days ago to the N.E. Trust Co. and
received their acknowledgment but
I think it was in one of the
letters sent to Seal Harbor that I
told you about it so that if they
have not reached you, you would
not know about the money.

I will write to Mrs. + Robert
to enquire about Elec. dividends and
also about the applications which

you are holding until the div.
have been paid.

It does not seem as though I
could get away before the first
of September unless it should be
necessary on thy account and I
hope you will be able to bear
up until then. Would it not
be well to get someone to sleep
in the room with you - Libbie
if you would care to have her
or someone else if you would
prefer. I don't want you to
be more uncomfortable than is
absolutely necessary and I don't
suppose I can realize how
uncomfortable the little fellow can

make a dear woman in warm
weather. Bless his little heart
and your bid ad! Dearie,
it is a trial to me too to be
away so long but I hope it is
earning the right to happy days
together next winter. It is an
uneven division of time and efforts
to crowd most of my work into
a few months of summer but the
work and the duty of doing it
are clearly here! Your dear
letters are my daily food and
drink. With much love to you
and sympathy in your trials.
Bless

77. June 29. 1901.

Dear wife -

Yesterday morning I was obliged to stick close to supervision of the work at the dam and could not write to you. This morning it is much the same case for I have only a minute and must run back. We men have not that fussy notion about having things done right which I could wish for and things go wrong if I don't insist. Tomorrow is Sunday and I shall write to thee a longer letter. With much love to thee
Bran

F. F. June 30. 1901.

My dear wife -

What a blessing it is to have
a dear wife - and not the less
when she is far away! * Two
months are gone and we have
reason to be thankful that they
have gone on the whole so smoothly
and with little misfortune or
compared with a year ago. My
heart is very full of the dearie
this Sunday when the week day
load is removed and there is time
and opportunity to write to thee. I
wish it were easier to express
myself but ink will not flow
any more readily than thoughts.

This sounds funny but it was not intended so.

*

will let it and feelings alone
do not make letters. There is
more and more my comfort and
stay and there regulates my conduct
and relations to other people. There
is a good influence and I am
glad beyond everything that there
was willing and ready to marry
me and gladder still that there
loves me and wants me to love
there every day and all the time.

Life is worth living under such
conditions and the knowledge and
remembrance of such conditions
should make it good under all
circumstances. That is the way
it seems at any rate to a happy

husband in a far Northwest.
The week has been a rather
hard one both on account of
the importance of the dam work
and the hot weather. The last
two days have not been bad
but the first part of the week
was very hot and trying on everybody.

It ended with a falling out
between the agent and me in
this wise. On Friday I was
obliged to stop a certain portion
of the work till the water could
be drained off from the stone work
and the deposit of fine yellow dirt
removed. It annoyed the agent
to stop work for his ideas of

the importance of what I wanted
diffused from mine. On Saturday
morning when I got down to the
dam he was laying stone again
without having cleared up according
to my ideas of clearing. I told
him so perhaps too sharply and
he promptly quit work and said
he was done. The men all
like him and of course have
no notion of the importance of what
I was insisting on and were ^{plainly} inclined
to be discontented. But I held
them together until noon and then
as it was Saturday dismissed them
till Monday telling them I would
try to ~~find~~ persuade their foreman

to take charge again. I saw him at the office in the afternoon and had a friendly talk with him and admitted the difficulty of his position between the men and me and also the mistake of haste on my part in taking him up so sharply. Before long he admitted on his side that he was ashamed of himself for letting himself go and explained that the work taxed him so that he was irritable sometimes and then if anything went wrong he didn't hang onto himself as well as he used to. He is no longer young - perhaps fifty-eight. He is to take

change again Monday morning
and I shall try not to be
sudden in correcting things that
are not to my liking. Of course
the real difficulty of a difference
of standards and importance of
small matters has not been cured
but I think he will be willing
to try harder to do what I
want whether he believes it
sense or nonsense and I think
we shall be able to get on
together.

This morning as I
was getting ready to go down
to see if there was a letter from
Thee, he telephoned me to come to
the office. I went down and
in a few minutes had made out

leases for me of the least desirable
flats to a stranger travelling man
who left a small deposit to guarantee
his good faith. It was a flat
which I had feared would not
rent well and I was particularly
glad to seize the opportunity.

That makes only six out of the
eleven ~~but~~ three out of four of the
most expensive ones are included
and I think that most of the
rest if not all will be taken.

My cousin Lucy is good to me
and asked me to put out my
holey stockings so that she could
darn them and ^{I should} not carry back
huge holes to thee. That seems

pretty good, doesn't that think
so? Chas. D. and his big boy
have gone out into the country
to see a farmer and will be gone
most of the day. This afternoon
if it does not rain I shall go
take a walk of about two miles
to the upper electric station to
see their water power improvements
and get some ideas for my own
if possible. It will not be
work and the walk will do
me good. On the way back I
shall make the usual Sunday call
on C. J. and family. That will make
a good day. With all my love, dear
wife, Thy husband Vin