



George B. Wright and Family Papers

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J.F. July 1. 1901

My dear -

The morning has commenced well with two sweet letters from thee written last Thursday and Friday.

Thou must be very careful about the hot weather for it is so easy to overdo when the thermometer is up and vitality is down.

How nice of the Farmers to bring thee such quantities of flowers. I like to think of thee making friends in thy new home.

Yesterday afternoon I tramped an hour to the electric light station and got another useful lesson of the tendency of water to cut

round the ends of lanes. They
had a cut started which if not
promptly stopped would have carried
out their whole station. It is
the same old story of the boy
holding his finger in a hole in
the Dutch dike until help could
be secured. If the thing gets
started it goes very fast.

Last evening we had callers and
sat outdoors in the warm, damp,
and dark until quite late.

I wish I had some of your
new peas and things. We get
them here but they are imported
from I don't know where and are
not fresh and tasty as those

grown in the Old Bow garden
would have to be. You have
told me ~~nothing~~ about Mr. Crook
lately. Is he working on anything?
I hope he can get enough to do
to keep him going in his new
home. Felicitations on securing
a door stone. It must make
a difference to have a door stone
and a handle on the front door.
Did the latch and the knocker both
turn out all right and do you
like them or are they not pretty
satisfactory? With love and love
to Grace and Peter

Ever

F.F. - July 2, 1901

Dearst -

It is raining again this morning after a good day yesterday. The stone wall twelve feet thick at the base went ahead with surprising rapidity, rising nearly three feet in the day. The moral atmosphere was clear and everything went without a hitch. There was no event to write about of more importance than going to the barber in the evening to have my hair cut for the Fourth of July. The city is spreading itself to entertain the surrounding Scandinavian population on the Fourth. Races of all kinds with prizes, two continuous vaudeville

performances, two bands, fireworks
and dancing in an out-of-class
pavilion in the evening. One of the
great events will be the tug-of-war
contest between the towns of the
county for \$50 of prize. It will
be a large day if it does not
rain. This morning I have
rented another suite - to a policeman!

He will occupy it with his small
family and his brother who works
in the bank of which C.D. is
President. Society is well mixed
up you see. That makes seven
out of eleven or just two thirds
of the estimated total rental so
that the building seems sure of
a fair success. My watch

(My watch) has dropped several
hours during the night so I
don't know what time it is
but think this letter must be
hurried to the P.O.

A great deal of love for my
family goes with it.

Thy husband

Brown

F.F. July 3. 1901.

My dearest -

After a hard rain early this morning, the clouds have cleared away and it is getting hot again. I am afraid that you have been suffering from the hot wave which passed over here some days ago and was travelling Eastward. Be wise dearest, wear thin? And don't get fagged out more than is necessary in hot weather. I have been chasing around the Riverside Flats with a lather and now must hustle back to the dam to see to putting up frames or forms of the walls for the masons to build to. I am sorry it is so late. With love Yours

F.F. July 4. 1901.

My dearest -

This is the Glorious Day and the city of F.F. is anxious in two separate senses. Will it rain? Will the country come in to the celebration?

An elaborate program has been prepared and it will be a great disappointment if the day is not a success. Just think of a baseball game, ^{many} ~~a~~ type of war, field sports of all sorts, two bands, and two vanderbilt continuous performances, all going at the same time in a small country town. If that won't be exciting, then the town might as well lapse into another twenty year lethargy. It is a great effort

to be enterprising and deserves
unlimited success. I have just
heard from Moss and Leabot that
the preferred dividend was declared
June 15th payable July 31st
so you might send in the
applications for exchange at once.

When my check comes ^{will} you
please send it to me as it will
have to be endorsed by me.

I have been worried a little over
the reports of great heat all over
the East but your little note
last night was reassuring that
you were getting on pretty well
in spite of it. It cannot be as
hot at So. Lincoln as it is in
Boston - blessed spot with the

in it, blessed woman! The wash-
shed bath room would certainly
be a good thing. Let us hope
that the Spotted Back will
be producing new year dividends
before another summer. Charles
thinks it will. I agree with
you entirely that George will
have to have more wages but
think he ought to work until
I get home at the rate agreed
upon. You did not mean that
he was asking for more, did you?
We shall indeed need many pennies
with our growing family in our
hands and the thought of it makes
it a pleasure to try to provide
them (the pennies). I cannot say

that I have made any this summer - on the contrary I am spending or rather investing many pennies - but I hope that I am getting the property onto a more secure and reliable basis and that in the case of the water power the actual income will be increased, which is just as good as making pennies. The brick block - now Riverside Flats - will probably not do more than make a fair return on the capital invested and I shall be satisfied at that.

Tomorrow, cousin Lucy and the boys will probably move out to the lake and C.D. and I will camp at the house in town and fix our meals

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whenever we can. At the present writing I don't know where that will be but there will be no lack of opportunities though the their quality will not run very high.

Seven little frocks all cut out and stitched! What can so many be used for? Do very young babies wear frocks anyway? I thought they preferred lay dresses or is frock the name for lay dress? What an advantage it is that you don't have to provide two genders of clothes so as to be sure of having the right kind!

Is Mrs. Ming coming or come?
You have said nothing about her

tately and I thought you expected
him at the first of July.

I suppose you will not plan
to go to Marble Head or anywhere
else now that Peter is expected
in October for it would be too
difficult. Does the expect to
go to Town anymore and if not
would there be any use of sending
deeds to be signed and acknowledged?

Possibly thy Uncle Ben will come
out to see thee and then he could
be thy notary. Please let me know
what thou thinks of this problem.

With love for Grace and Peter
and hopes that thou will be good to
both of them Thy loving Niece

F.F. July 5. 1901.

Dear me -

It was a great day with a variety of weather. The parade in the morning was interrupted and drenched by a sudden heavy shower which streaked the floats and white horses with red and blue and impaired the dignified appearance of the marshals of the day mounted on steeds. It rained for an hour but the crowd was held together at windows and doors (and some outside) by a clever high school boy who impersonated a country fook and got himself well wet to the great enjoyment of the populace.

It would have been a very good industrial parade under favorable weather conditions. The afternoon was beautiful and the sports came off in country fashion in the main street. It has past four the town was evacuated and we all went up to see the \$50.00

baseball game between F.F. and Barnesville. It was a first class game and we were in spite of the umpire. In the evening there was to be dancing and fireworks but the clouds rolled up again and there was a most terrific rain and hail storm which must have stopped all festivities.

I got home in time and finished reading Licky. The sidewalks are covered with leaves stripped from the trees by the hail and my building is full of pea-nut shells and altogether we would know that it is the day after the Fourth.

Another nice letter from thee this morning tells me of thy welfare and that green curtains and sythes are running up the expenses. Let me know when thou is running out of funds, dearie.

With love

Thy Mother

J.F. July 6. 1901.

My dearest wife -

Yesterday morning as a result of the 3" of rain which fell on the fourth, the river was running high. One or both of the dams higher up were endangered so they took off some of their flush boards and let the water out. I think our copper dam would have stood the natural rise of the river but the sudden increase was too much for it and again it went out and again I have learned my lesson!

This time either because I am getting used to it or more probably because I don't to blame, it doesn't

trouble me so much though it is no fun. I think it can be fairly said that it was out of the inevitable risks of the undertaking. There was great danger to the dams below for an hour or more but they came through all right and the only damage which I know of is the soaking of a lot of bran which was stored in the basement of a flour and grist mill. How much the damage amounts to I don't know and whether I am liable for it I don't know either. The damage to my work does not appear to be more than the loss of a few days

time and wages. We shall probably be well under way again in three or four days and perhaps sooner. It is troublesome all the same but not beyond the bearing up point and there need not be disturbed or alarmed in any degree.

Tomorrow I shall be able to tell thee what progress we have been able to make in a day toward repairing and make a better estimate of the time it will take to get back when we were before the break.

With lots of love
Thy Friend

July 7. 1901.

My dearest -

It is a bright day with a cool breeze blowing from the South and C.D. and I have been out on the Red River Flats some fifteen miles to see if the grass hoppers were eating up a farm of his. He discovered some days ago that hoppers were there and had begun eating but the wet weather has held them in check and no further damage has been done. They begin at the edge of a field & eat everything clean. At one point there was a strip a few feet wide along one edge of a barley field that looked as if it had not

been seeded at all. I believe
the most effective way of fighting
them is by propagation of a red
parasite. We had a pleasant drive
starting at 7³⁰ and getting back at
12³⁰, a distance of about 30 miles
with a stop of nearly an hour.

The C.D.'s have a scheme for
driving which I want to recommend
to you. They sit on a soft
sofa pillow and the effect is
to ease jarring the spine with
consequent back ache. Cousin Lucy
finds it makes a great difference with
her. I tried it this morning and
I am sure that the long drive
did not make me as tired as it

would have without the pillow.

You know I have bones and the
constant tension of trying to relieve
them is wearing. There has no
bones but there has a spine and
I think it would be worth while
to try the experiment.

We made some progress with
the dam work yesterday but found
that it would be difficult to go
on so we decided to make a
new outlet for the water at the
other end of the dam and hope by
that means to get rid of its
interference with our work almost
entirely. There is seldom a loss
without its compensation and end of

the compensation in this case is that we have probably found the source of a leak which had been taking place for a long time and which we could not locate as the outlet is at a considerable distance from the source. It is much more difficult to rebuild an old dam than to build an entirely new one. There are unexpected difficulties which sometimes cannot be known before hand and then there are the rights of other powers and the rights of your own users, temporarily deprived of their power and altogether it is not as simple as we could wish.

When we get it done it should

be the best improved power on the river. One might say the only power in good condition, for all the others are in a tumble-down state and some in a dangerous condition.

Thy sweet letter telling about the domestic affairs — Elizabeth and her recent accident, Libbie and her troubles, and George and his business. Licky calls it a moral offence to bring children into the world without any probability of being able to properly support them. Whether this is so or not, it is easy to believe that with her three children to provide for it is better that Elizabeth should not have any more. Is it? ²⁰

that she gets? If so and if you think her work worth more I should think we ought to pay her more.

Please write me what thou thinks of it. Poor Libbie! Thou wilt have to deal gently with her and perhaps give her some cautious advice.

The newspapers have been giving such reports of the heat all over the East that I am rejoiced that thou gets through it so well. The hot wave seems to be quite broken here in Minnesota but there will doubtless be other waves to follow. In the meantime the change is a relief.

The very best love for thee, dear one,
from thy husband Emma

F. F. - July 9. 1901.

My dearest wife -

Yesterday was Monday and there were things to ~~see~~ see to in the morning so thy letter did not get itself written. The day went off very well and was tolerably comfortable. The water power is now of absorbing interest and requires much consideration. The delay in getting back to where we left off will amount to several days but I cannot yet tell how many. Did I tell thee that one more flat (making 8 out of 11) is routed. The building seems to be at a stand-still and has been for some time. There are always such

periods when there seems to be
no progress at all. Plastering
will begin in a day or two.

Thy letters are so cheering and
refreshing. They are the event
of the day when they come and
I wish I could repay thee with
such nice long ones as thou sends
me. In the evening I have time
but I don't think it best to write
then and in the morning I have
to hurry them. Thy conversation
with Lucy and Mrs. Dimock must
have been unpleasant in its after
taste and I doubt if it is
useful to discuss the subject
very much. Every one has
his own experiences and points

of view and I am glad that
these differed so radically from
thine. There is no occasion
for alarm dearie and I am
a little annoyed at them for
talking to thee that way though
I suppose they think their worldly
wisdom is profitable for thee.

I don't think so myself and
think it better to keep our
minds as pure as possible.

Thy pure heart my beloved
makes me love and admire thee
more and more.

With love and good hopes
and wishes
Pious

F.F. July 10. 1901

Dear -

Again there are only a few minutes to write this. There are a lot of men turning jack-screws in the basement of the Flats building to raise the floors and make the doors close somewhere near level. It is an old building and the floors are pretty badly out of level in some places. Yesterday was a hard day and the work went forward as well as could be expected. In the evening I sat out and read a paper and talked to C.D. and later read the record

and last paper in the Scribners' on the Venezuelan question by Ex-President Cleveland. That completed the day and it was a fairly good night for sleep.

There is a good, sweet lady and is much beloved by the husband who thinks of her a great deal.

Friend

7.7. - July 11. 1901.

Dear little woman -

Yesterday was another day without great events. The plastering was commenced which was good and the plasterer came to me and said he expected me to buy him new boards for a scaffold which was bad and which I declined to do.

These were the chief events. The jack-screws raised the floor about two inches and they look better but require more still. The new waste gates or sluices are nearly ready to have the river turned into them. So "It does more" in spite of apparent inertia. Cousin Lucy came

came in last night from the lake
and is apparently going to camp with
us for a day or two - probably going
back on Saturday to stay over Sunday
and C.D. and I shall probably go
with her. I hope it is only as
C.D.'s account that she came in
but fear it may have been partly
as my own as well. It is a
little embarrassing to have her
disarrange herself and her plans
as my account but I don't ^{know} what
to do about it. I am glad she
went to the luncheon in spite of
thy ample proportions and glad also
that she takes joy in thy motherly
appearances. I have just received

a bill from Doctor Potter for \$2.00
which seems not too grasping and
a day or two ago I sent Nelson
Bro. a check for \$25.00 to apply
as their bill. They will have to
wait until I get home to see whether
the irons are all right before getting
the balance and as they kept me
waiting long enough they can hardly
object. I hope that my accidents
are over and that everything will
go straight ahead now until the
blessed day when we shall meet
again in the blessed house.
With Love to Grace and Peter

Thine own
Wm

F.F. July 12. 1901.

Dear one -

Yesterday was another uneventful day. Work went ahead slowly but steadily, the only apparent showing being the plastering in the building.

Plastering seems to mark a sudden advance from the very unfinished to the nearly finished stage. It is a more apparent than real step but it gives satisfaction just the same.

In the evening I began at the middle of a story by Josephine Laskau and finished it. It was only a short, magazine, summer story and quite harmless and afterwards I went to bed.

That seems to finish the story of
my life so far as yesterday is
concerned. It was rather hot
and not conducive to events or
activities. Saturday afternoon
we shall go to the lake to spend
Sunday and probably the Misses
and the boys will stay and C.D.
and I will return to our camping
at the house in town.

This is all the news I can
get together for this excuse for
a letter but I like to write
daily just to tell thee that I
am well and all is well here.

With love
Penny

7.7. July 13. 1901.

Draught -

It is frightfully hot this morning. The sky is clear and the sun working hard. In two or three hours we shall make the attempt to stop the gap which remains in the copper dam. The ends have been patched up and there is left a gap about fifteen or twenty feet wide through which the whole river is now running rapidly. We have built another channel for it and have a raft ready to float into the gap which we hope will stop it and turn

the river. Of course the raft will not fit tightly so we have loads and loads of brush at hand to fill the joints and gravel and rock to pile in as the brush.

The dam up the river will put up its flash boards and hold back the natural flow of the stream for about two hours and in that time we hope to make our coffer dam tight. If we don't succeed this time we shall have to try again but as the head of water is down in our mill pond there can be no great volume

of water suddenly let loose and consequently no great damage can be done. This is the exciting event of the day.

This afternoon we shall go to the lake to stay Sunday and if former experiences are repeated I shall be very sleepy all day long. Cousin Lucy goes out this morning with many bundles, our cat, three dogs (in the conveyance) and our domestic. It will be a formidable procession by itself. With much appreciation for thy nice long letters and love for Grace and Peter - Bessie

July 16. 1901.

My dearest wife -

I cannot tell thee what a consolation it is to get ~~your~~^{thy} chery letters and know that thou is doing so well. These are days of trial and considerable anxiety to me.

Coffin dams are uneasy things to manage. We closed the gap yesterday afternoon but the water continued and still continues to flow underneath. By working all night with bags of sand and gravel we have managed to hold our own but that is all.

There is still danger of it going
out again before we can make
it tight but I hope for the
best. This is all I can write
now to thee, dearie.

With much love
Emma.

F.F. - July 17. 1901.

Draught woman -

The situation is getting no worse and probably there is a chance that we shall stop the gap today. It is not a sure thing by any means and it is not sure that it will stay stopped even if we can stop it. All the same things don't seem quite as desperate as yesterday for the reason that if the water should go out again there is a probability that it would now go without as much danger to the property below. I can't explain this but it is a relief to feel it all

the same. Even beginning all
over again can be contemplated
with more composure than a smash.
I can't do much to wear or make
but mostly sit around and take
an interest. The work is in
charge of the agent who is
much more experienced in ways
and means to get things done
in the water than I am. He
does not appear to me to do always
the right thing but criticism is
of little use and suggestions
have to be offered with caution.

It doesn't help much to change
methods in ^{damming} a river more than

horses in crossing it. I had a
good sleep last night and am
in good condition today so
don't worry about the long
man but just write him more
good letters.

Yours

A lady cousin is going to be
married in St Paul and we have
to give her something. Will
this phase send out our cards
and if I don't go down soon
I will have Char. Amos buy
something.

V.

F.F. July 18. 1901.

My dear aunt -

I was unable to write this morning before mailing time and it is now just after bread and milk and blueberry luncheon time. The work of putting bags of sand into the river goes steadily on and before long we shall know whether our job will hold. A gap has been left purposely through which the water runs but we are nearly ready to stop it. The plan has been to build a dike of sand bags all round the break in the coffee dam and by this time we must have put in about 1500 bags. It makes

a solid looking dike about four or five feet wide at the top and probably twenty feet wide at the bottom — probably near than twenty.

This morning I sold a lot and as the purchaser is to pay a thousand dollars on receipt of the deed and as I need the sum, will thee please execute and acknowledge it before a Notary Public as soon as thee can conveniently. I think thee said thee could find a notary in Concord. I have been holding another deed and a plat of lands which were less urgent but take the occasion to send them along at the same time. They also

should be executed and acknowledged before a Notary Public.

The plat should be signed below my name where I have put your initials and should have two witnesses in the space at the left. Please be sure to have two witnesses to your signatures on the deeds also, of whom the notary may be one.

I am very sorry that thee feels disappointed in Libbie and that thee could not look forward to her return with pleasure.

It is probably true as Mary said that working people did not look upon a certain looseness of relations

in the same way that thou did
and I think thou cannot well
expect to find companionship with
thy domestic people as the basis
of holding them to thy ~~own~~ standards.
Standards will differ in different
strata of society except in rather
rare instances and I think we
must try to take people for the
found in them even if they cannot
meet our ideals. I saw readily
~~to~~ see how it would be more difficult
to do this with Libbie because
thou has already admitted her
to a rather unusual intimacy.

Moreover she had a long time
while thou was not so well

of doing things her own way and
did not get as well trained as
she would now if she were
coming to thee as a new girl.

If thee cannot trust her, she
must not stay - but I think
thee must excuse her having
told about Peter to her family.

However annoying it is not
to be able to control our own
affairs it is a natural weakness
which I think almost any girl
would have given in to, to tell
her family. I am wondering
what thee will or can do about
her relations with George. Of course

they must be corrected in some way. Then blames Libbie more than George but if he is engaged he certainly is not without blame on his side either. I do not think he would go too far unless under great provocation and I hope a little straight talk with Libbie will show her the mistake she is making and perhaps make them both ashamed of themselves.

The clipping about the measles that binds was interesting - very - but I too could accept it only with qualification. It was carefully written but after all was too near

the theory of the purely physical basis of love. We all know that we are subject to temptations but it seems to me that by resisting and regulating we may develop character and at the same time change gradually the nature of physical love until it becomes something else which I thought the author scarcely hinted at or seemed to take stock in. Elderly people can and do love and rely upon each other and so must we, dearest.

Bruce

7.7. July 19. 1901.

My dearie -

It is a very hot morning with a perfectly clear sky and prospects of another scorching day. The men are at work stopping the gap with sand bags and already have made progress. I cannot tell yet whether they will be entirely successful but hope and think they will. That will make a delay of a little over two weeks in the work at the dam.

Last night we - C.D. and I - went to see the fireworks which were

not used in the Fourth on
account of rain in the evening.

They went off rather reluctantly
and tamely - some of them being
quite wilted. But the whole
town was there to see, gathered
around the shores of Lake Alice,
a pond on the north edge of the
city or rather quite in the city.
The thrips were shot from a
band stand in the middle of the
pond and the people sat on the
lawns of the houses which face
the pond. With much love to
Grace and Peter Omar

F.F. July 21. 1901.

Dearest wife -

I have just received your letter giving the details of the domestic drama. The preliminary note came yesterday just as I was hurrying for a morning train and I could not answer it. You seem to be mistress of the situation and when I think of last year I can but rejoice. You have made gains in self reliance and now if you only won't get too proud and think you can stand anything and everything, we shall have reason to be very thankful. It seems to me you did it just right in saying to Libbie that you thought she

would be better off under her mother's
care instead of discharging her outright.
And as for George's part, he
evidently did the discharging himself.

Whether it would have been as
well to take him back if he came
to you in a really repentant mood
and with acknowledgment of his error
is a matter which I cannot know
about at this distance and without
feeling the circumstances and general
atmosphere of the situation. A really
bad or immoral man could not
come back in that way and acknowledge
himself in the wrong but you are
on the ground and I trust in your
sense of fairness. He certainly
could not be taken back without

coming to a complete understanding
of his relations to the girl in Vermont.
It would be fair to know his intentions
toward her before having anything
more to do with him. But this
is all useless speculation on my
part. It takes so long to get replies
by correspondence that events are
perfectly sure to shape themselves
quite irrespective of the man in
the west. He has his own
problems too which are just now
occupying all his energy. It did
not prove practicable to stop the
break in the Cofferdam entirely
~~but~~ because it threw too large
a volume of water in another direction
and opened up new possibilities of

trouble. But we have it pretty well under control and have adopted a plan of letting it run over the break but directing the current or confining it ~~it~~ in such a way as to allow work to go ahead in the dam. We hope to be able to build part of our wall in this way and then switch the current and build more. Yesterday I went up to the foot of Otter Tail Lake, a lake nine miles long and about two and a half wide which acts as a storage reservoir. I had hoped to be able to put in more flush boards and hold back more water but found the lake brim full and that nothing could be done.

The flow is now a little over five times as great in the river as it was at the lowest point last year and has been rising steadily since the heavy rains of about July 4th until this last week when it seems to have been stationary. If we have no more rains there may be a slight reduction in the flow coming out of Otter Tail Lake though it will be two weeks before it could be felt at Fergus Falls. If we can get through with our work without further damage or serious delay it will be something to be thankful for. This morning I was called at five o'clock and took

a train a half hour later to Fergus
Tells and by half past six was
in bed again in the deserted
C.D. house. I got up considerably
later and dressed and washed slowly
in the advancing heat of the day.
Then went down town to get bread
and milk and the letter. Then
home again where it is now
half past twelve and I write to
the beloved woman. Lily, the
domestic, being a good catholic has
been in to Mass and I am to
drive out to the lake with her
to spend the afternoon and night.

At this moment there is no
special anxiety in connection with

F.F. matters and this has made me
think that there is not going to
be broken down by the situation
at Old Bow Farm. I only hope
that there is not making to have
a show of all-rightness and that
there is as well as there seems.

So I think I can have a good
restful day and night and be
ready for Monday.

Mr. Crook is a tramp and I
am going to stop now to write him
a short note of gratitude before
posting this and starting.

With love and hope for Grace
and the little fellow Brown

July 23. 1901.

My dearest -

After writing to thee Sunday I drove out to Swan Lake with Tilly the hand-maid. It was a very hot drive but cool at the lake when we got there. In the afternoon we rested and viewed the aquarium which the boys have collected and had a sail. Other people came to the Wright piazza and visited and then at a decent hour we got to bed and had a good rest. I did at any rate in spite of the dog which got loose and barked and had to be taken in at an unseemly hour in the night.

Monday morning I was late in getting into town and so did not

write to thee. I had a letter
from another however in which
she told of being sick with grip
for three weeks. She is still
confined to her bed. I have written
her that I thought she should give
up her work in Battle Creek and
come to South Lincoln this autumn.
It is really too hard for her and
there appears to be another woman
now who can take her place.

If she will give it up, it is
not right to let her stay longer
in Battle Creek for she is getting
older and while still strong is not
as she used to be. What does thee
say to this, dearie? We made
good progress yesterday in building

stone wall and it was a great
satisfaction to see the permanent
work resumed though I cannot
be sure that our trials are
over yet. With much love
for thee and much admiration
for thy conduct in thy trials,
dear one,

Ernest

J.F. - July 24. 1901.

Dearest -

It is a very hot morning with no wind and no clouds except certain dark looking thunder storm indications in the North. Usually such a hot morning brings a change before midday but we are having dry weather now and so signs are not reliable. Another good stride was made yesterday in the work at the dam. The building is backward - partly on account of lack of attention from the architect who is impressed with his dam. The evening was unusually hot

too and we sit and read,
with a variation of an hour
of talking while Elmer Adams
came in. This doesn't make
much to write about but indicates
at any rate that nothing is going
wrong. Did the chairman of the
Wayland Board of Health desire
to reply to your letter?

Mr. Carlson really is artistic
but a hustler also and in the
case of Mr. Crook he undoubtedly
feels that it is good for him to be
obliged to finish his work at a
certain time. That Mr. Crook's
short coming and a serious

one from a pecuniary point
of view and if he only could
get to turn out his work faster
he could save more. Both Mr.
Coolidge and I have talked to
him about it and he has
admitted the short-coming.

I am glad thou likes his bears.

With love and best
wishes for thee and thine
I remain

7.7. July 25. 1901.

Dear Mr -

With thy little letter yesterday came one from J.C. saying what you had already told me, that indication pointed to Sept 15th. He asks also whether impregnation could have taken place between Nov. 10. and Dec 8. or if there is any certain date when it might have occurred. I have written him

that it could not have happened between Nov 1st and 25th but that I could not be sure of later dates.

I was here in 7.7. in November until about Thanksgiving time, was I not, but even allowing that, we

are not much nearer to anything
definite. I shall arrange
my affairs to be home before
Sept. 15th if indications continue
to point to so early a date but
it does not seem to me that he
can be right about it. He
tells me that there seems well
in spite of the recent domestic
upheaval and that is great comfort.

There is no news except a
rain which has cooled the air
and broken the long spell of hot
weather. I am hoping that the
river will not rise much in
consequence. With love

Brown

F.F. July 26. 1901.

Dear woman -

It is cool almost cold and the waistcoat has come in again after many days of idleness. It has been altogether the hottest and most continuously hot weather recorded in this part of the continent.

The relief is felt by everybody for the strain was trying and wearing. Thy good letter telling about Helen Schusinger's engagement and enclosing cards for my cousin's wedding present has just come.

As the wedding takes place Aug. 1st I cannot get anything for her before that time and shall therefore leave it till I get home. Thy

are to ~~be~~ live in Hartford, Conn.
I am glad thou saw thy Helen
and that she is to be married and
think a brass ink-stand would be
a very nice present. Only it will
have to wait. I am thinking, till
thou is again going to town or
till thy man gets home and gets
around to it. Perhaps two ink-wells
might be ordered at the same time.

There is an advantage in having
Peter come early as thou says in
bringing me home but I very
much fear that in that case I
shall have to come out again.

If he can wait until Oct. 1st
I shall try to fit my work to such
a point that it can be left to

the agent to finish. There has
been so much delay in the
same work and is still so much
uncertainty about it that it does
not seem possible that I can
leave it for good on Sept 1st

As between being away before
Peterkin comes and afterwards, I
should say it was better to be
away before. Does thou not think
so? Please be good and

not pull over trunks and boxes
in the attic when it will make
thee tired. There is much in my
mind these days, dearie, and
thou is a good and joyful subject
to think upon. With love
Benedict

F.F. July 27. 1901

My dearest wife -

First in regard to thy letter of 19th. I have one of that date which was posted at So. L - also on the 19th. I have one of 20th written at 8 A.M. which says that Libbie is going off that morning and which was posted in Boston the same day (20th). This must be the one to which you refer and which you thought had been written on the 19th. I am very glad there is not disturbance by Maffei's letter as it apparently was written partly for the very purpose of disturbing and therefore does not deserve serious thought or consideration. I agree with thee that further

correspondence at present would not help matters. It is natural for members of her family to take her side entirely and try to believe that injustice has been done to her and time is the only cure for that.

I have another forlorn letter from my mother in which she expresses gratitude for having sent her car \$25.⁰⁰ at her request.

She went down stairs one day and in consequence has been in bed ever since with some fever and much perspiration which is weakening her strength and some bowels and stomach trouble. I think she is quite ill but she is capable of great endurance. With love for you both
Brewer

F. F. - July 27. 1901.

My dear wife -

This is Monday evening and no letter has been posted to thee since Friday morning. Saturday morning I wrote the usual short note (which I enclose with this) but when I went out as usual to post it something drew me off and it was forgotten.

Yesterday I was at the lake all day and was sleepy. I went sailing in the morning and again in the afternoon but most of the time I put in resting and catching up, having slept not more than twelve hours Saturday night. It was a cool pleasant day but in the evening there was a very heavy rain for

an hour followed by a shift of wind and a terrific blow for half an hour. It seemed as though nothing could stand but in fact everything did. The waves rolled onto the beach like respectable ocean waves and the sail boat pitched and tossed at her warrings.

In the beginning of it Geo. B. came tumbling into the house from the tent in which he sleeps and made his father almost sick by begging to be allowed to go sailing. It was quite dark and the wind was squally as well as howling.

Of course the dad did not let him go and Geo. was unhappy in consequence. He said it

was the only good sailing wind there had been this summer. I do not think he could have got his sail up and got under way at all in such a wind.

This morning we got in too late for a letter to thee and I have passed nearly all the time since at the dam where work is again under way. If we can have a few days now without accident or misfortune we shall be practically out of damp. The river is running strong and full but there has been no harm lately.

The dunder and plat came today. Thank thee. With love
Bennie

F.F. July 30. 1901.

My dearest -

Just a line to tell you that all is well and work progressing. My letter this morning tells of continued domestic equanimity and that makes me happy too.

Yes, dearie, we are both looking forward to a day of reunion and like thee I wish for it more and more. But my work is here and I must not desert it sooner than is necessary. A note from Chas. Anus yesterday contained appropriate felicitations on our September expectations. He learned

of it through Mary. I am
glad that you and Louis got
on so well. What about
Mrs. Ming. Her plans or your
plans must have been changed.
as she was to come in July 1st
or thereabouts.

With much love for Gae
and Peterkin.

Ernest.

July 31. 1901.

My dear wife -

It is another cool and beautiful morning but chiefly remarkable because it brings me one day nearer to this. The long delays caused by the second wash-out begin to make me impatient to see the work go ahead faster but there is really nothing to complain of just now. It must be done and must if possible be done right and well so that it will stand for a long time without danger of breaks and wash-outs. One gets cautious and perhaps timid after a little experience with water turned loose

I don't want any more of it
and think that in a week we
should be out of any immediate
danger. It will be a relief to
feel that moment at hand. I wish
I could rush things so as to get
finished in half time but I must
be satisfied to see slow and sure
progress. Perhaps I might add that
I must be contented also which is
more difficult. Nothing in particular
happened yesterday. In the evening
I took my bundle and called on
the wash-lady. She is the person
named in one of the deeds which
thou sent me a few days ago and
has saved enough money to buy

a sixty dollar lot next to her house
in which she will grow cabbages
and potatoes. She has already
bought and paid for the house in
which she lives and has \$money in
bank which she does not want
to draw out for this new purchase.
I think she seems rather more
prosperous than most of the people
who employ her. But no one
judges her her prosperity as she
earns it and deserves it. I suppose
those are the only times in which
prosperity is really appreciated.
Let's earn and deserve ours.

My best love to thee, dear and, and
to the little fellow whom we love.
Yours

7.7. Aug. 1. 1901.

My dearest wife -

Yesterday afternoon I had thy Sunday letter telling that thou was tired and asking me to be home by Sept. 12th. Be reassured, dearie, I will do it though it will probably be necessary to come out again later. I am sorry thou was tired and blue and hope that before thou gets this thou will have rested up again and got thyself into better shape. Thou has been a very good woman this summer and has lightened my trials by thy cheerful accounts of thyself and thy home doings. Without this comfort it would have been a

hard summer indeed. I hope
that thy weariness is only a
temporary symptom and that thou
wilt ^{be able} to prevent the affairs of
the house and farm from weighing
on thy mind. It will be less
than a month from the time
thou receives this and it will
soon pass. I shall get things
into such condition that they can
be left and then shall be able
to devote myself to Grace and
Peterkin. It will be worth a
summer's toil, dearst, and I
trust that the confidence that
we shall be together on Sept 1st
again will give thee good heart
for the rest of the time. I send

check for \$175.⁰⁰ for August to
the instead of to the bank as
thou asked and am rejoiced that
the farm has contributed something
to the support of the family.

Poor old Sally! It may be that
she is getting old and that her
teeth are too long to masticate
properly. If so, a horse-doctor
man ^{could} file them down — floating
I believe they call it — Most
old horses have to go through the
process. Sometimes we shall have
to have a new horse. With
hopes and wishes and love

Thy husband
Vernon

F.F. Aug. 2. 1901.

My dearest -

Thy Tuesday letter is reassuring after the Sunday one and I hope that resting will keep the well and cheerful until Sept. 1st and that the stern discipline of a husband will keep the well and bouncing afterwards. Bouncing is perhaps not the word but it means bursting with good health. Yesterday afternoon I had a belated letter from thee, written the 25th, finished the 26th and posted at Boston the 30th, telling about the Crook baby. I hope the little thing is doing better. And what about Richard? Has thee heard any news of him these latter

weeks? If he had been worse
it would seem as though there would
have been. There is nothing new
from my mother but I fear she
is not well. There is little

news here except continued good
progress at the same slow progress
at the building. Last night C.D.
and I drove to a remote corner of
the town with a laundry basket
and later inspected a partially graded
street, the residents of which are
working people who explained that
they had signed a petition to have
their street graded but did not
want it graded. The evening
before, while pondering over the
Trials, I read a couple of short

stories by Mary Wilkins which
haired on her pretty well strained
note of New England forlorn country
It gets late —

L.

7.7. - Aug. 3. 1901.

My dear -

It is another beautiful day. In fact the days have all been fine since harvesting commenced a week ago. and if they continue the grain will nearly all be cut in another week. It will be a good crop in this region and that means a great deal to everybody here and also something to thee and me. Yesterday passed uneventfully. Most of it was spent with the mill manager fitting in new water wheels which we ordered at the end of the day. When all is completed it should be a good power plant with new stone dams

and flumes, new wheels and a
new dynamo for electric power.
It is a great satisfaction to see
it grow after days and weeks of
delay and trial. It is very
expensive however and I shall
have to borrow quite a lot of
money though up to this time I
have not borrowed any on that
account, although I did borrow
\$2000.00 early in the summer
to close up an outstanding debt
of mother's. The checks were
received, thank thee, and will go
to stop gaps. It was a nice
cheerful letter again telling of
the visit to the Chamberlins and
of the securing of the new girl.

I shall want to hear more of her
when you know her. There will
not be chumming with her until
there knows her well I am thinking.
It seems to be the experience of
most house-keepers that it does not
pay to be too intimate. It makes
it difficult to hold up a standard
or to make corrections. I am glad
there likes the new James and
that he seems to work well. As
for George I think he is getting
some valuable experience for it
does not seem to me that he is
laid at heart. Less than a month,
dearie, and the time is flying.
With love
Thy Father

F. F. - Aug. 5. 1901.

My dearest -

It is after luncheon on Monday and I seize the moment to write to thee. As usual I was late in getting in from the lake this morning.

Yesterday was a beautiful day with a light cool breeze blowing off the lake and I rested a lot. Also I sailed a little while in the morning and called on other people in the afternoon and evening. It was in no respect exciting or thrilling but just a good healthy day with plenty of time to think of thee and thy doings.

The evening before I rowed cousin Lucy around the lake in the rain

attempt to catch a fish for breakfast.
I think it was the first time I have
rowed since the picnic supper at
Lake Champlain. Swan Lake is
just now principally remarkable
for the large number of children
who thrive and enjoy themselves
as its share. They are under
foot everywhere and there is not
a moment when their shouts cannot
be heard. There are enough of them
to make at least three distinct
groups by size. The smallest
well defined group being from six to
ten years old known has to row
a boat astonishingly well and is
now learning to swim. This group

bi-sexual. The middle size group
seems to be entirely of girls of
about twelve years and is not
so much in evidence. The big
group is bi-sexual again but
inclined to be masculine in point
of numbers. These are the big
boys and girls of sixteen to eighteen
but children as much as the younger
ones. Besides there are some odd
lots of children mostly of small
and unclassable size and not
so numerous. But on Sundays
when the friends of all the ages
are visiting, they are not easily
counted. With love, dearie,
Bessie

7.7. - Aug. 6. 1901.

My dearest wife -

It is after lunch again in another clear and not too hot day. Last night there was a shower and thunder storm which cleared the air though it did not need much clearing and today the world is shining. Yesterday afternoon there was a fire which burned furiously for an hour and threatened to consume a large part of the wooden town but only some barns and one or two small houses were burned. The sparks lighted on a barn which my mother and I saw and caught in a half a dozen different places, at one point getting through the roof

and dropping into the hay. It was a close call for the barn and if it had burned would undoubtedly have carried the fire further into the town. It was all over by six o'clock. In the evening I went home with E. Adams and sat on his piazza until the unusually late hour of a quarter to ten or perhaps ten minutes before ten. We talked business projects as usual, more particularly the possibilities of building small houses to rent. After that I went home and got to sleep before the thunder storm came I think. This morning I have been down to the dam where the small stream which

has continued to trickle through the coffer dam was being turned from its course right through our wall into a permanent waste-way which will allow us to build up the gap left in the wall for the trickle. The time is passing very swiftly and I shall have to leave undone many things which I ought to do but someone else will have to do them.

It was such a nice long letter yesterday afternoon. My scheme for inviting the Cortijos to lunch and see the bear is good and I hope it will go off successfully.
thy very own
Kramer

7.7.-Aug. 7. 1901.

My dearie -

Days differ somewhat and today business matters look complicated and as though they could not be straightened out by any possibility before Sept. 1st. But they will have to be, just the same, and very likely by tomorrow a ray of light will put ~~as~~ different face ~~on~~ the prospect. The stone wall continues to grow and the bldg. continues to lag. but there is nothing to complain of. Chas. Ames has written me another note which I have not yet answered saying that he and Leslie will probably start East the last of this month and inviting me

I come down and spend Saturday
and Sunday with them. I shall
not do it but should like to arrange
to go East with them part of the
way. I shall probably stop off
at Battle Creek and should like
to stay one evening at Buffalo &
see the electric display at the Ex.

I can't think of anything that
has happened since yesterday except
a very remarkable display of thunder
clouds and white cumulus piled
together loosely enough to show holes
of intense blue sky. All this happened
last evening at about sunset time
and I longed for thee to see it.

The moon will be full just
before I get home but perhaps

there will be enough left over
for two human beings to divide
between them or to add in case
they like that better.

Thine with love and good
hopes and wishes

Wm.

77. Aug. 8. 1901.

My dear Mr.

It is comparatively late - nearly eight in the evening and I have written thee no letter today.

This afternoon I received thine telling about Geo's story telling.

It is the kind of offence that cannot be parried and must be simply ignored. Of course I don't know what he has said or how many times he has said it.

Try not to mind it dearie and others will not mind it. I am glad thou has invited the Corlidges though I don't quite see how that atones for not making a dinner call.

Neither do I see how this avers
a dinner call but if thou says
thou does, then thou does.

It is too abstract for me but
I hope it is all right and
nobody's hurt. I hope also
that this will go off with the
right mail because it carries
so much love from
thy husband
Thine

77. Aug. 9. 1901.

Draust -

There was a change of weather in the night and today it is almost cold. The last opening in the wall has been stopped and the stone work is above water and going on finely.

The plasterers quit yesterday afternoon to go and do another job without notice. They left ~~and~~ word that they would be back this summer but did not appear. That is a way with plasterers and to be expected of them. They try to cover as much ground as possible and keep every body as contented as the circumstances will admit. I had another letter from mother this morning in which she says she has been thinking about my suggestion to

visit us. She does not look upon it as a permanent arrangement at present for she says she promised her cousin that she would stay with her mother as long as she lived.

But the change and rest would be likely to give her new strength for her work. She says she is determined not to work so hard in the future and if she can stick to her resolve, the place is not at all distasteful to her. She feels that she is doing something worth while and I think she is.

The step-brother's wife is again in need of help and on mother's account I shall have to help her. This morning I have spent between the building and the lane. Inspecting a plumbers

test in and and watching the growth of the stone work in the other. It is an absorbing delight to see it grow after the weeks of delay. Sometimes it has seemed as if there would be no end to it and now when we are just passing from the ever present danger of another washout into the nearly certain security that comes to pass behind a thick stone wall, I almost hold my breath to see another stone laid or another foot added to the height of the wall.

With much love to the dearest wife of my piggard, and to thy little one
Bran

F.F. Aug. 10. 1901.

My dearest Grace -

After the dull weather of yesterday comes the sun and cool air again.

As they say in Sorrento, "Post subita Phoebus"! Imagine the fat blond waiter at the Vittoria saying that! The change of weather shook up my immorist, being a bit but not seriously. Deane, there is not to worry over the affairs of life. If J. Farrar is late with his coal, there is too chide him roundly if there sees fit but there is not to worry. If Mr. Sheppard brings in old express bills and charges there 15 cents for banking facilities there is to talk it over freely and without any feeling except

a desire to get at the truth
and this is to pay him or not
as thou sees fit but thou is not
to worry. Of course if he wants
to charge 15 cents for banking
he is at liberty to do so and there
is no chance to argue for one
cannot discuss the propriety of
doing friendly acts. It is a matter
of inclination on his side. As for
the Transcript it would be well
to subscribe regularly instead of
buying at 3 cents per number but
(let me add) thou is not to worry.
In fact whatever thou does or
does not, thou is not to worry.
Thou, thou now has wisdom
thrust upon thou which should
keep thou well supplied for just

three weeks or thereabouts and then
thou will get as much more as thou
will take. I agree with thou
that thou time is long enough though
it goes very fast. But it is days
and not months we have to count.

For news I have to tell thou that
the plasterers returned yesterday
afternoon - reduced to one in
number - and their work is dropping
again. I think that is the
only incident the day brought forth.

In the evening, I read a learned
book about dunes until half past
nine and then went to bed to stay
until eight this morning. I suppose
we shall go to the Lake this afternoon.
Please don't worry, will thou dear?
Thy very own Vernon

7.7. Aug. 11. 1901.

My dearest wife -

We did not drive out last night because C.D. had an appointment with a dentist this morning and it looked like rain. We expect to go when the dentist gets through with him this morning. It is a beautiful clear day after the shower and the lake and country will be pretty. Mrs. E. Adams invited me to dinner today but I declined in favor of the prior engagement to go to the lake. I spent the evening with E. Adams after reading the paper and talked as usual of various business interests. He explained about an advertising scheme which occupied nearly the whole of the front

page of his paper in the guise of
the opinions of Uncle Josh.

Uncle J. comes to town and, being
in need of various household supplies
to set up an establishment for his
niece who is to be married, goes about
town and purchases from dealers whose
names and fair reputations are set
forth in a flattering way and back
words dialect by Uncle Josh.

I have been interrupted by a real
estate man from Minneapolis who
was in search of information
concerning a certain piece of real estate.

He has taken so much time that
I must go for fear of detaining C.D.
Best Sunday love to Grace and Peter
from
Thine ever
Kum

F.F. - Aug. 12. 1901.

My dearest one -

It is a warm day again and work is progressing satisfactorily. C.D. and I drove out to the lake according to the program and passed a lazy and restful afternoon.

There was no breeze but the air was cool enough for comfort. I called on some people and talked some with a Miss Welch whom I wrote thee about some time ago. She is the Boston spinster who knows Richard Fisher and goes to Osterville or Hyannis customarily. We also discussed the servant question a little and Mrs. Welch, president of the local women's

club and optimistic by temperament, took the ground that servants were generally speaking ill-treated and that they should be regarded as human beings who have contracted to do certain things for a certain price. She thought there was no good reason why they should be kept in the house (with the exception of one evening in the week) after their work was finished but should be allowed the same liberties that other people in other occupations have. I maintained that the class of people who went into domestic service were not as a rule sufficiently reliable to be allowed such liberties and that

they needed personal direction and control to keep them straight and that the cases of really self-respecting and reliable domestics were rather exceptional and could not be regarded as typical. I think the good lady was a little offended. They (the Welchos) may go to West Newton to take charge of some insane hospital or home. The Dr is now the head of the state asylum at this place and is a Cape Codder. If they go I hope we may see them sometimes. I shall be glad to hear what the nurse thinks when she comes. I did not understand whether she comes immediately or not.
With love
B. M.

7.7. Aug. 13. 1901.

My dear wife -

Last night I did not sleep well and today I am somewhat inert in consequence. There was no reason that I know of why I should have laid awake until 3.30 A.M. for I was not particularly tired and hadn't anything particularly troublesome in my mind but I felt like many cups of strong coffee and could not get to sleep. I shall make up for it tonight unless precedent counts for nothing. The day is warm and sleepy and work is going ahead not too unsatisfactorily. I say this because of course it would be more satisfactory to see it evening

completion at ten league studies.

In stead, men are picking at a blue clay bank and removing it ~~at~~ by the spoutfull. It is so hard that it is quite impervious to water and is almost dry though water has been standing on top of it. Our advantage is that the sides of the excavation can be cut straight down without danger of caving in.

I cannot be sure that I shall be home as exactly the first of Sept. on account of having to stop in Minneapolis and in Michigan and perhaps for a few hours at Buffalo but shall let you know before hand so as not to keep James unnecessarily from his labor day Parade (with a capital).

It will be a joyous ^{day} dearie whether the old mill dams and tinnments are finished or not. There will always be draw-backs but I don't expect to realize them much on that day. Thy Elizabeth Kields has eluded you so long that I don't sometimes whether she will ever really get to Lincoln. And she has never told me what became of Mrs. Ming. Poor Richard! It is a sad case. I join thee, dear wife, in hoping that we shall be able to bear up rightly against whatever may be in store for us. I think we are fortifying ourselves now. Doesn't thee?
Thine Yours

7.7. Aug. 14. 1901.

Draught —

The history of my life is a simple and unexciting one today.

After writing to thee yesterday, I superintended a little as usual and figured a little as usual, and talked with an agent of machinery about a wheel and some belting. I also borrowed \$1000.⁰⁰ at the bank and sent half of it to St. Paul to pay for plumbing supplies and \$75.⁰⁰ to the step-brother to bring his wife home. In the evening I drove with C.D. in his capacity as chairman of the Street Committee of the city council and inspected street grading and a route for a proposed sewer. At a proper hour I went to bed and made up for the night.

before by sleeping well and long.

This morning the rounds of inspection and figuring have begun again. There are a thousand little things to be attended to in order to keep the work in progress and to prevent hitches which delay and are costly. Tomorrow I shall probably not write to thee as I expect to go out into the country to do a little surveying and investigating of the improved water-power which I have told thee about. It will be an all day job and I hope it will not rain as I have been trying to get to it all summer long. This evening I had a letter from a Minneapolis friend of my mother's urging the importance of getting her away from

her present surroundings. I think there is no doubt that she is in need of a good rest and that she can get it better under other conditions. I hope that she will pick up enough to be able to go with me when I go home.

I fear the Minneapolis people think she is neglected. I rather think she is too but it is difficult to see what else could have been done under the ~~stuff~~ circumstances. She certainly preferred being useful where she has been to doing nothing anywhere else. There are duties and responsibilities in this good world, are there not?

With much love to thee
Bernard

F.F. - Aug. 15. 1901.

Dearest -

Today I have been surveying all day. I got up at six and started with a surveyor and numerous instruments, stakes, rods and boxes in a platform wagon, drawn by two mules and driven by a colored person. It was a hot day but the work was interesting. We began at a point on the river at the upper end of the land which we own and took levels for a mile down stream to the lower end of our land. The result was not very satisfactory as it showed less fall in the river than I had hoped but there is a fairly good water power there of

twelve feet fall and if the right
to flow the land higher up the river
could be secured it would be a very
good power. Our work was bought
to a sudden close before we intended
by a bull in a pasture. He made
unmistakably hostile demonstrations
and we took the hint and our
departure at the same time. Our
work was not quite finished but
it was easy enough to estimate
the size of a point of land which
would be flowed by a mill pond
even if Mr. Bull would not let
us measure it. So we got home
just before six and it is now
seven and I have had my usual
scrambled eggs, toast and a large

glass of milk. I have also had
a look at the dam where I can
see that progress has been made
during the day. The excavation
now goes faster by using mattocks in
place of picks and the clay is being
cut down in bits like tough cheese.

Thou must not get tired over thy
accounts and if thou begins to
thou must wait for assistance.
I am sorry to hear that Eliz. and
Rever are both tired too. They
must rest too if that is what
they need and the horse must go
unshaved and unwashed like a
surveyor. He sends much love
though to Grace and Peterkin.
Vernon

F.F. - August 16. 1901.

My very dear one -

The thought of thee is music
to the ear, light to the eye and
general good cheer to the mind.

My letters are the breath of life
to an absentee landlady who is
struggling to get through his work
as completely as may be in order
to go home and visit thee. It is
difficult to get men now to do
any kind of work. Some of ours
have left and we have been
unable to get others to take their
places so the excavation does not
progress as rapidly as I wish
it might. It is also impossible
to get carpenters so the block does

not advance as it should but
both jobs will be done sometime.
I hope that my tenants will not
all be disgusted and revile me
but some of them probably will.

I have been talking with a
machinery man this morning about
pulling and bolting and also have
been trying to select shut in
siding and roofing for the corns
which I have cut into my building
to let the air and light in. All
these things take time unless they
happen to be a repetition of something
one has been through before and in
most cases they don't happen.

This evening I am invited to the
Welches to meet some people and

I think I shall go but am
not sure. They live at the
hospital which is a mile from
town and a mile back again
and I may weaken. You would
like to have me go so unless I
am too tired I shall make the
attempt. Be good to thyself
and thy Peterkin and don't get
ambitious and over-do thy strength.
It is only a little while now
and thou must restrain and
curb thy wild desires to do
things.

Thy very loving
Friend

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

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

Aug. 17. 1901.

My dearest —

There is more paper at the house but no more at the office and though I dislike to break the continuity of paper, it may be better than to break the continuity of correspondence.

I did not go to the party for at supper I learned that in spite of the round about invitation I had received it was a large affair to which it would hardly be proper to go before my regular bed time. This did not seem worth while especially as I found that I was tired. So after reading Pickwick Papers for an hour or so I went to bed and slept well. I think it was better so and I hope thou will allow the excuses. C.D. has been to the lake for the last two nights and I have only barely seen him for a moment in three days. The family is all coming to town today and I hear that they will all go East next Monday. I knew that C.D. and the boys were going but did not know anything about Cousin Lucy going and think it is a sudden move on C.D.'s part. At first the boys only were going, then he was induced to go and now they all go. The only nuisance at the dam is that the clay gets softer and wetter as we get down. It can now

be chucked without first picking and we are somewhat afraid that it will play out or change to sand. The advantage of clay is that it can be cut straight down and is in no danger of caving while sand has to be retained by timbers and complicates the work. I am promised

a first class carpenter on Monday who will be foreman and take entire charge of the building after I am gone.

That will relieve me a good deal and there will be time for him to get well acquainted with the job before I go. I have not heard from mother in the past few days and will write again to see if she will go with me.

With love
Vernon

7.7. - Aug. 18. 1901.

Dearest wife -

It is a pleasant Sunday but I have not yet been out-dorms and it is already four o'clock. All day long I have been reading Pickwick Papers, not with any great zeal but because they are good to rest on.

The family is in the midst of packing trunks and it is a formidable undertaking for in addition to a journey to the East, the packing includes the winter at St John's, Sealefield, Wisconsin for the boys. They will not return to 7.7. but will stop at school on the way back and their things are now being got ready to send.

The family will get to Boston vicinity about Sept. 1st, so Cousin Lucy thinks and I have told her that she must go out and meet you. I should like to have them stay with us if possible but perhaps it will not be possible. I shall ask her to let us know when they come our way and we can try to arrange them what can be done for them. When they are gone I don't know what will become of me. I may stay here as I have done and I may move on to another cousin's. Cousin Hattie Miles invited me to come to her house a day or two ago. I am going to call on

her this afternoon when this letter is written for an account of going to the Lake every Sunday of late. I have not made her my regular visits. As the time draws near and nearer for going home our gets impatient doesn't one? - Perhaps two get impatient - perhaps even three for I have no doubt that Peterkin's restlessness are partly due to a restless desire to see his dad. Dear little fellow and dear little woman! I shall be glad to join you once again. Chas. Amos must be written to again to see if his plans are settled and his

date of departure fixed. It is particularly nice of Mary to go out to see this again for she prizes her time when in Milton and usually devotes it almost entirely to her aged parents. I hope you have had a good time with her and feel sure it could not be otherwise. She is a good healthy person to associate with and I always enjoy her and the gentle atmosphere which she creates about her. It is very sweet to have a home dearer - a real home with thee, beloved wife, in it and watching over it.

Lovingly Emma

F.F. August 19. 1901.

My dearest wife -

Thy letter of 15th, a day-dayish day, has come with its tail of day-dayish feelings. — The word tail does not look right but I am not sure enough of it to venture to correct it. — We have been spared day-days out here. We had that long hot spell which nearly fried us but since then the weather has been as good and bracing as could be asked for in summer. I am afraid there has been doing things to make thee tired. & so, thou mustn't. Try not to mind, dearie. if Anna is not appreciative. It is very hard for

anybody to be appreciative in
day-days and sometimes all you
can do is to wait for better days
which you know are perfectly sure
to come! As for Pitukin and
the unusual movements I wonder
if each case does not have its own
set of unusual symptoms, differing
from everybody else's experience.

This is the most normal of
women, dearie, and thou mustn't
be worried about thy little
off-spring. We must take what
is in store for us in any case
and as cheerfully as possible
and this must apply to the big
things as well as the little.

Be Trustful and serene and

gentle to thyself and to all
others and thou and the little
fellow will both profit by it.

What a preacher I am getting
to be! Let me be doctor too
and ask thee to rest as much
as thou can and as many
times a day as thou finds
opportunities. I have written to
my mother to enquire whether
she will be able to go with me.
I fear she is not well enough
but hope for better news from
her. A great deal of love for
thee, dear one, and may thou have
courage and cheerfulness to bear
up. Thy me Friend.

7.7. - Aug. 20, 1901

Dear me -

Ther has been seeing too many people and is tired in consequence. I hope that for the rest of the time Ther will not be so many and that Ther will get a little rested. Dog-days are officially at an end on the 25th and after that Ther will not be oppressed by them and that should make a difference too. Never mind James' crossness and the shortcomings of the rest of the family more than Ther is obliged to and just let them worry along on their own account when Ther feels that Ther ought not to trouble

thuself about them. It will
be only a little more than a week
when thou reads this before I
join thee again and then I can
relieve thee of some of thy
responsibilities and duties.

I have had to practice throwing
off care this summer and can
recommend it to thee. When
thou has done as well as thou
can, thou may generally throw
down thy burdens for rest with
the thought that it will do us
good to dwell as thou and that
if thou lets them entirely alone
thou will be more ready to
take hold the next day or the
next time.

I have had to work hard in that
line occasionally this year and
think I have made some progress
in learning to do it.

But it seems to me that thou
needs rest and being let alone
for a few days till thou can
catch up with thy normal self.
Dear little woman! Thou is having
trials and I wish I could share
them better and more effectually
with thee. I will come to thee
as soon as I can possibly get
things in shape to leave them. Now
they are all ragged.

With much love and hope
for thee.
Bryan

F.F. - Aug. 21, 1901.

My dearest art -

The family has gone and I am left alone. Lily, the domestic, stays a few days in the house to clean up and go to church. She is a good Catholic and I believe this is some good work which she has to celebrate. At the last moment yesterday morning while I was seeing off the Misses and Geo. B. there came a telegram from C.D. who had gone with Murray the night before, saying he had left his trunk behind. It was across town at the other station so I hurried out and got aboard an express wagon and raced across - secured the trunk

and got back in time to check it.
That is the advantage of living in
a small town where the baggage
master knows everybody and asks
no questions when you demand
a trunk that doesn't belong to you.

In the evening I took my bundle
for the last time to the wash-lady.

That seems like getting started and
today I have a letter from another
written in a much less shaky hand
and saying that she thinks she will
be ready to go with me. I am
also writing to Chas. Ames to find
whether he has made definite
plans for departure.

The work at the dam is halting
again. Two more men left

or failed to appear this morning. They
may have been played out by the
heat yesterday afternoon which was
pretty wearing again and may
perhaps turn up again. It is
difficult or impossible to get men.

In addition the bamboos have begun
to cave and we have to put up
planks and brace them. This
hinders the progress and introduces
a new element of difficulty and
some danger as we are digging
close under the foundations of the
flour mill. I shall be glad
when it is all done and
finished. With all my love to
the
Thy Woman

Aug. 22. 1901.

Dear Grace -

I think there is no room for choice in regard to settling my mother. The poor lady has been quite ill and is pulling out slowly. Visiting will be out of the possibilities for some time and she will have to keep very quiet and rest herself.

We shall be crowded in the little house but must manage it somehow.

It would be nice to be left entirely alone for a few days but I do not see how it can be rightly done and so ^{we} must not. I do not think we shall be much intruded with however. On the contrary, I fear that my mother will be obliged to take

to her bed and stay there. She has a wonderfully recuperative constitution but she is getting old and cannot hope to come up as quickly as she has done in the past.

What a lot of people there is having to visit there! I am almost afraid to have there so much occupied with society. Doesn't she wonder when there has people to look after?

Chas. Ames writes that he goes on the 24th and that Lesley goes a week later - probably Sept 1st - 2. Possibly I shall have the small boy for part of the way.

I hope now to leave on Friday the 29th, spend Saturday in Minneapolis and St. Paul, leave St. Paul Sat.

evening, get to Battle Creek Sunday afternoon, ~~the~~ Sept 1st, stay a day, leave there Monday and get home Tuesday afternoon. It may be that I cannot leave before Monday the second of Sept. for the Mill Co. has its meeting on that day but I shall try to get away according to the above schedule and will let thee know if anything occurs to prevent.

The new man is taking hold well at the brick-block and we have secured another carpenter out of the general scarceness so I hope that some of the rooms will be ready by Oct. 1st though some will not be!

With love to Grace and
Peterson
Brewer

F.F. - Aug. 23. 1901.

My dear wife -

It was a source of great satisfaction to get your letter telling of the ride to Concord Junction with Edith and of thy improved state of mind. Speaking of furniture, we must or I must make a determined effort to spend the Coolidge money before next spring. And speaking of Coolidge, how about thy invitation to them to view the bears and take lunch at As Bow Farm? And then again why do I ask questions which can hardly be answered before I leave F.F. This letter might perhaps be answered if thou is real prompt and gets to the South Lincoln Post Office before

the mail train for Boston on
Wednesday the 28th. Of course
thou can do that and more too.

My idea of dates and time, "the
see" is getting mixed as the date
for departure gets near. If I
leave Friday night, a letter mailed
Wednesday morning in So. L - should
reach me in the afternoon before
four o'clock. There is nothing
new in F.F. that I know of.

My work is going on pretty well
with the reduced force but would
go faster if we could get more men.

The agent is not as young as
he used to be and I think is
somewhat worn by the summer's
work and responsibilities and I have
to be considerate which means

that I have to put up with things
which I should prefer to have done
otherwise. We keep on good terms
but I can see that he is making
an effort to hold onto ~~to~~ himself
sometimes and that he does not take
kindly to suggestions which interfere
with his own ideas or rather his
own habits of doing work. Another
time I shall try someone else for
work of that sort and if possible
get someone more pliable and open
to suggestion. However I am
not really complaining. Thy last
good letter makes me so happy to
complain

With love

Bruce

7.7. - Aug. 24. 1901.

Draught -

Another day gone and now there are left less than a week of them before I leave this place. Yesterday passed off smoothly for me but the agent was laid up with stomach and heat nearly all the afternoon and I took charge at the drums. We are getting ahead slowly but having some trouble with carving banks and shall not be out of difficulty for several days. I hope to be beyond the danger point before I leave. In the evening I found an invitation to take camp tea with Mrs. Welch tonight (Saturday) at the lake and promptly accepted. It has

been raining twice this morning
but just now it seems to be clearing.
The Wright house is locked up but
I believe Mrs. Welch has the keys.

I have not yet provided a way
of getting out and shall have to
hurry and find one before too late.

The building goes much better
since I have an experienced foreman
to run it instead of an inexperienced
architect. Also it takes quite a
load from the architect who has enough
to think of. A little is enough for
though I feel well I cannot do
a great deal without getting nervous
and losing energy. It has been
quite a siege and I shall be
better able to begin again after

having a change and rest. There
must not expect that I shall stay
at home without another Western
trip this fall however. It will
be quite necessary, I regret to say.
But we shall have a good long
time together and after that there
will not be lonesome when I
go because —

I have not yet written another
my program but must do so
now so as to give her a few
days to get ready. I have
some hesitation for fear she
will overdo in packing.

Thine with love
Emma

J.F. - Aug. 27. 1901

My dearest -

I went to the camp supper and ate chowder. It was a pleasant and informal affair. We sat out-does till after eleven, lighted by a good bon-fire, and entertained by a play, a charade and much singing. The house piazza was the stage and the foot-lights were cat-tails soaked in kerosene which made a gorgeous effect stuck in the sand in a row in front. Dr Welch is a corpulent and usually silent man but funny in the extreme when he does things. I wished there were three Dr's to do a stunt. The next day (Sunday) I visited with the Angeros who had taken me in for the night and found

time for a walk before dinner and
a clup and sail after same before
driving in to F.F. for the night.

The E. Adams family was all coming
in so I took in one of them - known
by the children as "Aunt Honey" - an
older sister of Mrs. Adams. Elmer
has hay fever badly and has had to
go to Lake Superior which has a winter
climate of its own all the year.

I have been invited to eat three times
a day with the Adamses but have
accepted for breakfast and tea only.

Final preparations for getting away are
keeping me busy and I expect to be
immersed for the next three days.

Only three days from tonight if all
goes well! I have not heard

from mother yet but there has hardly
been time since I last wrote.

Yesterday, owing to new arrangements
I did not find the usual time
to write to thee and perhaps I
shall be delinquent again for I
am really busy and shall have
all I can do to get through
properly in time. Thy anatomical
sketches are marvels and I hope
the Corinn A. is correct but shall
not complain or praise if she is
mistaken.

With love to Grace and
little Peterkinetto

Brun

Aug. 29. 1901.

My dearie -

Barring the unexpected, I shall leave here tomorrow night (Friday) and go as far as Chicago with Lesley who has taken a compartment for us both, leaving St. Paul Sat. night. Hoop-la! Today I am straightening out bills and squaring accounts so as leave the exchequer in working condition. The most important thing is the settlement of the damage case for the man who was killed last year. It looks as though it would be settled today or tomorrow at a figure not to exceed \$500.⁰⁰ and I shall be glad to be quit of it for damage suits are

are nasty things to be mixed up in and I believe that the prosecuting attorneys are quite capable of being as nasty as they think will benefit their case. I hope you will get rest this week with thy friend Bertha and if thou finds that the prospect of having so many brights visit thee after I get home, I want let them come.

Mother has written that she expects to go with me and I think she was pleased at thy letter of welcome. Thou need not think she will make demands on thee for she is quiet and will take care of herself I think.

Dearie, dearie, what a joy to be going home to thee! Only five days from now and only two or three from the time thou reads this. I did not write yesterday because I was very busy all day.

There are only two sheets of paper left and I will try to make use of them before the good day coming. With love and anticipations

Thy husband
Emanuel

Sept. 21. 1901.

My dearest -

The trip was uneventful and
here I am again. So far as
I have been able to see no
serious mistakes have been made
and business is progressing as
satisfactorily as could be expected
though not as rapidly as I could
wish. As I write the sound of
the coal going into the bins of
the Telephone Block reminds me
of winter and so did the sharp
cold air this morning. But
the sun is warming and the
sky is cloudless. I had

supper with the Adamses last night along with the carpenter of the district who is rural product trying in appearance and manners but interesting and amusing to listen to. I slept in the C.D. house all alone and had to skirmish for blankets but I found them and kept tolerably comfy. This morning my borrowed watch showed six o'clock and was still running when a small Adams boy appeared and said breakfast was ready so I hurried and got over before they had finished. I am going to try to sponge on a relative

today for board and lodging.

The agent appears to have made a lease of two rooms in the Telephone Bldg. but I don't know much about it yet.

The lease is a stock commission firm and have not yet taken possession. They are a somewhat doubtful class of people and I shall only make a lease for one year and see what sort of business they do. Now I must run along. Be good and don't get tired.

Thine
Bruner

Sept. 23. 1901.

My dearest wife -

I am sorry thou is tired and
limp and hope it is only a
passing state of things. Thou
will be glad to learn that the
ticket agent made a mistake of
one day in punching my return
ticket so that it must be used
in fourteen instead of fifteen days.
I think that means that I must
leave Buffalo on Wednesday the 2nd
which would bring me home on
the same day if I leave early
in the morning or Thursday morning
if I leave in the evening. I
should like to have just a look at

the expiration if I can arrange
it and in any case I have to
get off there and have my ticket
countersigned. I don't think that
can be done without staying a
day or a night. It will be
only a week, dearie, from the time
thou reads this and I hope thou
will not find it too long. Of course
if thou needs me thou will not
hesitate to write and I will come
as fast as possible. I am more
and more impressed with the
importance of keeping my business
here properly managed but I
think it can be worked out in
this or as to run more

automatically without constant
supervision. I have heard that
the C.D.W's would be in Boston
this week. If thou sees Cousin
Lucy tell her that I am sleeping
in her house and that no one
has ~~carried~~ carried it away yet.
I am afraid that I shall not
see them before I leave here.

Try to take thy burdens
calmly, dearie, and they will
wear away surely as others
have done in the past and as
others will do in the by and by.
With a great deal of love from
thy husband who loves thee,
Bessie

F.F. - Sept. 24. 1901.

Dear Grace -

It is cold and blustering
and after putting about out of
doors for an hour or two this
morning, my hands are almost
too numb to hold a pen. There
is no fire in the furnace but
a man is cleaning it out and
by and by we shall have a fire.

In the mean time I sit in my
sweater and am quite comfy
except as to the hands aforesaid.

Yesterday I arranged to lease
another flat and if the lease is
signed and the preacher doesn't
back out, that will leave me with
me unoccupied. I have not

even the good lady who wants to
keep boarders but mean to and it
is barely possible that she will
take the remaining suite on some
special terms and reserve a room
for me. I have had a contrite
letter from Mary Ann in reply
to my explanation which I told
her about. She thinks I should
feel like boxing her ears (!) for
not minding her own business.

Neither cousin has yet volunteered
to feed me and so I still feed
at the Adamses which makes me
feel uneasy. Perhaps I shall
get a bid today or tomorrow.

My journey seems a very rapid
performance. It is nearly half

gone and I shall only be here
four or at most five days after
today. I shall leave Saturday
night unless there are things to
talk over with the agent on Sunday.

The time has gone and I must
hurry to the station to post this
with much love and best hopes
to
Y.

Sept. 25. 1901.

My dear Mr -

The days are wearing away
and I hope there is as comfy
as the condition will permit.

Today I am to move up
to C.J.'s house to stay for the
rest of my time. I am again
in hopes of getting him into the
Telephone Bldg. by a plan of using
his present office for another purpose
so that he can better afford to move
than to stay. The boarding house
lady has decided to stay where
she is for the winter. It is
possible that I may make some
arrangement with her next year.

I have just received a letter from the step-brother in reply to one from me in which I had hinted as politely as I could that he ought not to bother his mother by making appeals which she was unable to satisfy. He doesn't seem offended but asks me for more money and is quite amusing by gravely saying that the \$75.⁰⁰ I sent him was applied just as I had wished with the exception of not bringing his wife home with it. As that was the only condition I made there seems to be a fault somewhere in the reasoning.

I shall have to write him

again but shall not send him any more. Perhaps I can change the direction of the correspondence in part from mother to me by telling him that she has no means of supplying him except through me.

There was no letter from her yesterday but I hope for one this afternoon. The weather is clearing after a blustering day and stormy night and the world looks brighter and cleaner.

With much, much love

Bruce

F.F. - Sept. 26. 1901.

My dearest -

Another day gone and now there will be but two more after today if I leave Saturday night as I expect to. The weather is clear & bright again and not very cold and I think I shall drive out into the country this afternoon to see the farmer who lives next to my unimproved water power. Dairies, dairies, the latest news that Peter seems to be settling is very exciting and I think there is right to engage a nurse and be prepared. My love goes out to thee and I hope

it may support thee and help
thee to have good heart.

If necessary I can cut Buffalo
and go straight through though
the RR. ticket would be sacrificed.

Otherwise I shall get to
Buffalo Monday evening, leave there
Tuesday evening and reach So. L.
Wednesday morning (at 10.¹⁵ I think)
by local train from Ayer.

Last night I moved up to C.J.'s.
It is up because it is out
of town a little and rather high.

In the evening Dr. walked in
and attended the Council meeting
where I applied for thirty extensions
of time to build a cement side-walk

around my block (the Flato) and
spent the rest of the session
listening to the wisdom of the
members. It was all confusion
and cross-talk and it is
wonderful that they ever got any
business transacted. It was
very clear that any man who
knew his subject and could state
clearly his program would have
an immense advantage. Most
of them come unprepared and make
up their minds or rather their
deeds at the session.

Dear little mother, we shall soon
be together again. Yours
Kumar

7.7. Sept. 27. 1901

My dear -

I have only time to
post this this morning with
love and good wishes. My
time is nearly up and I
have to do mending of
plaster and such things in
order to settle bills before
I go. With love to the
and little Peterkin

Bruce

F.F. Sept. 28. 1901

Denise -

Last day and a fine bright m.
Tonight at 12:50 C.G. and I
shall take train for Minneapolis.
He goes down to see his daughter
at school and find out why she
is not allowed to take music
instead of mathematics (arithmetic)
which she has led her class in for
several years and now wants to drop.

And go down to get a morning
train for Chicago, Buffalo and the
Baw Road. There are two or
three things to attend to today
but I think I can get reasonably
well cleaned up and turn gladly

homeward. If I stay much longer the tenants in the flats will ruin me with demands for shelves and hanging strips so I shall have to get away in self defence. Elmer & I drove out to see the suspicious farmer about the dam matter and had an unproductive session with him.

The farmer of making trades is to consume endless amounts of time in talking about it and when one has only a limited quantity it is costly trying. I held on to myself and he agreed to come to town next week to talk over with the agent. He knows the

prevailing method better than I do and when not busy has as much time as anyone else to talk it over and under and up side down to the end of the chapter. It was good to get a reassuring letter from thee yesterday and unless I hear from thee I shall stop at night and day in Buffalo and leave there Tuesday evening according to schedule. I will get the name of a hotel in Buffalo and write it on the back of the envelope.

With love

Elmer