



George B. Wright and Family Papers

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7.7. Feby. 3. 1902.

My dearest -

These are busy days but I mean to get a routine established soon which will include time for regular correspondence with thee. We - the aunt and I - have been going over accounts all day and trying to straighten out things that don't correspond. He is not a good book-keeper and the complicated relations between my mother and me and the changes that have been made have not simplified the book-keeping. We shall find part of the discrepancies and may have to fudge the rest.

The new man reported this afternoon and is now being instructed in janitor work by the outgoing man. The office work should be arranged in a few days and the agent can then depart & take up his own affairs. He seems cheerful enough toward me and is doing all he can to help me adjust and arrange business. He has not thoroughly explained his position and has not told me just what he intends to do further than to say that he does not expect to be here this summer.

Yesterday was Sunday and I was out ^{quite} ~~nearly~~ all day with

E. Adams examining the country down the river in the morning and up the river in the afternoon.

I thought I should write to thee in the evening but C.D. dragged me down to the Angulos when Richard performed on his "Angulo" for something over two hours.

You will be interested to know that before beginning he retired to remove all linen and reappraised in a sweater. It is really hard work and requires frequent moppings of the forehead.

Perhaps I should explain that the Angulo is a combination Symphony and Pianola. It plays the piano and also adds a bit

of red wax and is pumped and
managed exactly like a Symphony.

I had your record this morning.

The mails seem slower than
last year. — perhaps in account of
the snow. The principal

amounts which I spent on your
account last month were — 11.75,
35. and 12 and the total was 66.⁹⁵

which leaves a balance of 108.⁰⁵

which I enclose. At least you
will have the satisfaction of a
full sized allowance next month.

I am sorry Mrs. Ames can't take
you and hope B. Ming can. You
must try to arrange to come out
with your grandmother to your
living husband. Abigail for Jane
Thine V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
Architect
22 CONGRESS STREET

I think they understand the kind of girl you want and
the place looked like a good one and ^{BOSTON,} Feb. 24. 1902
was patronized by a lot of nice ladies.

Dear Gracy -

I enclose two more deeds to sign and acknowledge
like the other three which I filed last night.

At the Barnstable th. should see a girl who wouldnt do
and I told them so and left the business and a Lincoln ticket
with them. with instructions to send out any morning by 8:59 train
without previous notice to you. The only thing I can think of which
I neglected to say was that the horse is black and wears green curtains.
my behov and your note paper will go by exp. and Robt should always
be supplied with change to pay express. Hastily and lovingly V.A.W.

7.7. Friday, Feby. 28, 1902

My dearest one -

It is only a soulless ingrate who would defer writing to you until now. and I am it. The journey was uneventful but it was mildly surprising to find everything West of Detroit (where I got up in the morning of the second day) brown and bare and the temperature at or above the freezing point. In St. Paul I found I had time to get to Charles's for breakfast. They were all well and hearty. Eliza has changed most and is drawing out in length (also teeth). Theodore is bigger but not so different to himself. They all wanted to know about you and Tom and I tried to make intelligent

replies (interruptions) Charles told me that Mrs. C.G.A. and Helen Chever were coming out to Minnesota in May (which you probably know by this time) and I thought what a fine chance it would be for a healthy baby and our helpless parent. Charles also went to the station with me to extend the visit as far as possible and then after another uneventful journey I arrived and took up quarters at C.D.S. In the afternoon I visited with D.D. about business matters and the agent. and in the evening after he (C.D.) had gone to City Council meeting, I visited with cousin Lucy. She also asked questions and again offered

us her house for the season when she is at the lake. She artfully couples her invitation with the suggestion that if we would keep house and take care of C.D., she would be much relieved for he usually has to live at a restaurant and do his own chamber work.

It is difficult to decline such an tactful invitation and perhaps you won't want to anyway. She suggested that if we keep house here it will be necessary to bring a domestic who can cook. It is easy to get young girls to push a baby carriage but impossible to find anyone capable of cooking or doing general housework. This may

modify your domestic plans and I am afraid it may complicate the problem for it will be more difficult to find a companionable person who can cook than one who can simply "stand and wait."

I wonder if the employment bureau has been able to give you any satisfaction. There has been no letter yet to tell what has or hasn't come to pass. Yesterday I was busy and in the evening Elmer telephoned that he wanted to talk to me. Of course I stayed rather late. I generally do when I go there and it must have been fully half past ten when I got to bed. Poor girley! I wish I could take some of your nightly burdens onto

my shoulders.² Today again
I have been busy and tonight
(Friday) C.D. and I are alone.

Cousin Lucy has had a head ache
all day and has not been down.
C.D. stayed home all day with
her and I think she is better
now.

The affair of the
agent has of course been uppermost
in business. He is entirely cordial
toward me and does not talk much
about his plans though I have asked
him to tell me the whole story.

Under the circumstances I have
accepted the situation as he has
made it and have not begged him to
stay with me. The field is
limited from which to choose men
who know how to tend a dynamo.

strictly limited to one man
who is worth more than I
feel like paying. I have found
another man who has had a
little experience and have decided
to give him a trial. If all
goes well he should be established
in a few days and the present
agent has agreed to break him
in by giving him instructions in
tending to the dynamo. It is
a relief to find someone so
quickly but he still remains
to be tried and of course I
cannot tell whether he will be
able to fill the place. The
great danger is that he may
make some mistake which will
burn out or injure the dynamo.

It is a nice machine and
behaves splendidly at present
but all the same is the
occasion of some anxiety —
in all of which things it
resembles a small baby.
Does Tom continue to behave
and grow big and delight
his mother's heart? Dear
boy and dear girl, you
are both travelling far from
the Op Bow Road in the heart
of the other helpless parent
who sends you both love and
good wishes.

Thine own, dear Grace
Pearson

7.7.-Mch. 4. 1902.

My dear -

It has been another busy day working over the books and digging up old accounts and it is now nearly six o'clock and we have quit. We have made progress and I think there will be only two or three days more of it. Andrew, the new man, has begun work. He doesn't know too much but I think he is a person to whom you can give direct orders or instructions without hurting his feelings. That will be an advantage. In other words, he is not a Superior Person.

The little maid you have engaged is the new Mrs. Com. spoke to me about the day I drove up to the Higginsons with Elizabeth. At that time we were looking for a competent person and I didn't pay much thought to what she said and did not even mention it to thee. If you do not find the right person to bring with you — and it is doubtful whether you can find a combination cook and travelling companion — perhaps you can bring along some one as a maid to help you and then get a cook in St Paul

or Mpls. It would undoubtedly be possible to get a cook in the twin cities by paying enough but here in Fargo they cannot be had at any price. Thy last letter was reassuring and so, as I am at the end of a good day's work and my hand ~~writing~~ is scratchy and nervous, I am going out for a little air before food. I am well and send thee and him lots of love. Thy B.

F.F. - Mch. 5. 1902.

My dear me -

These are beautiful days here in the woolly. The temperature is just below the freezing point and the sky is clear and the air pure and bracing. It seems as if spring were really coming soon and I believe there is a good chance that it is.

Rainy spring months are not a necessary condition of the country though they are not unknown. I have been working

away in the books again today
but I think they are nearly
fixed. One of the first duties
I have is to instruct Andrew
in all sorts of things in the
nature of house-keeping. — Such
as cleaning and setting to rights
the cellar of the Telephone Bldg. —
cleaning and keeping clean the
room in which the dynamo is
housed — providing shelves and
boxes in which to keep tools and
supplies etc. There were matters
which could not be brought to

the attention of the more superior
agent for they are so obvious
that any suggestions would be
a reflection on his stewardship.
It is a relief to be able to
tell a man without circumlocution
just what things you want done
and how you want them done.
There may be disadvantages in
having a hired man instead
of an agent but these things
are not among them. — There
then is the question of garbage —
a fascinating question and one which
must be settled before hot weather.
Thine and his'n Vernon

F.F. - Mch. 6 - 1902.

Dearest Grady.

Brother day is getting well along and it marks the burning of the agent bridge behind me. We finished up the accounts and parted amicably but without a full explanation on his part. To be truthful I feel immensely relieved. You mustn't hiss or breath or hiss or mutter under your breath anything of the sort but he was not the right man for the Wright place in all respects. He was very useful in some ways but he couldn't keep house in an orderly and clean way that would

receive your approbation. He
simply didn't know when a floor
or window was not clean and much
of my business consists in keeping
floors and windows of one kind or
another clean and tidy — or
approximately so.

No letter from thee today or
yesterday but I think you are
busy with your visitors in the
wee moments that Fate leaves
you unoccupied. Good cheer to
thee, dear one, and love for
the mother and son.

Yours

F.F. - Mch. 7. 1902.

Darrie -

There is little to say today.
It has been a puttering day with
little accomplished. Such days must
be or we shouldn't realize the value
of other days. Perhaps the greatest
drawback to them is that they
stultify your mind and make
it impossible for you to think
of nice things to say to your
wife. Mine is a blank but
if you will have patience I
will guarantee compensating
brilliance some other day.
Thanks for the dear letters Thine V.

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT,

FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

March 8. 1902

Dear Grassy -

Since writing to you this afternoon, Mr. Slind came in and we made a trade. I enclose his deed for your execution. That sounds queer but it is all right

A.W.

J.F. - Mich. 8. 1902

Dearest -

Before I forget it, I want
to speak of two or three bits of
business. If you have not already
done so, will you please drop a
note to Mr. Smith asking him to
come over and take your acknowledgments
on those deeds? Will you also
look up the address of the Storage
Battery makers whose publication
lay for a time on my table or on
the window seat? It is the thing
that had the Indian Chief's signature
on it and I think it is a Phila.
company. They call it Chloride

accumulator when they mean storage
battery. If you are thinking
of going into town soon, the wagon
will have to be brought over from
Concord in spite of muddy roads.

I think the price was to be \$12
for the buggy and \$15 for the populist
but if you give Robt a check to pay
for them you had better give him
some money in addition in case
I am mistaken about the price.

The weather here is fine. I
will talk with cousin Lucy again
but my idea at present is that
it would be better for you to bring along
a maid to help you and to do
seam work here. We can then try

to get a cook in Minneapolis or
St Paul for the time that you
will be here. Cousin Lucy will
want her girl at the lake and
could not give her up to us.

Probably it will be better to
take her home and provide for
C.D. while she is at the lake
with the boys but if we prefer
we can take the aunt house
when she comes into town.

A letter from mother seems to
make her out tolerably well.

With love to the dear lady
and her dear boy

Yours.

J.F. - Mch. 10. 1902.

My dearest -

Yesterday was Sunday and I did not get time to write to you. I dined with the Adamsons and then walked over the country to see what it was like, just as we had done the preceding Sunday. Returning toward evening, I stopped again with Elmer and stayed all the evening. So the Miles and the other Wright cousins did not get called as they should have and neither did the neighbor across the street who had invited me to hear his pianola. The pianola is quite the fad at present and

there are three in the town,
all being practised many hours
a day by their enthusiastic
owners. Thy mournful note
has just come in telling me
that thou is tired and discouraged.

I hope it is only a temporary
blow from the hand of the enemy
and that thou will feel better
before this reaches thee. My
days are very busy ones but of
course I can go if thou needs
me though I hope thou will
be able to get the upper hand
and smile again. There is the
really important business in life,
dear, though other things do take

all our time. The prospects
are that it will be a good
season in Fergus Falls and I
am glad for business reasons
that I am here so early.
Already I have been able
to do a number of things
which could not have been done
at long ranges. I am glad
thou finds the little maid handy
and hope she will continue to
do well for thee. With love
for thee and Jan.

Thine ever
Verena

F.F. - Mch. 11. 1902.

My dearest -

Today I have hardly been in the office but have spent the time putting around outside. This afternoon I took my courage in my hands and made the rounds of most of the suites in the Flats or flats in the Flats. I was prepared for all sorts of criticisms but on the whole came off much better than I had expected. Only trifling objections were raised - the timid ones having no complaints whatever to make.

The doors in many cases bind and there are numerous other details to make right but the principal trouble

is that the painters did a very
poor job of all their work and
particularly in varnishing the floors.

They were not looked after and
got through as cheaply and quickly
as they possibly could. The people
seem to be pretty well satisfied and
as houses are hard to get the
flats will probably remain filled
until new houses are built at
any rate. The weather continues
perfect though prophets say the
snows will get us yet. With
some apprehension and a great deal
of love for the dear wife,

Thy
Vernon

J.F. — Mch. 12. 1902.

My dear one —

I think thou had better get a nurse to help thee at once if thou has not already done so.

Today it looks more difficult for me to get away than it did yesterday. There is a leak in my dam which has been running for some time and may not be important but it appears to be increasing and today I have engaged a man to come and look it over. He will be here tomorrow forenoon and it is quite likely that repairs will have to be undertaken

This would not necessarily detain me long but I shall have to find out what the trouble is and get repairs under way before I can leave. Some of my business can be turned over to others and the rest might have to wait. But I fear I could not leave at once without the likelihood of serious hitches in my business. I will devote myself to putting matters in running order and shall hope for more encouraging letters from thee. If thee still needs me I can come in a few

days anyway. Thee is a poor dear and I know thee is bearing up as well as thee can and I love thee for it. With best wishes and hopes and much love, my dear one,
Thy friend
Henry Brown

Mch. 13. 1902.

My dearest wife -

I will try to get away tomorrow
(Friday) night. It is not perfectly
sure that I can but if possible
I will. Some things will be
left at ragged ends but they will
have to keep. Be of good cheer
dear one and the days will surely
brighten. I cannot write longer
to thee now but send my love
and hope thou wilt fatten on it

Thy ever
Bennie

Apr. 6. 1902

501 GRAND AVENUE.
ST. PAUL.

My dear Grassy -

The parents are away and the
Two older girls have gone to church.
Leslie is reading the Diary of a Freshman
and the young ones are up stairs.

In the hurry to get away I forgot
to leave you D Potter's card and Robert's
address, both of which I now enclose.

I wrote Robert a recommendation and
told him that if the Peppes took our
house and wanted a man I would
speak or write to them about him.

You must let me know about
negotiations with them as soon as

anything or nothing transpires and please ask them whether they have a man of their own and whether they want to talk with Robert. He will not go down home until summer in any case. I have just written a check for Miss Starkweather and hope she has not been depending on it. Nothing of any consequence

happened on my journey. I read one or two numbers of the International Review Magazine and spent most of my time over the fascinating book on Electric Lighting.

In Chicago I had a couple of hours to wait and strolled. The streets are as dirty and the people as dreary and ill poorly dressed as ever and I am glad we don't live there. The Public Library which I went into for the first time is entirely lined with white marble and mosaic in very good taste and looked light and clean and striking by contrast with its now dark, smoky exterior.

But I prefer St. Paul or Fergus Falls or Lincoln or Boston or any other old place and am always glad to get away from Chicago. The parting wish of your husband is that you will keep your digestion in good order and feed your helpless babe. With love from

77 - Apr. 11. 1902.

My dearest -

Yesterday afternoon I had your first letter and replied by telegram to rent the little Hattie House for \$50.⁰⁰

Of course I mean if you like the people but I judge from your letter that you do.

It seems to me that it is much better to have the house rented at any price rather than to let it stand empty and as if fifty dollars is too much I should be inclined to let them have it for less though fifty dollars does not seem to me high and I hope you will have made a trade with him by the time you get this.

I stayed in St. Paul with the children Sunday. Monday I went to Minneapolis for the day ~~but~~ and stayed with the

Wintress for dinner and the evening.

Alice was not well and did not come down and Edith was also sick.

Tuesday morning I hired me to the train for Fergus Falls and have been busy since without accomplishing anything at all and without finding time to write to thee. Lucy is not at all well. I have not yet looked over the little apartment house for the agent's family is still there, neither have I seen Mrs. Rawson. This is Court time and she is over busy taking care of a troop of lawyers who came in for the session. When she is over her rush of business I will see her and propose your scheme for supplying us with food.

I was very sorry to hear that you have been tired and palpy again

but I hope you are better again by this time. Be good to the digestion, dearie, and rest as much as you can and so gratify the heart of your absent man.

I hope to be more regular with correspondence again and to drop the daily squiblet into the box every morning.

Now I must attend to Mrs. Bramley's chimney and Mrs. Fordell's back-tub and other Misses' ills and troubles.

With love to Grace and

John

Thine.

Apr. 12. 1902.

My dearie -

The principal event of the last twenty-four hours is the arrival of Murray after nearly eight weeks confinement with scarlet fever.

He had not had his clothes on for any of the time and had been in bed with the exception of a few minutes at a time. He looks pretty well but very thin and bony.

My day was passed again in putting with no apparent results.

With a tin-Smith I climbed up onto the roof and discussed the advisability of putting a stove-pipe

into the top of Mrs. Brawley's chimney to make it draw up instead of down. Then we talked more about conductors and drains.

Later I went to a machine-shop to see if the fire-escapes ordered last fall would be put up soon and at the same time talked with the proprietors about using electric power in place of steam. After a long time I discovered that one of them (who was doing the most talking) had got mixed up on motors and meters and really did not know the difference. For a machinist, that was pretty well

and made a pleasant interlude in the daily round of ordinary intelligence. Just now another tenant has been in to ask for fly-screens. The double (or outside windows) are not all off yet so he was early enough to catch the worm as well as the fly. And thus it goes and life is worth living because of Grace and Jan who have much love sent them by me.

Thy V.

WRIGHT ESTATE.

WRIGHT, AGENT,

FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

Apr 15. 1902.

Dear Grassy -

I enclose three deeds for you to sign before
a Notary Public. If you don't want to go to
the Uncle, Ramage will attend to it for you
but he is out so much that it might be well
to drop him a note asking for an appointment. Please
send them along as soon as you can conveniently.

Please be sure about the two witnesses

Yours with love

(Seal)

W. W. W.

7.7. April 15. 1902

Dearest -

Yesterday was a busy day. In fact the daily routine of things to attend to doesn't leave me much time for the important but less immediately urgent things which I hope to get through with this summer. The agent has sent for his wife and goods and the house will be vacated by the first of May. I haven't looked into it yet but mean to do so soon. Alice Winter said she would like to have you stay with her for a while if she could find room at the lake and she thought she could. They are planning

to enlarge a little by cutting off a
useless dining room or rather
converting it into a bed room.

Alice said they always eat in their
closed piazza except in very bad weather
when they could use the living room.

How is the dress making getting
on and shall you need to have
the next monthly allowance advanced
before the first of May?

People and business keep coming in
and I must cut it short.

With love to Grasy and Young.

Bonnie

7.7. April 16. 1902

Dear one -

Last night I talked with cousin Lucy about your coming out and going to the aunt house. She was very nice about it and offered to oversee the housecleaning but of course I couldn't agree to that. She is not strong enough to undertake any extra burdens and breaks down whenever she tries. I shall send you a sketch plan of the house as soon as possible though I don't much like to trouble the present occupants while they are packing up and making ready to get away. The weather continues cool and

bright and the wise ones talk of
a late spring. The trees are
not out at all while the common
is doubtless growing green.

How I should like to see Tom
in his perambulator! Did how
do you arrange it and does he
go to the Public Garden via Beacon
Street? My principal occupation
is trying to get ready tax lists
between the necessary small chores
and footless interviews which occupy
the greater part of the day. Tax
lists are lists of lands and lots on
which my mother and I have to pay
taxes on or about June 1st and it
is a funny business to get the lists
just right on account of the changes

that occur from time to time. When
that is done I must make a list
of the extra radiation which will
go in the various rooms in the
flats and then after that there
ought to be time to begin some
of things which I came out to do,
such as settling my mother's business.

So far my work this year seems
to be a modified form of house-
keeping. The extent to which such
a business may be carried is, as
you know, limitless but fortunately
my house-keeping standards are
low so I don't mind much if
things wait. With lots of love,
dearie, and good cheer for a little
while longer. Vernon

77. - April 18. 1902

My dearest -

Yesterday morning at an early hour, I took a train for the West to examine a piece of land which my mother owns. It was out in the fenceless farm district in Dakota, a region which I was not familiar with and glad to make the acquaintance of.

From a little station of the one store type I drove out about nine miles across flat black lands, occasionally getting into mud which made the wheels solid and then, after ascertaining that this piece is exactly like all other pieces, drove back again. It was then about one o'clock and no train till coming so I thought I would walk

to the metropolis of Wahpeton, twelve
or thirteen miles. After due consideration
I arranged with the stars man to
drive one half way and you should
have seen the outfit. — A rickety old
pacer, a colt taking his positively
first lesson in driving, and a driver
without a palate. The buggy was
all right, barring the solid iron
wheels. I was glad to get onto
my feet at the half way point and
had a long but sufficiently interesting
walk. Then I saw the real-
estate agents who had asked for a
price on this land. They deal in
land as other people deal in calico
or finger-snaps, and with exactly as
high speed. They personally conduct

rich Germans from Iowa to a
particularly quarter section of land 8
miles from nothing in particular and
sell it to him before he knows
where he is at. I made them
^{high} a price on this piece and escaped
without harm and in due time
got back to 4-7, which is slow
and superior. A nice letter from
them this morning tells of thy going
to the theater. What doings!
Now E.E. Adams has been in talking
about another piece of land and the
time is flying. Goodbye for another
day, dearie, and be good to your
offspring I beg of you.

With lots of love

What about Mr. Pepper?

Ever.

7.7. - April 19. 1902.

Dearest Grassy -

Sam Hill appeared this morning and invited Chas. D. and me to go out with him in a private car to Seattle. He will also provide us with transportation back again so we have promptly accepted and expect to leave this afternoon at 2:23. We should arrive in Seattle Monday evening if the train is on time and shall only stay a very few days.

It is the kind of suddenness which takes me somewhat off his feet and if I had longer to think about it, very likely I

should find difficulties in the
way. I am very busy but
there seems to be nothing which
cannot wait a few days and
I have never been west of the
Minnesota line except for a
few miles. I hope there will
thrive and not get tired and
that Thomas will continue
to grow in and on Grace.

With love, Marie mine,

Erman

F.F. - Apr. 28. 1902.

My dear wife -

I am just back from the Pacific and hasten to let you know that the trip was a great success and that we are all back again safe and sound. We were busy doing or seeing something all the time and I did not find time to write to thee until the journey home. Then I was tired and slept most of the two days and a half. Every thing is large out there - the mountains and forests and rivers and ideas and it is quite an experience to have so much size thrust upon one in a

single week. The weather was delightful so that we lost nothing. The climate of Seattle is what I imagine England to have for somehow my limited travelling in England does not seem to fix my impressions so much as what I have read or heard. It is moist and fairly even as to temperature.

English dairies were grazing and box hedges and ivy were at perfection. It would be just the place for a real English house for the condition and settings are right. Sam has selected a location and is thinking of buying and building and I tried

to impress him with my views of it. I am glad she has completed the arrangement with the tenant and now I find that the month of April is nearly gone and I am wondering what arrangement she has made. If she is ready to come west, she had better do it and stay with Chas. and Mary till I can get the house fixed up. Or if she would rather have a few days at the sea. I shall not object though it makes one more moving and that is not an advantage.

Perhaps it will be well to find out about scruit fever at the

Winters' before starting. I will
write to Charles today and ask
him about it and whether they
could take thee in now. It will
take a day or two to hear from him
and then I will let thee know
the result. I hope it will be
all right to have thee come out
my room for I want to see
thee, dearie, and our little Jimmy
too. I enclose check for \$176.⁰⁰
for May allowance and thank thee
for the deeds. With love and
yet with haste

Thy Mother

J.F. Apr. 29. 1902

Dearest Grace -

Your letter saying that you would probably start May 17th or 18th has just come to delight my fizzard.

I had written you yesterday that I would find out about scarlet fever in the Ames-Winter or Winter-Ames family and will let you know as soon as I hear from Charles but I do not think there is any danger.

What a wise and great man Tommy is getting to be! Will he know his dad?

Yes, Seattle would be a good place to live at this time of the year but from all accounts it is depressing to spend the winter there, at least the first winter. They say that one becomes accustomed to

continuous rains - dry rains they
call them - and doesn't mend
after the first year.

This morning the dam next
above mine on the river broke
out or through but I think it
has done me no damage. The
city water comes from that point
and the immediate effects are to
fill the mains with yellow muddy
water. I hope this trouble will
not continue for more than a day
or two or we shall all have Chinese
complications. Dearie, it will be
since when there is here and I should
have to regret there. Now already
it is getting late.

I have ever
Yours

7.7. Apr. 30. 1902

Dearest Grace -

A letter from Charles aunts this morning says that Gilbert has a light case of scarlet fever and is getting on well and that some of the St. Paul children are in danger of contagion. On the other hand a doctor here in 7.7. told me yesterday that scarlet fever and diphtheria were both epidemics here now in a mild form and advised keeping away for the present. He said of the scarlet fever that it was all the more difficult to control it because it is such a mild form because children have it for several days without being sick enough to stay at home and go to bed and so it spreads by contagion.

He thought the danger of it might
last six or eight weeks. Of course
there is not so much danger for
very young children as for older ones
but there is still some risk which
we had probably better not ~~run~~ take.

It seems to me that if you delay
your leaving until the end of May
instead of the 17th or 18th as you
have intended, it will work out all
right. You can then stay two weeks
in St. Paul and that will make
six weeks from this time.

After writing this, another month
seems a very long time. Couldnt we
camp on Charles & Mary for more
than two weeks if necessary or
if it wasn't convenient for them
couldnt they stay somewhere else

for a few days? Alice has said
that she wanted them to visit her
at the lake but I am not sure
she will have room while Mrs. Ames
is there. Still there will be
some place for them somewhere.

I assume that they have made their
arrangements with Miss Oxford to
stay after May 1st so that they
is not to be thrown out.

My letters are very cheering to me
and I long to see them again
with thy little Fanny.

Thine

Wm

F.F. - May 1. 1902

My dearest -

The days go by without great things being accomplished but I think that some infinitesimal increment is added just the same. It is a dull windy morning - just the sort for realizing if there were not things to attend to. There are holes to be dug for electric line poles and various small chores in connection with the block (ie. flats) which did not get attended to while I was junketing in Seattle. And there are book-keeping things to do and tax statements to procure etc-etc. But they do not weigh on my mind. Yesterday afternoon I put in a lot of time making notes

of the amount of new radiation required
in the various rooms of the flats and
of course visiting with the house-keepers.
Some of them visit and some are distant
or rather reserved. I have seen
Mrs Rawson and proposed the ^{full} dinner
pail scheme. She is very nice
and said she would consider it
and thought it probably could be
arranged. People have been coming
in to talk about things and now
I must go out and locate poles.

With love to Grace and Lorna
and hopes of seeing them both before
very long and more love and more
love, love, love

Brian.

F.F. - May 2, 1902.

Dearest one -

Yesterday the key to the agent house was turned over to me and I shall try to look it over today and make a sketch plan to send thee. It will not be ~~wildly~~ exciting but it may do.

We had a stormy day yesterday with hail in the forenoon and thunder and lightning in the afternoon but it was all so well arranged that I was able to do my regular going and coming without an umbrella and without getting wet. Today it is lousy. I spent most of the day in the office at book-keeping and made some progress because there were not so many interruptions. I am closing up the old agent set of books and opening a new set which

is rather good for most of the time though rather fuzzy also.

The telephone poles did not get located and neither did the power line poles, which will be interesting to you.

But the new motor for the machine shop arrived and that was clear gain.

We had an intimation that a R.R. Company may want a certain piece of land which belongs to my mother and if so, it will probably mean quite a large sum of money - a few thousands - which I think will lift her out of all serious difficulties. I hope it is true but there is nothing definite yet. Then in the afternoon I had a few minutes talk with the manager of the coffin factory which was more agreeable to me than to him for I was obliged to

tell him that he could not stay any longer on the same terms. His building is full of shavings and a menace to the whole city. Then in passing another office I dropped in and suggested a mutual scheme for opening up an alley where none now exists. Thus there sees how the time goes. Most of it is spent in preliminary talks and very little in actually doing things.

It is three or four days since I heard from thee and now I need a letter. Please send me one and is the picture of Lanny ready?

With love, dearie,

Thy Vernon

May 3. 1902.

Diary -

Yesterday after I had written to
them, Andrew, the factotum, came in
with a tale of woe that the
governor would not work - The
same governor that took six weeks
to get itself regulated in the first
place. - So we went down to
the power house and I put Andrew
to governing the water-wheel by hand
while I investigated the mechanical
governor by aid of the instruction
book which came with it.

It is a complicated machine and
it was several hours before I found
what seemed to be the part that did
not work. In the end it proved
to be only a leather washer that stuck

in a certain cylinder and all it
needed was to be paired down. So
I was triumphant and proud and
Andrew said "An educated man can
do anything if he puts his mind to
it." Andrew's own method was
to loosen or tighten every one of
the many parts of the machine in
rapid succession and without waiting
to see what the result would be.

Dear, dear, since I began this
there have been at least six interruptions
of from two to 20 minutes so
I must hasten to get it posted.

I think of thee much dear one
Thy Vernon

7.7. - May 4. 1902

My dear wife -

In thy last letter thou said
thou had sent me some pictures
of Thomas. If so, I am afraid
they have gone astray for they
have appeared yet. I should be
sorry to lose them and hope
thou has or can get duplicates.

This is Sunday and I wonder
if thou is at church. It is
a very good thing to go to a good
church when one is out of practice
and I approve of thy liking for
our grandfathers meeting. There
is not much temptation to go
here in 7.7. and I never do
but when thou comes perhaps we

shall feel like making one or two experiments. The weather has been lousy most of the week and also rather cold. The spring is very backward after the unusually mild winter and only a few trees show indications of wanting to turn green. When the change comes it will be sudden beyond anything there has seen in conservation Massachusetts. That is a characteristic of the North west. C.D. and I are contemplating another trip together - this time to Minneapolis - to see about a piece of land which another owns and which one of the railroads seems to want. If we can make a sale to them it will

help materially to pay debts and get her onto an income producing basis. Her property affairs look quite prosperous or rather hopeful and I think she will not much longer be dependant on me or anyone else for spending money.

I have had time only to look into the apt house but it seems possible. I will go now and make a sketch plan to send thee —

Later — The churches are turning out their people now and the sketch is made. The rooms are all papered, I think, but not in entirely modest colors. The floor down stairs are in pretty good condition except the kitchen floor which is worn. Up stairs the floors are not quite so good.

The room off the dining room does not seem to me suitable for a bed room.

It is separated only by an open arch or rather square opening and is not large enough as the dimensions given are for the alcove included. It might do for a sewing room or Thomas might sleep there if it were to let day-times up stairs. The two East rooms in the second story are small but if the double doors were removed would do very well for us. I do not now see a good place for a tub. The closet up stairs is cruddy. Would thee like it down stairs in the alcove of the bed room or sewing room?

With love for thee and thy little Thomas

Thy husband

Vernon

May 6. 1902.

Dearest one -

There was a fire this morning about six o'clock. The sack and door factory which is located on my land and takes power from me was completely burned.

It was very near the Riverside Flats and except for favorable conditions would have been disastrous.

But it was raining and there was practically no wind so that no damage was done to my property.

Sack and door factories always burn in due course of time - this one burned about six or eight years ago - and there is some satisfaction that the risk has been removed without

destroying any other buildings.

They were insured but I do not think their loss is fully covered. If they rebuild - which I hope can be accomplished - they will now go into a more isolated lot and at the same time get more room and certain other advantages so I hope the loss will have its compensations. Some of the tenants in the flats began to pack up their things but none of them threw things out of the windows in mad haste and most of them stood at the windows and enjoyed the fire. It was curious to see the small boy of the principal owner of the factory. He wore a

gown of delight and his joy at seeing a good fire evidently outweighed his sympathy for his father's building loss. He is a very nice boy too.

I have not heard from them for several days and I wonder how they and Thomas are getting on. The photographs have not come either and I fear they are lost.

With love

Ann

7.7. - May 7 - 1902

Draught -

This is a beautiful day after the rain and the fire and for the first time the air has a feeling of summer. The trees have only just begun to show green but most of them are still bare. The grass though is fresh and green and strong and the cows have been out for several days.

The factory man has already begun to think of ways and means to rebuild and I think that he will probably find some way to do it though he has little capital to work with.

C. D. and I have not yet
received our pass to go to
Minneapolis to investigate the
land proposition for mother but
we shall probably go soon this
week. Altogether the house
are pretty well filled and only
thou and Fanny are needed
to complete the broken circuit.

When does thou think thou can
get away. One of the doctors
told me yesterday that he thought
the scarlet fever epidemic would
soon be over and if thou could
leave soon after the 16th, thou
would probably be no danger by
the time thou had visited a little

in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

It is several days since a letter
has come and I need to hear
from thou. and know that thou
is coming soon.

With love to Grace and Fanny
Ever

May 8. 1902.

Dearest

What a slow process communication at this distance is! Last night I got your letter with blue prints in reply to my first letter after returning from the coast. That was ages ago. Poor dearie, thou seemest low in mind over what thou considerest thy short coming. So does every one ~~else~~, I think. It is hard to be reconciled to one's own inability to shine with those whom one likes or admires most and I have felt it a good deal. With those people whom I should like to stand well with, I do not ever come up to my plain average - let

alone doing better than usual.

If one has not shining talents
he must preserve his self-respect
by solid virtues so far as possible
and in the end he will come
out even I suspect. It is
useless to attempt to get on
by means which we do not
possess, but we all have our
own strong points and can
improve our opportunities or
rather our good qualities and
have a right to our own and
others' respect in consequence.

Thou must not think that I
mean to admit all the unkind
things thou has said of thyself
and thine little brain but we

all have to admit our difficulties
and no one thinks the worse
of us for it.

Dearest, dearest I hope thou
can get away soon. If thou
can make it convenient to stay
a week with Harriet, I think
it would be a very good thing
for thee to do. And then if
thou can stay a week or more
with Mary Anne, that will be
another very good thing to do.
I love thee, dearest, and send
thee my good wishes and thoughts

Thine.

The prints are pretty good but can't thou have
some real ones taken without too much wear and tear?

7.7. — May 9. 1902.

Dear one -

I have been busy all the morning watching a new motor get started. It was not hard work and did not over-tax my muscles or mind but my hand is almost too cold to hold a pen in consequence. The weather took a sudden turn coldwards last night and it quite chilly in consequence. This is the sum of the news.

So, there is more. Last night I went to the club of which I am a member now and played pin pool with C.D. and another leading citizen and a Norwegian bank clerk. The club is very democratic and admits solid business men and grocers and

their cluck indiscriminately and there
is a certain amount of patronizing
among them. It is not at all
club-like in pretensions. The
members wear their hats much of
the time and the one attendant does
not always wear a collar and seldom
wears a coat. The management
has gone so far as to advise him
that it is not good form to
play billiards while members are
waiting for a chance at the tables.

— Sometimes we must be firm.

This is really all the news
I send thee and him much love

Thy friend

7.7. - May 10. 1902

Dearest Fanny. -

Permit me to say a few words to you that there is a nice wife and I am very glad I am married to you. Also that there has a very dear little son - all of which things make life worth living though separations are necessary drawbacks. It is a dull cold morning outside but it gives me time to catch up on office work. Much of my time is spent in going over book-keeping or records details and in getting acquainted with the business that has been transacted so that I can continue

it intelligently. A day or two ago I wrote to a man asking him why he had paid the taxes on a certain piece of land. Before I got his reply I discovered that he had bought the land and of course it was his business to pay the taxes.

So I wrote immediately confessing the oversight but his answer was already started and was quite positive in tone. The sale had been accounted for in the books but the record had not been made in the land book showing that we no longer owned it. I think I am catching up however and will not have to spend so much

time grubbing after a little while.

In a day or two I hope to hear what the tax has to say about the agent house.

Much love to the dear one
and to thy little one.

Brown

7.7. - May 11. 1902.

Dearie -

This is only a line to tell
thee that all is well and to
send thee love and wishes and
hopes that all is well with thee
also. It is still cold and gray
but the leaflets have begun to push
and a single day will make a
great difference now. if only the
sun will shine.

I am proposing to rest today and
get a good ready for another week.

Thine, dearie,

Bruno.

7.7. - May 12. 1902.

Dear one -

Thy letter about the house
has just come and I will
set to work or try to get others
to work at fixing it up. Our
doctor has told me that the
scarlet fever and diphtheria have
about disappeared but I shall ask
the health officer to whom all
reports are made and who should
know definitely about all cases
of contagious diseases. I think
thou will be able to come soon
and will not have to stay several
weeks with B. Wins or M. Wins.
Though I should like to have thee

stay an week with Mary. She
would let thee do as thee thought
best and would not make unnecessary
demands on thee and she is a good
person to associate with as thee has
said. The weather is trying to
clear up and soon everything will
be pushing fast. I am sorry
the little boy has not been so
well but I suppose a certain
amount of unwellness is the
portion of little boys and must
be accepted as the natural way
of things. With love to him and
to thee

Bever

7.7 - May 13. 1902.

Draust -

The interesting news which I have to tell you this morning is that a small dam which has been maintained at a point on the river twenty miles above the city and has been torn out by a lot of farmers who thought it flooded their lands. The dam was built to act as a reservoir to hold the spring floods and deal them out later in the season when the river gets lower. The taking out of the dam lets loose a lot of water but I think it will not endanger the dams here in

the city. At least we have
warning and can be on the
watch for the water when it
comes. There are several lakes
which it has to pass through and
the probability is that the only
effect will be to make an
unusually large flow of water but
not a real flood.

I have just heard of it by
telephone and must now go out
and inform the interested parties.

Such is life.

With love

Yours

7.7. ~ May 15. 1902

My dear -

We went out - C.D. + I - on Tuesday night by train to Battle Lake and stayed in impossibly stuffy rooms over night in a very country hotel. In the morning we drove some six miles to the foot of Otter Tail Lake to see the damage done to our dam by the peasant farmer and his hired man.

They had hacked and chopped and sawed but had not done as thorough a job as I had feared. The dam was built in a very thorough fashion and the injuries to it are rather superficial. The planking was cut away in many places but the

frame work is not much injured.

The immense flood of water which they expected to turn loose did not come and the lake was actually a little higher the day after than it had been just before the damage.

The flow of water was increased just about 50% but not enough to bring it up to the natural flow of last year when the river was high. Our witnesses were not of much use and out of some twenty-five men they cannot testify to having seen more than three or four whom they knew by name.

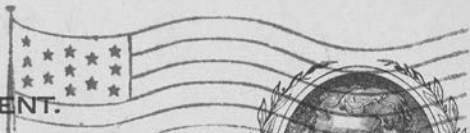
The city is more interested than any one else because they need the reservoir to supply water power

in the winter time for their electric lighting and it is likely that they will take the lead in prosecuting. It seems necessary to prosecute or else the same thing would occur as often as we rebuilt the dam. Tonight C.D. & I expect to go to Minneapolis to see about the land which we hope to see for mother. On account of the lack of a real sewer we cannot have a W.C. in the apartment house but we can have a tub and I think the best place is the alcove off the dining room. I will try to get things going. The paper situation is not bad or unquiet.

Thine vaw.



POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr. V. A. Wright
Fergus Falls,
Minnesota.

X.1. 1902,

2.50 P.M.

All has gone well
so far. We fed
Thomas at once, and
lost the rubber
stopper to the
alcohol lamp. (not in
th.)

Thomas was too
interested to go to
sleep at once, but
later had a good
nap, and is now
scolding for his 3.00
P.M. feeding.

It is cool & comfy.
Young Gidw.

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Vernon A. Wright, Esq.,
Tergus Falls,
Minnesota

Xi, 2, 1902. 7:0 P.M.

The day is safely over
& Thomas is asleep. The
restraint of train life
has begun to weary the
young man, and he has
been a little fussy
~~but~~ he needs space
and I shall be glad
when he can get
down on a floor
again. We had a
short but satisfactory
call on Alice.
Miss McKean had
her plans carried out
to a T, and left us
beaming. G. E. W.

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Vernon A. Wright, Esq.,
Fergus Falls,
Minnesota

[Oct. 4, 1902] 10.30 A.M. Friday

Tonty had a first class night, and took to his A.M. nap like a cherub.

We spent almost an hour in the clean, carpeted

Ladies' Waiting Room this A.M. between 8 & 9 &

Tonty spent most of the time on the floor.

The freedom of his legs & arms did him lots of good, and I think

that he will keep happy till we reach

Boston. An old lady on the train tho't that I was either Mary's mother or her sister, & that Mary was Tonty's parent. Ha Ha! G.C.

Finger Falls. Oct. 4. 1902

Dearest G.

Your two postal cards from
Sw. filled us with satisfaction.

Lucy had worried about the spoon.

I have been busy up to eye-brows
and get up early but am not
allowed to work late because the
new domestic is prompt and has
dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The last two nights have been cold
and frosty and the last two days
sunny and still — just perfect.

I am out doors most of the time.
I shall send you a deed to sign
today —

One for J.

Yours Truly
=====

Kenneth

7.7. - Oct. 7. 1902.

Dearest Grady -

The time flies and the days are good for out-door work so I am improving them and letting the office take care of itself. I am up and out before the family gets down to breakfast and before the dark banks of fog have rolled away down the river under the influence of the pleasant sun.

Murray is still in bed but is improving. Dr Cole says it was exactly the same as a light case of pneumonia and Lucy will be glad to get him away to California.

Mrs Ransom is not going to take our house and it is rented to the North Star Lumber man. Mrs. Moore came

and I suppose did her work. At least things seem pretty well done up. The things are not yet moved but will have to be soon. I have not wanted to take the time to attend to moving.

Sam H. has just sent me sketches for his house which he wants me to edit and finally to draw complete plans. As he doesn't want Corlidge and Carlson to do it I don't see how I can though possibly I can find time for it in winter when I go home.

It will be quite a large house but not immense. I have received your postal cards (3) but no letter yet and I am hoping for one this afternoon. It was good to know that Tomkin got along so well on the train and I hope he still

thrives. With love for him and his mother.

Anna

I send deed to be signed and acknowledged and when ever you go to Boston I should like to have you get the Northwestern Ins. policy and forward by reg. mail. Do you remember the mystic word?

T.

7.7 - Oct. 12. 1902

Dear wife -

It is a gray Sunday afternoon and I have just got the necessary business out of the way in order to have a clear and open (void) mind to write to thee.

For the last week I have scarcely been in the office for the weather has been fine and the opportunity of getting outside work done was not to be neglected. But as a result, bills accumulated and today I have been going over them and paying them in the intervals between superintending some last bits of line work in the neighborhood of the Tel. Bldg. Mrs. Rawson

has not taken our house but the
lumberman has. He is a young
fellow with a nice wife and one
small baby girl. They have seen
better days and I was a little
sorry to take away all our things
for they could have used them or some
of them. It was Thursday afternoon
that I got Mr. Salvage and his
own horse express wagon and with
the aid of another man moved all
the things out in front of the house
and began loading. We concluded
that there would be more than one
load but before we had gone far
Mr. Salvage suggested that it could
be better for him to drop out and

get a two horse drag. He kindly
drove off and found me and then
we finally managed to get it all
into two big loads. Lucy's attic
was filled full of our things standing
in the middle of the space but
next day under her direction was
rearranged and at last there really
looked to be as much vacant
space for hanging clothes as there
had been in the beginning. The
capacity of attics is always deceptive.

Friday we were invited to the McGovern's
for dinner but Mrs. was sick and
it had to be called off. Last night
(Saturday) Lucy and C.D. went to the
theater and I went to the Club &

my weekly shine. Then I met
Cyrus Beall who has bought the lots
just south of and adjoining Jas. A. Brown's
lots and he talked about house plans
and would be glad to have me do
them for him. I shall try to find
time to advise but not to draw
working plans. Three applications all
in a week - from the Pacific, the
Atlantic and what you are pleased
to call the Middle and I am pleased
to call the Northwest. I have not
looked over Mr. Cook's sketches thoroughly
yet but I will and I rather hope
he will see his way to build.

Perhaps I can do something this
evening but I believe Lucy has planned

2
to make that long delayed visit to
the Masmo to hear Mr. play his
pianola. Anyway you may tell
Mr. Crook that I will try not
delay because I know he wants to begin
if he is to build before cold weather.
I think you can manage to raise
the necessary \$500.⁰⁰ and if he
can reasonably run the cost will
not exceed his estimate I should be
glad to see you make the loan though
if you make it at all it will not
be for the extra interest and I
should think 6% high enough. It
only makes \$5.⁰⁰ a year difference
but that will be something to him.

I have not deposited the check for
250. which you gave me, and

will wait till I get back so
I think you should surely have
enough for them you can be sure
of what I owe you.

It is good to know that Tom is
doing well and that you were able
to go to town and do things without
getting tired but please don't presume
too far. Remember me to Tom
the elder and Jimmy if they are
still there and give my love
to Thomas the younger.

Thine ever

V.

Have you sent the deed and the policy?

J.F. - Oct. 20. 1902

My dearest wife -

Yesterday we worked all day putting in the new little water wheel and so I did not get a chance to write to thee. In fact thou is a much respected wife but thou is also a good wife and thou wilt allow for a hard working husband.

The plot thickens here too. That is, all preparations for winter seem to be crowding into the present and it keeps me hustling. I have trained a carpenter into electric wiring since it was impossible to get a real electrician and so we manage to get ahead slowly.

Saturday night we turned the lights on in the flats and the first result was to blow out two fuses and leave two families in darkness but the difficulty was soon fixed up and the lights came

satisfactory. I get up reasonably early, in fact, am in time to begin at seven o'clock sometimes though I try to plan so that the various men doing various jobs will know what to begin on if I am not there.

About the middle of last week I got a sketch off for Mr. Cook which he may have told you about and I hope it will do. I don't believe I favor the plan of taking them in unless no other arrangement can be made. It would inevitably put more care and responsibility on them and they will have enough to run the house and the Tommy. Does he continue well and hearty? I am sorry that the new maid shows signs or even of her departure. Who can they get to hunt them up a successor? I also have my labor problems. With the

electric light business coming on, more work will be thrown onto Andrew and I must find some way to relieve him. He is a little hard to suit because he is so suspicious that he can hardly work with another man and yet he can't do it all himself.

Did you have Mary's trunk here for me to bring? I don't remember taking it to Lucy's attic with the other things. If you left it, where did you leave it? With a great deal of love for them and for little Tommy

Yours

F. F. - Oct. 22. 1902

My dearie -

Today has been an oasis of sloth and an island of rest in the desert of toil and the ocean of hustle.

Not that the work is done - by no means - but there has been nothing immediately pressing and I have improved and enjoyed the interval.

The electric light venture is the thing that has occupied me for several days. The lights were turned on at the flats last Saturday night and while the quality is all right I have been unable to furnish an unbroken current. Fuses began immediately to blow out and twice last night for intervals of about five

minutes the lights were all out.

It is trying and I know there must be unfavorable comments going around but I can see no reason why the thing won't work out all right. I have kept my prices lower than the city's so as to be able to meet any possible irregularities by at least that compensation.

The weather is all that could be desired most of the time. It is warmer or at any rate seems warmer than in September and during the day time I generally can go comfortably without an overcoat.

Thy letters give me great satisfaction and the reports of rosy nosed Tommy are good to get. Mr. Warfield came in and collected \$5.00 for

the carriage. Was that correct? Mrs. King's bill for treatments was \$32.00 (16 @ \$2.00) Was that also about right?

And has thou got the Ins. policy yet and the deed ready?

And did the Am. Trust Co. forward to Lincoln our new Genl Elec. certificate

Thou said thou enclosed a Genl Elec. check in thy last letter but thou must have left it outside.

Write to thy V. and tell him nice things about thyself and J.

Brown

J.F. - Oct. 26. 1902.

My dearest Grace -

Sunday is drawing to a close and I have come into my little office to write this by the fading light assisted by ~~the~~ my own electric light.

In spite of the distressing foreground the sky-line from my window is very pleasant and I like it much better than the view from the rear window of the old office. Also I find that it seems quieter in the second story than it did in the first so I am content with the change.

Thy letters telling of home things and doings are sweet. The "brave boy" will soon be walking and even now if he can go up stairs by himself

I can imagine that he keeps
there busy. Dear little fellow,
what a joy to have braced up again
after his tough long summer.

And so the Crooks are to build.
I am glad of it and hope they
will not be disappointed. In
regard to the fireplace, if it is
perfectly convenient to leave them
until I get back, I should like
it that way but if he needs the
material or their room then I
should like to have him get the
most expensive man he can find to
cost it at our cost and if he
thinks it unwise to try to get the
color in the plaster or cement, then
let them try an experiment or as

large a piece as possible in coloring
or tinting as he suggested and as
Mr. Pepper thought possible.

Since the lights have been supplied
to the flats from my machine I have
been tending dynamos evenings in order
to find out just how much attention
it requires to keep the lights steady
and the conclusion seems to be that
I shall have to keep an all night
man in addition to Andrew.

So I have arranged with an aged
German and there will be glad to
know that Andrew's home will be
shortened. He will begin at 7 AM.
and will look after the flats during
the day as well as the fires in both

buildings and the dynamo. About five o'clock P.M. the lights are turned on and then he will have to be at the power house pretty constantly until 9:30 or 10 P.M.

The new man will come on at 7 P.M. and begin by doing the janitor's work at the Telephone Bldg. and then after a last look at the fires will come over to the power house and tend the machine for the rest of the night. About half after four or five o'clock in the morning when there are only a few all night lights on and no changes likely, he will stoke up the fires to get the buildings warm for the day again and at 7 o'clock he will

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so off and he followed by Andrews
again. The expense is increased
by keeping two men and it leaves
little profit but if I can maintain
a good service I shall be satisfied
and may get more lights. Now there
are about 200 connected.

I hope the new man will be all
right for it has been a good deal of a
problem. Andrew has been cranky
but I think the new arrangement will
suit him as he is principal man
and therefore important.

The new little Dutch building is
going to be all right, I think. It is
being delayed by Mr. Frankoiz who
has the roof to put on. I shall
have a photograph of it when the
glass is in the front and the sidewalk

is built and cleaned up. I suspect
that the townspeople class it with
the Manhattan and would prefer a
straight flat line such as they are
accustomed to in place of the stepped
fable. But it suits me pretty
well and has come out just as I
expected or wanted it to which was
not the case with the Telephone Bldg.

Lucy wanted me to write you
for not writing to her but now she
has heard from you and is appeased.

The bills are all paid except Mrs.
Welch and I will attend to that
if I can think to ask Lucy what
her name is — I think it is Phoebe.

With love to them and to Thomas.

Thy answer
Ann

Please send me some red bed socks.

7.7. - Oct 30. 1902

Dear Grace -

These are very busy days
and slowly I seem to be getting thro.
my work though there is plenty still
cut out for me. I am in my
office very little of the time and
the weather is generally propitious.
Sam wired me a day or two ago
to procure free transportation in U.S.
and come out to Seattle to spend a
week. It is doubtless in connection
with his proposed house that he wants
to see me and I should like to go.
If I design his house, perhaps I
ought to go but just now I cannot
get away. What does thee think of
it? Lucy is in bed with a

head ache today. She went to
a Schumann Club concert last night
and I think was all right at the
time but today I have not seen
her and this is 8 P.M. and I am
in my office. The new janitor
and night-man is beautiful to behold.
He is German and not young and
his ^{black} hat is like this  only with
numerous undulations which I cannot
express. He seems faithful and may
have but he is too old to be
very bright and cannot be expected
to do more than just what he is
told to do. But that is sufficient
in most cases. Andrews will be
my main reliance when I am not
here and except in unusual straits

(Is that right?) he will probably be
equal to the occasion.

Not long ago I lost my glasses and
day before yesterday got a new pair
but promptly dropped them in the flume
where they floated calmly for five
minutes before I could fish them out.

They are a great relief. Reading
without them for a few minutes
makes my eyes smart. How is
Ther? and he? Write and
tell me all about Therps.

Thine
Brewer

When thou can please fit the poetry
but it is not extraneously pressing.

F.F. Nov. 2. 1902

Dearest Fanny -

Your letters with the checks and also the registered policy have come and I thank you for 'em all and enclose check for \$150.⁰⁰ to begin November with. It should be \$175.⁰⁰ but there is not quite enough in the bank so I will make it \$200.⁰⁰ next time or if you need it sooner I can send the \$25.⁰⁰ from here. Thy letters seem full of business and I beg thee not to do more than is necessary. I hope the domestic situation is not going to be prolonged and that there can get the matter person or some one else without a killing waste of time and energy.

Our life continues to be full
of a number of things. I am
out of doors most of the time
making hay while the sun shines
and hope to get through and
camp before cold weather. Nothing
has seemed settled for six weeks but
it looks as though the rats of
regular routine might get established
sometime. Friday night the lay
expected happened and the Casket Factory
burned to the ground. Fortunately the
conditions were almost precisely the
same as when the other factory burned.
There was no wind and a light rain
had been falling for several hours so
that everything was wet. Consequently
the rest of the prophecy didn't come

true and instead of half the town
burning, nothing else was injured.
Even my power house which stood
within eight feet of the factory ~~was~~ had
only the paint scorched a little.
It was really quite wonderful and
very fortunate for if the power house
had burned the water would have been
let out of the pond and all the mills
would have been stopped just at a
time when they are working day and
night. I was not sure at first
whether I had any insurance on the
building or not for it had been cancelled
recently by the companies and it had
been difficult to keep it insured but
there was \$700.00 on it. Probably I
should have torn down the building next

year and so the insurance more than makes up for the loss of rent.

But the Casket Co. had a considerable loss and I don't know yet whether they will build again or not.

Everybody rejoices that a standing menace has at last been removed without loss to the whole town and I am inclined to join in the shouting.

The public building (P.O.) opposite the Telephone Building is having ground broken for it and it really seems as though it would at last be built.

The Adamses have invited me to dinner and I am going. With love to Grace and Fanny

Ernest

F.F. - Nov. 9. 1902

My dearie,

Brother week has simply whirled by and I don't know where it has gone or what it has left and yet the feeling is here that somehow things are getting done and I am nearer to going home. But it doesn't seem as if I could stay long when I go. If everything runs smoothly there should be no reason for great haste to get back here but who can tell whether everything will run smoothly? We shall see what we shall see. Thank thee for the policy and the deed both of which have ~~already~~ arrived. I had already sent \$7.⁰⁰ to Mrs. Welch but I can send 20 cents more though she has not acknowledged receipt yet. If I can find a few days to spare I shall probably go to Seattle and this time shall send thee word of my wellfare. Sam has written

two or three times more but all I can
get out of it is a conviction that it
will be quite impossible to plan intelligently
without seeing his lot. He has bought a
tract with four others which possesses
the doubtful attraction of extensive views
to mountains on the West and volcanoes
on the North + South with glimpses
of the Sound at intervals and a considerable
lake in the immediate foreground. It
sounds formidable and certainly must
be seen to be appreciated or used.

How fine that Crooks' house is really
going up and how fine of them to
provide for them. They will be
prouder of it than Sam of his acres
and views and establishment.

They certainly should consult Mrs. Ames
about Mrs. Brown but that is an ancient
story by this time and I am wondering
how she has arranged. Last night

Mr and Mrs. and I with Mr and Mrs.
Jim Brown ^{and the Bulls} dined at the McGraws.

It was a 19th anniversary which had
been postponed four weeks on account of
Mrs. McGraw's sickness. and was a
pleasant occasion. After dinner the
women sat in one room and the
men in another until after eleven.
The rooms were adjoining and open but
there was no mixing. The art of
general conversation does not extend
beyond the limitations of the things we
know and are most interested in. It is
too bad but it will take another generation
to alter it. Mother has lately sent me
another appeal for an increased allowance
for the California catnip. She is
persuaded that it is inhuman to starve
them at \$50.⁰⁰ per mo. It has not been
my intention to provide more than the
necessaries of life and I cannot think

there is any real danger of either starvation or freezing for them even though they are neither of them well. Today I must write to mother and tell her something like this. She is worried and probably tired but it would do no good to increase the allowance. It is as easy to spend \$100. as \$50 and I don't feel like giving or rather loaning more than is necessary for their bare living.

We shall have to give Lucy a good present for Xmas but I don't feel as if she would get as much out of Raymond's sketch of Lonty as some might and moreover were not the sketches loaned with the pictures? I had that impression.

Mr. Mason gave a pianola recital yesterday afternoon to the Schumann Club at which he was the sole performer. He works at it night and day and his diligence deserves a better fate.

How ~~old~~ the boy's teeth and how many
are there now? Does he show any
signs of walking alone? He is nearly
a year old. Just think of it! The
brave boy! This afternoon Mr.

McMahon is going to drive me down
to the land where you and Miss McLan
took me prospecting. He is thinking
of buying it — with a reservation of
the flourage rights of course —

It has turned quite cold and the
sky alternates between gray and pale blue
with more of the former.

Dr. Frubben is going to send reading
and working glasses directly to thee.
I chose nickel finish. With love
to thee and the little fellow,

Bruce

F.F. — Nov. 12. 1902

Dear —

The date was just written when your Sunday letter came in by Metropolitan Delivery and rejoiced the gizzard of Thy U. It is snowing warmly and wetly for the first time and I am wearing gum. Nothing exciting has occurred. The machine is still upset and routine work still keeps me busy. I have heard nothing more from Sam for a few days and shall write him to make sure that it is not a wild goose chase before I go out. Last night I made my party call on the Adamses and must go to my ^{own} room. I wish we could get hard coal here at \$1.00 per ton. I am now paying nearly that for soft coal and glad to get it at any price. Today I

sent the insurance money to Wenz &
Calot with instructions to buy Genl. Elc.
and Am Zel & Zel and to send the
certificates to South Lincoln. It will
be some days before they come but
when they do they will have to take
them into town unless my carning
is at hand which is devoutly to be
wished. This is all I can write
now but all is well except for a
stye in the left eye of

Thine

Wm



F. F. — Nov. 16. 1902

Dear — what do you think of
my new hieroglyph? I have had
it made for some printing and am
going to have a rubber stamp like
it for the purpose of decorating everything
which needs decoration. I shall carry
it with me to stamp my hat and
my shirts and baggage and everything
else I can think of.

It is getting to be winter in Minnesota
and already there is some skating and the
river is beginning to freeze over. There
has been snow on the ground for several
days and out door work is coming
to an end. My outside electric line
work is about completed but still the
extra dynamo doesn't come. It was
shipped from Lynn on Oct. 27 and as

you are so near you might run over and ask them about it and ask them if that is the way to treat a stock holder. There is nothing new yet in regard to my coast trip. I shall write again today to Sam to make sure he really wants me for he has a way of wiring momentary impulses that sometimes puts people to trouble for no ascertainable reason. But in any case I hardly think I can get away in time to be with you on Thanksgiving day. My own work is getting along but every day more and more mother's affairs demand a settlement and I should feel uncomfortable all winter if I go back without winding them up or at least finding out that they cannot be wound up at present.

It looks to me as though two or three weeks steady attention to her business would settle everything but it is possible that complications may arise. She is so anxious to be done with the present condition and to feel that she is not living on charity that I am very unwilling to put it off another season if it is possible to make the settlement now.

The N.E. conscience is slow in getting in its work but it keeps alive and sooner or later it generally gets to the point of doing things.

This is one of the things I had set myself to do this year and I should feel that I was shirking a plain duty if it is put off. Up to this time I have not even my way to get at

it. The multiplicity of small things has made such demands, but now the way seems to be clearing and I think I can make a start this week. Last night I went to another dinner. The Parsons had invited the Welches, Barnises, Hannahs, and Adamses but Mr. Adams was away and they called me in to fill a place.

It was a pleasant affair and Mr. Parsons had the discretion to lead the men back to the Parlor after a reasonable period of smoke and discussion of comparative English and American politics. The Welches left very soon after dinner but the rest of us stayed till after 10:30.

The November Atlantic has not yet come around to the C.D.'s but I shall be on the watch for it to read



The article you recommended. I am glad that finds time to read now in a while. My eyes have not been very good lately on account of a strep which inflamed the whole left upper lid and affected the ball somewhat.

But today it is much better and I can read again for a little at a time. My glasses have helped me but have not given me new eyes and I cannot read or work long without feeling the strain. Have your glasses come and are they helpful? I think of you and Thomas and Hattie often and it will be a joyous day when we are four again.

With love to you all
Mum

F.F. ~ Sunday - Nov. 23. 1902

My dearest Grace -

It seems a short week to me for it has been a busy one. At last the little dynamo came and I have been putting in nearly all of my time in superintending the setting up of it. It appears to be all right and I think will run satisfactorily which pleases me as I took some chances in adopting a form of belting which is rarely used for a similar purpose, and which requires a very delicate adjustment.

You will remember how the gearing thumps on the old machine and it was to do away with thumping gearing entirely that I tried my experiment.

You will be glad to know that a beginning has been made in the mother's business. Only a beginning but the dynamo was the chief obstacle and now that it is in a fair way to be fixed and done, I can devote myself to the settlement of the insolvent. Sam has not replied to my enquiry as to whether he wants me to come out now.

It was a rather delicate matter to ask him for it implied doubt as to his late requests to have me come immediately and a suggestion that he might have been hasty and so have already changed his mind.

But as that is exactly what I feared, I did not want to go chasing

to the Pacific just now unless I was sure that he had really decided to build. The weather has been fine for the whole of the week with red sunsets which last for a remarkably long time instead of going out as if snuffed. Last Tuesday I went out to Dayton Hollow with a couple of diggers to dig pits in order to ascertain the character of the ground and I was out all day, most of the time without an overcoat and quite comfortably.

Suey is beginning to talk about going to California but has not fixed a date. She now thinks of inducing Chas. D. to go with her or rather to come,

out later and return with her and
Murray. I wish he would do it
and think there is a fair chance
that he will. You will also be
glad to learn that I take my
exercisio sometimes and have an
appetite to be ashamed of though I
am not yet fat. That will
come when I retire again from
active life and become an elegant
leisure rotund. I am reading i.e.
beginning the last thing in the world
that you would guess. — Gibbon —
and strange to relate the beginning
goes easily and is interesting. Books
with profuse notes are difficult and
Milman's notes sometimes occupy
more than their half of the page and

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are distracting. It seems presumptuous
in the Rev. gentleman to put his
name above Gibbon's in the title
and I shall try to ignore him and
his notes and read only the real
thing however incorrect it may be.
As just plain pure English it is
sometimes delightful — precise and
lucid perhaps I should say — and
has in an extraordinary degree
"Style" with a capital S.

My party call on Mrs. Brown
was made weeks ago. She was
not at home and I slipped my
card under the door. Whether yours
was with it is more than I can
now be sure of but I fear that it

was not. What is to be done
about it? Is all lost?

Since then I have called on the
Adamses who invited me to dinner
and on the McGowan for the same
reason. I still owe the Passanos
but that is only one week old and
will keep a little longer. Your
next letter will tell me about the
progress of teeth 5 & 6. Fannie
is following his dad in having the
second pair of incisors come inside.

He will have to wear a plate if
his second teeth do the same thing.

Have your glasses come and do
they help? I can think of
nothing to do about Robert's late

rising except polite and firm
incisance. It is a doubtful
thing to leave him and Mary alone
and I shall be glad when Lucy
comes so that she can chaperone
and keep an eye on them.

It will not be long now and
I hope there will be able to bear
up. With very much love and
constant thoughts of Lincoln and
the welfare of my dear ones
Yours
Bessie

Lucy wants to know what you have
under your cotton dresses when you
you sit out doors. She is a scoffer.

F.F. Nov. 27. 1902.

Dearest Grace -

Thanksgiving day and the trees
and telegraph wires are coated
with a fine white frost which
makes outdoors bright and cheery
in spite of a dark gray sky.

There has come no letter from
thee yet this week but I try
to think thee is well. Sam
has written from Spokane where
he and his wife are staying for
a few days "for a change". That
probably means that Seattle is
too wet and dreary in the winter
to be enjoyed until you get thoroughly

used to it. I can't make out
whether his house is a sure thing
or not and it is quite likely that
the Coast trip may not come off.

He says if I will come out
about the first of December and
stay about three weeks he will
be coming East and we can
travel together. But that plan
is altogether too liberal. If I go
it will be for a stay of one or
two days only. The Winslows have
come over from Battle Lake to spend
the day with the C.D.s and I
have declined an invitation to
dine at the Adamses as the ground

that Thanksgiving day is a family
affair. Was that a sufficient
reason? Mrs. Welch and
another doctor's wife at the
hospital have sent out invitations
which I have "rejected". Dancing
and cards are not attractive to
one who doesn't dance and
plays only voluntarily.

As usual I have to report that
the work is getting on but is
not done yet. But there must not
get discouraged — It really is getting
on and the day cannot now be far
away when we shall have a
Thanksgiving party in the Old Bow Road.
With love to thee & S. — Emma

F. F. - Sunday - Nov. 30. 1902

My dear one -

There is a jewel and
I love thee and after that it
is a fine cold morning but the
sun has begun to warm up and
the wind has shifted from the cold
quarter to the S.E. Before any-
thing else Lucy wants to know if
Thomas is being fed anything solid
yet. She thinks it is time for
him to have a little solid food.
What do Dr. C. and Dr. W. think?
And how about Lucy Miller? Is

she coming? also what are the other domestic arrangements at the present writing? Replying to the cold questions in a recent letter, I should think it would be a very good plan to get a winter coat as soon as they can possibly arrange it and as for painting the house unless the weather is very different from the weather of this region it is too late. Paint does not stand very well if it freezes before it is well dried out.

Lucy and Murray expect to leave shortly after Christmas but Murray has a bronchial cough and if he

should not get better it is possible that they may go sooner. He looks pretty well and I think the change of climate will bring him out all right. The Warfields - both families - are to dine with us today. The two men are going South soon to look up a field for settlement and business. The Winslows came over Thanksgiving day and got a square meal. Speaking of meals, I still eat only two per day (except Sundays and Holidays) but I am ashamed of the quantity that I stow away. The family regularly waits for me

to finish and sometimes when the
period is too protracted they take
refuge in newspapers or encyclopedias.
C.D. and Murray always have a
question to settle by reference to the
encyclopedia or the Statesmans
Year Book or the Army & Navy
Register or what not. and these enforced
delays are utilized to square accounts.

I still dabble in Gibbon and
have now got far enough in the first
volume to have a distinctly kaleidoscopic
impression of the period. It was not
a good time to live in. This is.
With love Emma.

F.F. Nov. 27. 1902.

Dearest Grace -

Thanksgiving day and the trees
and telegraph wires are coated
with a fine white frost which
makes outdoors bright and cheery
in spite of a dark gray sky.

There has come no letter from
thee yet this week but I try
to think thee is well. Sam
has written from Spokane where
he and his wife are staying for
a few days "for a change". That
probably means that Seattle is
too wet and dreary in the winter
to be enjoyed until you get thoroughly

used to it. I can't make out whether his house is a sure thing or not and it is quite likely that the Coast trip may not come off.

He says if I will come out about the first of December and stay about three weeks he will be coming East and we can travel together. But that plan is altogether too liberal. If I go it will be for a stay of one or two days only. The Winslows have come over from Battle Lake to spend the day with the C.D.'s and I have declined an invitation to dine at the Adamses as the ground

that Thanksgiving day is a family affair. Was that a sufficient reason? Mrs. Welch and another doctor's wife at the hospital have sent out invitations which I have "regretted". Dancing and cards are not attractive to one who doesn't dance and plays only voluntarily.

As usual I have to report that the work is getting on but is not done yet. But this must not get discouraged — It really is getting on and the day cannot now be far away when we shall have a Thanksgiving party in the As Bow Road. With love to thee & S. — Emma

J.F. - Dec. 7. 1902.

My dearest wife -

There is little to tell today.

I am getting my affairs ready to leave and another's business is the chief obstacle to be overcome.

Chas. D. is working today on her accounts and if he and his faithful but elaborately slow assistant can strike a balance, there should be no further delay. I shall try very hard to get away this week and think I can do it.

The weather has turned cold and clear with a cutting N.W. wind and I shall be glad to be away

from it. Lucy too is beginning to think that it would be a good thing to go before Christmas instead of after and if she can arrange it I think she will try.

It is an inhospitable country in the winter time in spite of a bright sun and cheery look.

From my window now we could almost persuade himself that it would be pleasant to be out but suddenly a man goes by on the other side of the street with his coat turned up and his cap turned down and you realize with something of a shock the real state of outdoors.

Still we have all kept well and Murray is not getting any worse at any rate and seems to me to be better if not quite all right. It is reported that Chas. J. and Myra + Vernon will go to Florida shortly but I doubt it. Chas. J. has not been well of late. He ought to retire from business but he can't.

Dearest I hope thou will be able to hold the upper hand for a few days longer and so fare thee well as may be and with the constant thoughts of thy
B.