



George B. Wright and Family Papers

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Postmarked
3-8-03

501 GRAND AVENUE.
ST. PAUL.

Dearest Grace,

The first pen-
was very bad but this one seems
good enough to tell you the story
of my life which is as follows:-
After an uneventful R.R. trip I
arrived Friday morning in St. Paul
and reached Grand Ave before the
family was down. At Charles'
office, I saw Mr. H.D. West who
is here with his wife - so Lucy is
keeping house for them in Pasadena
for the present. In the afternoon I
walked endles miles in wet streets
and got very tired and went to bed

with a sore throat and fever
Saturday morning Charles called
in Dr. Davis and he told me
I had better stay in bed for a
day or two and now I have done
it and am recovering and shall
probably start for Tusque Falls
Tuesday morning. The fever has
not been high and the throat has
not been very bad so I have
been comfortable except Saturday
which was a little long and
head-achy. The family is
well and cheerful and I have
spent much time thinking of thee
and Thomas and wondering whether
the new maid came Saturday

and whether the change
promises well. Charles was
going to Boston Saturday night
and had bought his ticket and
checked his trunk when he was
obliged to change his plans.

All of which was my gain
for I had not seen him before
since last June or May.

It is doubtful whether he will
be able to go out to Lincoln
when he goes but I told him
you would be very glad to see
him if he could. He sends
his love and I send mine
dear ones and a bit for Joseph.

Sunday afternoon.

Yours.

Postmarked
3-9-03

501 GRAND AVENUE.
ST. PAUL.

Dearest — Another day gone and
my ailment is progressing — I mean
it is being done for — satisfactorily.
This morning I took an all-over
wipe down and shaved my chin
and after that ~~my~~ temperature
was normal but it is up again
to $99\frac{1}{2}$ this afternoon which is quite
to be expected. By tomorrow morning
I hope to be free of it (fever) and if
I feel well enough shall go my way
but if not I shall be judicious and
stay yet another day. It is
probable that Mr. and Mrs. West will
be on the Flyer going West tomorrow

and so I may have a sight
of them and a chance to ask more
about Lucy and Murray. It has
been a rather dull day with
me for I do not like to see
my eyes much. They feel all
right now but it would be easy
to overwork them. This morning
I looked over the Nation which I
have rarely seen of late. It is
even more Godkinian than it
was under E-himself. and should
only be tolerated on account of its
book reviews in the back part.

Dr Davis has given me something
to make my ears ring (not genuine)
and they have been steadily at it
now for two or three days.

Theodore has been entertaining me
with a thick picture book which
he knows all about to the
smallest detail. He has grown since
you saw him and is quite a
fellow in spite of his hair being cut
foul fashion. He is a cheerful
fellow and shows quite a fondness
for tunes. I take him to be all
Lyman and no Leslie nor Amos.

He is of course the most like
Thomas of any of the Amos batch
of children and sweet and pleasant
to hear. I long to hear from thee
and the dear boys and shall expect
to find something waiting for me at
7.7.

With love, dearest,

Wm. A. W.

Postmarked

3-10-03

501 GRAND AVENUE.

ST. PAUL.

Dearest —

I had a good sleep last night and my fever is gone today but being a little weak in the lairs it seemed better not to start out. I have been dressed all day and have played the piano a little, talked with Mary a little, read J.D. Dickson children stories a little and looked at animal books with Theodor a little and it is now the middle of the afternoon. I don't feel

real brisik yet but my throat is
nearly right again and with another
"decant clup" shall be all right.

Dr. Davis says they should be cut
out — meaning the tonsils — and
if it is repeated often enough to me,
I shall begin to think so myself.

Family music lessons are going
on this afternoon in graduated
series to suit all corners. Little
Betty began in Jan'y. and now
reads simple music fairly easily.
Charles thinks she may turn out
the star intellect of the constellation.
At any rate she is quick at things.

It hardly seems possible that this
is the 10th of March already and
this will probably reach you on
Jumpy's birth day. Bless him!
Allowing for the difference in time
he should be just going to his
crib now for his afternoon nap.

I shall let you know as
soon as I get located in F.F.
and wish I knew more
about it than I do at
present. With best wishes
from the heart of thy loving
man.

Vernon

F.F. — Mch. 12. 1908.

My dearest Grace —

It is on the whole a satisfaction to know that there is lonely without thy own. It makes one perhaps less lonely or at any rate it jogs the deep feeling which I enjoy and which is probably akin to your way down deep feeling. I have generally refrained from saying I was lonely because of a fear that it might make thee only more so but now it seems that if thou feels anything like me thou

will be glad to know it.

I arrived yesterday afternoon and found the village wet and muddy but warm and comfortable.

Today is similar but a cold wave is promised. After calling on C.D. who appears to be getting over his own bronchitis, I went to the Drs. King's and the Mrs kindly thought over the situation and said she would speak to Mrs. Cowing who lives next to her. Mrs. Cowing agreed to take me in and showed me a small room with a tv. and an East window and warmed by a

drum from the big stove downstairs. It is all right and cozy and will do very well. My meals I get at Mrs. King's with a half dozen other boarders of whom you know only one - Miss Braver. She is chirpy as usual.

The warm weather has thawed the sources and the river is in fairly good condition so that my difficulties are of a less immediate kind than I anticipated.

With love to Grace and Guffy.

J.



F.F. - Mch. 15 - 1903.

Dearest Grassy -

Before forgetting it
let me acknowledge receipt of the Cal.
and Ill. check for \$10.00. It won't
keep us going very long but it will
help. This is indeed an unfortunate
but it is better to have thy bills paid
and thy money nearly gone than to
have it gone and the bills not paid.

This kind is called ~~food~~ for consolation.
There is more for me. While I was
sick in St. Paul the water in the
river was rising and by the time I
arrived in F.F. it had got to a nearly
normal flow so that the immediate
problem is no more. I have put
off the settlement of rent for a few
days because I know that it is easier

get at when things are going
normally than when they are out
of joint. But we shall probably
take it up this week and how long
we shall continue to turn it over
and over no one can tell. Andrew
appears to have taken good care of
the electric plant. It is clean
and well polished and has run
with only one interruption through
the winter. Something got into
the water wheel and stopped it
instantly but they got it out and
were running again in a day and
no serious harm was done. The
Telephone building is not as clean
as it should be in the halls and I
shall have to get the painters in to
varnish and oil the stairs. The

mop boards are black from using
the soap (against odors) or from using
too much water. Mr. Miller is pretty
old and probably does not see very
well. He puts in three hours
or more every evening cleaning the
building and does as well as he can.

The weather has been good - about
freezing point most of the time but
some thaw and slush. I called on
Harriet Miles and found her affable.
(I hope one may say it of his cousin
if not of his blackman) She is
doing her own work and looks fat
and hearty. Mary is captain of
the High School basket ball team
and Carlton is getting high marks
in all his studies and having
inflammatory rheumatism between times.

Elsie Wright is on the Stanley Hall
varsity basket ball team and is wildly
excited about it which will do her
much good. The Barrons are
in St. Paul and have taken Josephine
out of Stanley Hall because she couldn't
keep the pace and her health at the
same time. Mrs. King has not
mentioned the Donizetti episode and
I don't know whether to speak up
or drop it. Which do you advise?
She is just the same as last
summer. She takes up the Dr.
(man) who is slower in mind
and he tries to assert his superior
masculine intellect and always gets
the worst of it which hurts his
self esteem. He also ought to do
it good but he doesn't learn to

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guage his caliber and not to go
battle ~~with~~ ^{against} superior guns.

The other boarders are Mr. and Mrs.
Brack - he is inspector for the Port.
for the new P.O. They hail from
Boston and he is a very decent
fellow but she must come from
Chelsea or possibly Columbus Ave.

Next comes Miss Brewer and then
a newly wed young pair who
are abundantly able to take care
of themselves. He appears to be
connected with the local bucket
shop though I am not sure of
this. She is rather pretty and
worldly and does not object to
the occasional use of the knife
when more convenient than a fork.

There is also a young man who may or may not be luckless but certainly is ne-eyed. Of course Mr. Pickett is there and is as kindly disposed toward every body as ever. I should have preferred

going to Mrs. Rawson's but Mrs. King was very kind in finding a room for me, and I am perfectly well off as things are. Today Mrs. Adams has invited me to dinner.

I have not called on anyone except Hamit but shall go to see the Mc Mahons where C.D. is living.

C.D. says he does not think he will go to California to bring Lucy back.

He ought to. The city has adopted a new charter and C.D. is not going

to be a candidate for Alderman. &c. Adams will probably run against Strunk the jeweler.

I have been spending my time these far in getting caught up. It has not been difficult and I cannot see that ~~there~~ would have been any advantage to have an agent here.

This seems to exhaust the news. The town still needs brushing and combing as much as ever and my property needs it more. In the first place there are the ruins of the Casket Factory to remove but I shall try to do a complete job of it this year and make a half or a quarter of a leaf to grow when none grew before.

With love and love for I & J. from V.

F.F. — Mch. 17-1903.

Dear —

This will be a little
one to say that all is well.
I dined with the Adamses on
Sunday and was glad to see
them all again. Both little
girls seemed a little older to
see and Margie asked all
sorts of intelligent questions about
Thomas. When I told her
about Robby she had to know
all about him also. She appears
to know the birth-days of all
the children she is acquainted

with. She says the Harris
baby is very chipper and beginning
to talk but from what I could
make out his talking was mostly
on the plane of fatigue. The
Harris #2 is sick with something.

E.E. and Sam and I walked
down the river to the junction
of the Pelican - 3 miles - on
the R.R. Track. It was the
largest ~~walk~~ Sam had ever done
and he was quite fiddle in his
legs. Owing to the moderation
which generally characterizes the
boarding house table, I find that

a solid breakfast goes well. In
warm weather I shall probably
drop it again but just now it
appears to agree with me. I
am reading Rome (Zola) but
last night at the club I
played a new pool game until
the Finnish hour of 11:15

It will not happen often so
do not be alarmed. My hours
are usually as regular as
you know them to be.

Give me to Fanny for his
Da Da and two for thy
dear self from Y.

F.F. - Mech. 20. 1903.

Dear Sir -

What a long time it takes for letters to get around. Today I got a letter from you addressed to St Paul though I have been here over a week now. Send along the bills and I will do what I can to help you out. Has Mr. O'Connell sent in his bill for painting yet? I had it taken back to him with the request that he itemize the account for time, stating the hours each day. Mr. Tennant and I have had a session today and failed to come to an agreement.

I have very little idea what will be the outcome but shall not lose sleep thinking about it.

In a few days - possibly Sunday - I hope to go up to Otter Tail Lake to see what our exploded dam looks like when the lake is frozen up. E.E.A. has said he might go with me but I doubt whether he will do it when the time comes. The weather is rather cold again and we have had a little snow in the last two days. I am working on another business but it goes slowly. If we all live long enough it will doubtless get itself finished. The ~~outfit~~ society at

the Kings is not very congenial. Though I got on with the inspector and his wife very well. The Bucket Shop people are not entertaining. The sister of the Mr. has arrived for a visit. She wears her hair in what I take to be the height of fashion and is acquainted with nearly all the people in the Lyceum Theater Company in Minneapolis. She rarely speaks because she must find little to interest her in our steady going set. Ella King is subject to Bucket Ball and plays on the High School team tonight against Alexandria. Good night, dear Grace, and be good to my car. V.

F.F. - Mch. 22. 1903.

My dear dear -

Let us do
business first. From the statement
of bills which you send me I find
that out of a total of \$434.¹⁶ of
house bills, you have paid \$44.⁷³
and Mr. O'Connell's bill of \$140.⁶⁵
should be paid out of the Pepper
money. This seems to leave
\$248.⁷⁸ house bills unpaid. You
did not tell me how much cash
and money in the Concord Bank
there is left to meet this amount
but I assume that if you had
much left you would have paid
more of the bills. You say you
have a little less than \$250.⁰⁰ in
the N.E. Trust Co so that Mr. O'Connell

can be paid and I think I
should pay him and get him
out of the way at once. As for
the balance, if you have any
money left in the Concord Bank
I should pay what you can
with it, selecting of course the
bills which are small and urgent.
I don't think I should get pauidy
and pay them out of your own
ke. money unless in case of special
urgency. It will not be long
now before you get another instalment
where you can pay those bills
which it seems most necessary
to pay. It is a good thing to
keep a list of bills which you
owe like the one you sent me,
for then you know where you

are and when new bills come
in you can add them to the
list and check off paid ones as
you can. With the allowance
increased to \$200. it seems to me
that you will work out of your
cave of despair and at any
rate by keeping the list of bills
you can see at any time whether
you are getting ahead or behind.
If after two or three months
the tide doesn't turn we shall
have to consider retrenchment for
I don't feel like increasing the
allowance at present and I think
you will find that you can manage
on \$200. Don't get discouraged
and blue anyway. I don't think
you have much time for that

if Tommy continues to develope tricks
for the undoing of his mother. I
shall expect to see you wearing a
maracle to relieve the strain of
glancing your eagle eye. Dearie.
Dearie, does thou know that it is
time to send one news of thyself
and thy expectations? How is
it with thee? And what are the
signs of the times? I am sorry
for Mrs. Crook but glad to know
that her time is so near. I
thought she was not expecting her
arrival until July. As you
have said nothing about the Crookies
being with you I presume the
plan we were thinking of did not
materialize. It is cold ~~again~~ here
~~again~~ but not cold enough to pinch

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and it is easy to see that the
real winter is gone and that makes
a great deal of difference to your
feelings. I am working away
on mother's accounts and deeds and
yesterday had an interview with
Mr Brown, the Casket Factory man
about power and I hope to supply
his new shops. I had thought
some of going to Otter Tail lake
today but it is too cold for
comfort and E.E. Adams backed out
as I knew he would. My throat has
been very well since the St. Paul
attack and I feel well and
don't take my work too hard.
C.D. writes that Lucy is at last
report thoroughly congealed again after

getting well thawed out for a few
days by warm weather. The
little Harris baby died of erysip-
I can't go any further but you
probably know the word. It is
curious that so young a baby
could get it. I have heard of
no other cases. Before I
forget it, you had better send the
Tel. & Tel. proxy to Mr. Diver. I
have sent mine and I believe it
is the right thing to do.

Be a good girl and kiss T. for his
dada and remember me to the
rest of the family and give my
respects to Matthew and Rosie and
Auntie and the Hens.

With love from thy husband
Emma

{Mar. 23, 1903}

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

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

Dear Grace —

I enclose a deed which I should like to have you sign and acknowledge as soon as you can conveniently. You will notice that it is the full middle name this time instead of a plain C. and don't forget the two witnesses.

I have a feeling that I didn't help you much with your bills but I don't quite see what more can be done than to sympathize.

With lots of that and love too

Ever,
Bernie.

Mar. 23, 1903.

F.F. - Mch. 27. 1903.

My dear -

Your very long and
very dear letter deserves a better
answer than I can give today.

It almost makes me glad to be
away to fit such letters only
please don't take it literally and
send me none at all.

I have been working steadily
all day in the office and must
go out for a walk before supper
but I don't want to let another
day pass without a line. Moreover
it will be nearly Apr 1st when
you get this and so you must

have a check to keep your
credit good a little longer.

I will try to do better tomorrow
or Sunday but think it best
to go walk now.

With love dearie

Thy very own
Fanny

F.F. — Mch. 29. 1903

Dear woman —

It is Sunday again
and a brisk south wind is blowing
which will probably dry up the
muddy streets and make dust
before night. But it is a pleasure
to have the wind from the warm
quarter again. There is really
a great difference in the seasons
here and at So. L. No one has
more than thought of his garden
here yet. The river is still
solid except just below the falls
and the ground is still frozen below
the top few inches. Still there
is the feeling of Spring and it will

surely come. The week has
been a busy one for me. I have
gubbed through records at the Court
House much of the time and spent
much of the rest of it in arranging
the material unearthed. There is
quite a bunch of lands in a corner
of this country which are not of great
value and ^{to} which mother and I
have held a somewhat doubtful
title for a long time. Now I am
investigating and mean to find out
whether we have anything worth
keeping and paying taxes on. In
the mean time mother's affairs are
not exactly shelved but the business
has to be done through the Court

in Minneapolis and every step takes
time. — I am just back from
the opening service in the new Pres'
Church. The interior is much
like the exterior in character or lack
of character. It is thoroughly furnished
with pews and carpets and lighted
by modern smudgy brown stained
glass windows. The form is of
course indicated by the exterior and
follows the later orthodox churches
in an attempt to get the congregation
around and as near to the preacher
as possible in place of the older
long drawn out shape and which we
identify with the church feeling
instead of the plain auditorium.

The idea of the orthodox people
seems to be to popularize religion
and I suppose they do it but
their churches haven't one atom
of the charm of the Concord Unitarian
church. The sermon was to me
deadly dreary. The minister preached
about the "word" and when all
was said it might have been
summed up in the story of the
Albany women who settled the
question at the sewing circle. After
reading legends with this, it is
difficult to be humble and not
to feel that we know a lot of
things which the good orthodox haven't
touched yet. I am sure of an

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thing at any rate and that is that
a church should be a church and
not a convenient auditorium of
the folding bed or combination
furniture pattern. I called on
the McMahons a few days ago and
got a bid to dinner today and
shall be going soon. I also made
my bread and butter call on Mrs.
Adams but she and E. were out
and I was entertained by Mrs.
Adams (mother) and by Sam who
showed me all the pictures in a
big book. Marion also came
in for a moment and asked about
Thomas and Robbie and I told her
your statement about "new daily comes

of amusement for himself and anxiety
for his mother" Bless his little
fingers, may it long continue to
function properly!

This letter is being writ by jinks.
It is now 4:30 P.M. and I have
dined and "visited" at the McMahrens.

It was a very good simple dinner
on a pretty table and well
served and we talked about all
sorts of things which I can't now
remember — except that Mrs. asked
me as does every one whether
there is coming out this year and
if so where. The reply is always
the same — that it is not quite
certain yet. What does there think?

There doesn't seem to be any
house that would do. The Robt
Lincolns have bought the Warfield
house where the Cyrus Bratts live
but they don't get possession
till November or thereabouts.

We might find a place to
board and there are always the
lake possibilities which are
somewhat uncertain. On the
whole I think I incline to
the notion of sticking it out
as we are now for a while
and in that case I shall
certainly go back home for a
month in the summer. If
there gets too long since the place

won't do but if thou can stand
it, thou and Louisa will probably
be better off at home. I have
never really spent any time
in Lincoln in the summer and
the prospect of a month there with
thee when things are proving seems
worth a good deal of £.£. It is
an abominable way to live as we
are now living. One might as
well be a sea captain. But
there are certainly advantages in
separation. When one is not a
perfect human being it gives a large
opportunity for reflection. One sees
the necessity and beauty of living or
trying to live for his other half and

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appreciates the joy of feeling that
he really belongs to his other half.
One only knows how dependant he
is when he is put to the test
and to one who have never before
dependid on anybody it is a wholly
new experience. I feel as thou
does that I want to live so as to
be worthy of thee and so that thou
can and ought to love me unreservedly
and it is a very wholesome feeling
to have. Dearest, dearest, I love
thee as much as a self-centred
and untrained person can and I
know that I have always lagged
behind my standards and have
generally paid the penalty in some

form or other. But the feeling grows deeper every year and it is the best thing in life to have a wife and child to live for. And now, dearie, isn't it time to feel sure about what we are both hoping for. I sincerely trust so and am trying to hear good news from thee.

Thy self-abasement concerning thy bills is very touching and I know it worries thee to be in debt.

Of course I could if necessary pay off everything and start thee off with a clear conscience again and if thee thinks I ought to do so I will. But I really hope thee won't want me to for I believe the experience

of really living within certain limits will be of great value to thee. Perhaps it is only another case of "I + Cassiopea" and if thee thinks so please say so. As for Annie Lyman it would probably be well to call her for now both cars will come in at about the same time which will be an unnecessary luxury. I believe we paid \$30. but she should be worth more now or at any rate as much.

Dearie, my own, my love goes with this for thee and Fanny and our hopes.
Y.

F.F. - ~~Apr~~ Mch. 31. 1903.

My dear girl -

When our bills
to pay life assumes a stern reality
doesn't it? But I hope thou
will not get discouraged for I think
thou will find it possible to make
headway and to prevent thy credit
from suffering. At any rate it
is worth trying for a while if
only thou keeps well. But as I
said in the last Sunday letter if
thou thinks I am too hard on thee
I can pay up everything and start
thee clear again. Only I hope
thou will keep thy nerve and
strength and not get tired and
that thy own will help to keep thee
cheery and not too homesome.

The only items in Feb'y. which sh'd.
be charged to the Pepper money seem
to be — Soap dish .75 — Oil heater 4.²⁵
and slow feed box 2.²⁵ total 7.²⁵

By all means sell Annie Lyman.
I was told by Snelling's man that
she should come in about Aug. 1st
and if he is right she ought to show
it by this time. As regard to the
\$250.⁰⁰ check, it is time to return
it and I ought to have given it
to you before leaving. Your account
against me, as I remember, amounted
to more than the \$250.⁰⁰ so when
I paid the 75.⁰⁰ wedding present
to Lou I thought that just about
balanced the amount I owed
you though I can't give the
exact figures. If I am wrong

about this and if I still owe thee
something, thee would do well to
collect all that is due thee in
this thy time of stress and trial.

I have raised the California
allowance to \$60.⁰⁰ instead of \$50.
on the recommendation of a friend.
Mr. Fryer, who has been there this
winter. He reports that living is
very high and \$50.⁰⁰ doesn't go as
far as it would anywhere else.

Sunday evening I called on the
Adams and found them at home.
Dr Harris' older child has also been
very sick but I ^{hear} he is better now.

Every one else so far as I know
is well here. With lots of love
and sympathy and hopes and wishes

The sample for Miss Brewer was ^{forwarded} not enclosed.

7.7. - Sat. Wed. - 1900.

Dear Grace. -

Thy letter telling
of our vain hopes has just come.
It is a disappointment which I
am sure thou feels and thou may
be sure that I feel. Of course
we shall have to wait and be cheerful
but it would have been such a help
to feel that while we were separated
the time was not being wasted.

Let us hope that it is for the best
and that thou will be even better
^{next time as a} prepared ~~to~~ compensation for the delay.

Thou is very brave about thy
financial ~~embarrassment~~. If thou
wishes I will stand good for the
coal but it does not seem likely

that this is the best time to buy.
Everyone will be buying now just
because of last winter's experience
and so it would seem that the
chances would be more favorable
later after the rush to fill the
first orders. Still if there is
advised to buy now — all right.

And about the spring dress, I
haven't withdrawn my offer yet
to have the Ruskin housewife make
up and there had better do it.

I am sorry that John is getting
slack. It is probably just what
we must expect and it is my
fault for not looking after him
better and getting him into good
ways. I think if there can encourage

him by taking an interest in
something which then sets him
to do it will help more than
anything else. I have had an
interview with Dr. Freeman and
he thinks that the rival shop is
really only a private hospital and
that there is plenty of need for
a general hospital. If the doctors
can get together it looks as though
I should begin the building this
year though I could not finish
it till next year. He also looked
at my throat and treated it with
Sulphate of Copper (I think) and says
it would be well to cut out the
tonsils when the weather is warmer
and more settled — Much love dearest J.

F.F. - Easter Sunday - 1903.

Dear -

It is a beautiful morning here and I hope it is as beautiful in Lincoln and wish that I were there to drive to Concord to church with thee. I think I shall go to Mr. Worthing's. His announcement of Easter services was more attractive than the others - all quite proper and the music appropriate. The Presbyterians begin their Easter service with a piano duet (Folkslied - Moskowsky) which which seems to indicate a lack of appreciation of form and style which is a little shocking to me, formalist.

It depends of course on what the Folkslied is but it sounds more like

a Schumann Club programme.

Since I wrote last, Mr Gray the coal man has been in and he is inclined to think it better to order coal now. The companies have established a rate here and make a regular advance of 10. cents per month up to Nov-1st. If the same rule holds in Mass. it would be well to order at once and, as I said, I will stand good for it.

There was another fire last night. The wagon factory at the lower dam was completely destroyed and the circumstances make it almost a repetition of the Casket Factory fire. The night was damp - it had been raining and the wind blew directly

away from the dam and flume which were close to the factory and although the latter is a complete loss, no damage was done to the flume. The water was turned on just in time to save it. The power is owned by a company in which I have considerable stock and have always attended to the business. It has never paid a cent and is now nearly ready to give way. We lose a renter by the fire and that makes the power even poorer property. As for the Factory it had been unprofitable for some time and if the report which I heard last night is true, the insurance more than covers its value. If that is the case we shall hear talk

of incendiaries.

Instead of going to Church E.E.A. came
along with old Dolly and his buggy and
stopped under the window to say that
he was going into the country in search
of a Jersey cow and would I go with
him. Of course I would so we had
a fine ride over heavy muddy roads
in a clear windy morning. Instead
of three or four miles it proved to be
seven to Tanager Tangersons and then
there were no cows for sale. His stable
was the worst I have ever been in.
The air when the door was opened was
fit to make you sick. So we drove back
again and arrived at the Kings' just
in time for dinner. The season is
very backward and we saw only two

farms or fields in which dragging had been done in preparation for seeding.

I have had a letter from Lucy asking me to try to prevail on C.D. to go out to California so as to come back with her. I have not seen him since but I doubt if he will go. I think he has set his heart on going to Annapolis at commencement time and a few days ago his brother George wrote him that he ought to go home to Vermont again before long. I suspect that this will clinch the plan for going East and kill the plan for going to California. However I shall try my hand as soon as I get an opportunity. Lucy says that Mary

is doing finely and eats merrily.

But I think that in other ways the migration has not been a great success up to the present time. Perhaps the remainder will be more to her liking for it must be warm there now.

Mrs. King wants to establish a sanitarium. It would seem to be a good idea but I am afraid her notion of a sanitarium is very near to a hospital. She is thinking of taking the house in the rear of the Manhattan which was extensively altered last year and which Mrs. Rawson thought of taking.

The house has not been rented at all and can be had cheap. Mrs. King would combine the hospital and

boarding house ideas and they (the Kings) would have their own offices there also. It might be a good plan and might not. I did not feel able to advise her but I do not see why they would not be as well off as in their present quarters. I had intended to see Dr. Freeman again yesterday to learn whether he has talked with other doctors about a hospital and also to have my throat touched up. But a long bolt got into the water wheel and I had to descend into the flumes and investigate.

This time I remembered your learned advice and bought me a beautiful new blue suit for

\$1.25. It is not as clean now
as it was before I wore it —
which ^{proves} the correctness of the learned
advice. I have found a set
of sketches based upon the last ones
made at home which will give a
little more room and a little
better accommodation without changing
the point elevation so it would
be comparatively easy to go ahead
with the shell of the building this
year. If I do, I shall have to
make plans while I am home with
them and have materials for study
at hand. There are so many things
I want to do and should do if I
had the necessary money!

There is a dear good girl and I

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rejoice that ³thou finds thy financial
outlook more promising than ~~that~~ thou
had expected. Another good thing
to look into would be the expenses
for the current month or for last
month and see if the items for
that month could all be fairly
brought within the limits of the
allowance. I think they could
from what thou says. I shall
be sorry if thou has to give up
both the New Bedford and the Bay
Waves plans but perhaps if thou
manages well thou can make one
of them. And in the mean time
thou had better take up my offer
of the farm anyway. It will
be useful surely. And if thou does

it please get a good one (dressmaker
or tailor) and do credit to thyself
and thy name. He thinks of thee
often and regrets too the little
circumstances lately communicated
to him. It was just the right
time. And how nice that Lonty
is getting over his exgema. He is
a brave boy and I should like to
see him manage a sword.

This afternoon I must make my
B. & B. call on Mrs. McMahon
and now I send thee my love
and charge thee to kiss Loupin
gravely in the forehead for his
dad. He won't understand very
well but thou wilt.

Thine - Emma

F.F. - Apr. 5. 1903.

my dearest -

The week has gone
very fast because I have been
busy and it is now Sunday
morning again. I am at my
office window and the Street
below and the whole town is
as quiet as a country town
should be on seventh day. The
week has been cold as well
as busy and the river is
still full of ice though no
longer safe to walk on. They
~~not~~ need not feel that they
called me home to come last

year as it is now perfectly
evident that a few days more
would have made no difference
whatever. The clerical work
of preparing the deeds by which
the property is to be transferred
from C.S.W. back to mother and
then from her again to C.S.W.
and me as trustees is a much
greater undertaking than I had
supposed and I have been at it
all the time there was to spare
from necessary routine things.

If we ever really get her affairs
into business shape it will be
a great relief and satisfaction and

should also make the subsequent
care of her property a simpler
matter. Dr. Frohman spoke
to me in the street a few
days ago and said he wanted
to talk to me about hospitals
— by which I suppose he
meant a hospital and from a
little conversation with Mrs.
King I infer that the Doctors
do not take kindly to the
idea of a Shipping Norwegian
Hospital. I have not yet
talked with Frohman but shall
do so as soon as possible. It
is too bad the Norwegians started

things because I fear it will
make it difficult to get
support for a real general hospital.

It will be difficult especially
to get official aid from the city
and county unless the other
hospital receives similar help
and I ~~am~~ do not think it
likely that either city or county
will agree to help support two
hospitals. There are too many
Norwegians. But we shall
see what the other Doctors
have to say. If they can
convince me that another
hospital could be supported, then

is no good reason why I should
delay building - or at any rate
beginning - this year. I should
like to do other things with
the money I can raise this
year but if there is an
opportunity for the hospital I
want to build it. Please
do not say anything to the
Crooks yet because I don't
want to hold out any false
hopes of work. If I build
I shall certainly give him
a decoration to do if the
wounds have to be left out to

economise. Dr. Frebarn is to perform a mastoid operation at the Kings' today. There was no other place so she got one of her boarders to give up his room for a day or two.

Mrs. King tells me that Frebarn is now doing major operations very often instead of sending them to St. Paul or Wpts. as was formerly the practice.

The C. Wrights are home and I have seen Mr. several times. He is thin for him and has a certain gravity of manner or

else I imagine it, which gives me the impression that he realizes that his long years of hard work are over. He will doubtless continue to play away from force of habit as long as he lasts. He took great interest in everything he saw in the South and saw as much as he could but said that best part of it all was the actual arrival at home. I shall go up to call on them this afternoon and hope to hear about their journey.

Now I can see the people flocking
into the New Presbyterian Church.

But never was enough to last
me a long time and I shall not
go again today. The view of
the plain bare hill beyond the
Pres. Church is much better
for my needs and I shall
probably take a walk instead
of going to church there or any
other where. The New Public
Bldg. will shut out the best of
my view though not all of it.
To that extent, I wish it was
elsewhere, but it will be good to

look upon too - though different.

Thy long letter written after thy
Uncle Frie had been with thee
was very good to read. It gives
thy husband great joy to see
or know thee happy. And the
good news of probabilities also
cheers him in his loneliness.
Five days is good but more
will be better and I hope
they will be able to add more
days to the goodly number at
thy next report. I agree with thee
entirely concerning the basis upon
which Rathbun should be received.

She could not be happy on a
basis of "helpful companion"
unless circumstances infinitely
required it and she ought not
to be compelled to give up her
work. Thy Uncle Joe perhaps
thinks that her business is a
failure because it gives no
tangible results. But if she
is wholly given up to it and
prefers it to anything else, that
is in itself somewhat of a result.

With best love to Grace and
Thomas and hopes for all the
family,
Thy Aunt
- Dear duty remains - thank thee -

F.F. — Apr. 9. 1903.

Dearie —

This is just a little
one to say that all is well
and hope that the same condition
prevails in the Ox Bow Road.

It is 8:15 P.M. and I am in
my office where I have been
revising sketch plans for a hospital.
I think I can do what I want
without changing the studio for
the part. That would take too
much time as thou well know.

I have shown the plans to no one
yet but probably shall soon.
With much love to thee and Thoma.
Now I must walk — — — — —

Apr. 16. 1903.

My dear Aunt -

I am glad you sent me Kathryn's letter and of course I agree with you that she is all right. As soon as possible we really must give her the long delayed order for same work.

I suppose we must agree with thy uncle as far as we look at her case from his point of view but K. is such a self sacrificing person whenever ~~the~~ the occasion demands it of her that I can't help feeling

that ~~she is~~ it is only fair
to give her her opportunity
or at any rate she is entitled
to generous treatment if it can
be said that anyone is entitled
to it. It is particularly
agreeable to have such frank
and open correspondence between
thee and K. Such relations
are good for people and it
pleaseth me. I have hardly
been in my office today but
have been superintending winter
work. All goes well and my
love goes with this to thee and J.

Vernon

F.F. — Apr. 19. 1905.

Dearest Fanny —

It has been a
lay Sunday and I don't believe
I can turn out anything but
a short letter in consequence.

The State requires runways
for fish over dams and so I
have been attending to the fishes
all day. The water in the
mill pond had to be let out
before we could do any work
and it could not well be done
on any day except Sunday.

The day began drizzly but fortunately

it cleared and the conditions were all right for outdoor work.

There is nothing new or interesting that I know of. The hospital business is waiting the return of Doctor Cole from Senatorial duties in St. Paul. He is the oldest doctor and will have to be the one to rely upon to get the others together and smooth the difficulties away.

Mr. Tennant and Mr. Windsor the Mill people have decided to buy up a bankrupt mill plant in Fargo and have invited

C.D. and me to take stock in the enterprise. As it looks favorable and we have confidence in the management we are going to take some - probably \$2500.⁰⁰ each. That's all the business. For society, I dined at the Hannahs' with Mr and Mrs. Adams last Monday and had a good quiet evening. They have just acquired an instrument which is the same as the piano but with a different name. Yes, dearie, I read the "Concession" article and liked it. Did they also notice the "Child in the Garden" in the same number? With love and longings Vernon

J.F. Apr. 21. 1903.

Dear Grace -

It is the end of
the working day and I have
just written to Lucy to say
that I have been unable to
influence C.D. to go to California
to come back with her.

Chas. had a letter from his
brother Geo. saying that he (Chas.)
ought to go home soon on his
father's account. I think that
decided the matter.

This has been a beautiful day
and I have been out part of

it and have also had my throat
and nose treated again by Dr.
Freeman. He puts things into
my nose till they come out
at the back of my neck. It
is not fun for me but he doesn't
seem to mind it and says my
throat is of a better color.

The Osteopaths have received
recognition by the legislature and
are happy. Dr. Cole thinks Mr.
King should be on the examining
board (five members). I have
just got a pair of electric flat
irons which I am going to try

experimentally in a laundry. If
successful I may get a lot
of them for use in the flats.

They seem to get too hot if
the current is kept turned on
all the time but retain their
heat for ten minutes or more
after it is turned off. You
will appreciate them when we
live in the Wheelock flat.

How is my car? Does he do
any new things? Give him
my best love and the two,
dearest.

Thy Verner

J.F. — Apr. 23. 1903.

Dear Grace —

As there is doubtless
aware this is my fortieth birth-day
and so I can think of nothing
better to do than to write thee a bit.
It has been a half rainy day and
a half way day in most respects
but still the sun and I do move
though not at the same pace. Forty
years is a very respectable age to
acquire and there will have to act
appropriately when thou next sees me.
Thy last letter was almost blue
and I am hoping the next will be
more rosy. By all means get my
tailor made suit as soon as possible

for new clothes often cheer and encourage as well as any other good thing. I really don't know how much to say but I want thee to spend whatever is necessary to get a really good suit - One that will be well made and wear like thy Philadelphia clothes if possible. It won't cost so much to go to New B. and perhaps if thee is unable to make B.M. thee may be able to get to N.B.

The important news here now is that the Frogs team won the High School debate last night at the University, making their sixth victory and the champion cup from St. Paul.

They are expected back tomorrow and

will receive the freedom of the city and a reception at the High School in the evening. It is a great thing for a country team to do up the cities and we are proud.

There is nothing new concerning the hospital but Dr. Cole is now back and before long I hope to have something more definite to report to thee, my friend. I like to report to thee and wish I could do it personally at this moment. It will be a few weeks more, dear one, and then it will be well with us - *à tout-cas*?

Thine now
Ernest

F.F. - Apr. 24, 1903

My dear an -

Ther may be glad
ther is not here at this time.

Yesterday it turned cold suddenly
- about 20° in the morning - and
today there has been something
closely resembling a blizzard. It
is just like the last of November
and would be discouraging if we
didn't know that it is probably
the last of winter. The trees have
hardly started with the exception
of the willows which are thin green
but the country is still like dead
of winter. I have written to
mother. C. D. said it would be

necessary to be entirely frank
even if her feelings should be
hurt. I put it as fairly as
I could but it was necessary to
say that we did not think there
was any chance of her keeping her
property in her own name.

Mrs. King made a journey to
St. Paul to see the Governor in
hope of getting an appointment
on the new board of osteopathic
examiners. She is not back
yet but the appointments have
been published and she is not
among them. Chas. D. has
just had a letter from Lucy. She
is at last finding California

delightful after her long cold
winter. I hope she will stay
a while now. If C. D. goes
East she ought to stay till he
comes back home again.
Just now your good Sunday
letter has come in telling about
Lucy's escapade and your visit
in Jan. Plains. I admire
the for coming out victor and
it is very pleasant to about
husbands to know about home
doings. "That ye may have
peace, each one of ye, in the house"

Thine

Check for \$200.00 enclosed

Brown

F.F. - April 26. 1903

Dearest Grace -

This is another very good sort of a Sunday morning and lacks only thee and Thomas to make it very very good. Just as I was getting ready to write to thee C. D. came in and said that Mrs. Mason had invited him and me to dinner so I shall be sure of a square meal.

I had a talk with Dr. Cole this evening which was rather satisfactory. He is just back home and has not yet talked with the other doctors but will do so in a day or two. I assured him that I was ready to begin the building this year if they could guarantee

that it would be supported. He seems to think that the Doctors can do that. He and Freeman agree that there would be practically no non-paying patients. The state law requires the cities and towns to support their own poor and even the sick tramp would be paid for by the city or town in which he was smitten.

It will be a pleasure to build it but it will cost a lot of money and will put aside for a time my other pet schemes. I had a letter from mother a few days ago in which she rather protests against the trust plans which we have in view. She says she is not quite demented and thinks

that putting one's property into the hands of trustees is a resource only for those who cannot be depended on to act rationally. Of course she is not demented but at the same time she might as well be as far as managing her own property and it is difficult to explain the necessity of the case without hurting her feelings. I don't intend to urge her for the act of disposing of her own property & trustees would be worthless if done under undue influence and should be her own free act. I have known always that she did not favor the plan but at the same time she has agreed to it and I thought she regarded it as the

best way out of a difficult situation.

I think I shall have to write to her and explain the situation as well as I can and ask her to reply formally whether she does or does not agree to the plan. It would be better that she should decide without my being there so that no claim could be made that she was unduly influenced, not to say compelled. If she does not agree it is likely that things must continue as they are now for the bank could hardly be expected to give up its claims unless reasonably assured that the management of her property would be such that they would

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eventually be paid. I am afraid
the chances for Junnie's children
would be considerably diminished
if another should take back her
property in her own name with full
power to sell or give it away or
to sign promissory notes.

I can't think of any news of any
kind. I haven't called on the
Hammahs yet. Dr. Cole did not
forget to ask about "Will Tommy".

Has there had any word from
Mary since she went to N.Y. or
does there know whether she really
went? In a few days there
will have another allowance to

smooth the ways and help thy credit
and I hope that the next one I
shall be able to bring with me
instead of send. If the hospital
goes through, some time will be required
to prepare working drawings and that
will be my job during my vacation.

Want that be fun? There is
dearer and dearer to me and I
know thou would be interested in
working up the plans though it
certainly doesn't mean an increase
of our living income. With love
and best thoughts for thee and for
Thomas

Ernest

F.F. — May 3. 1903.

My dear —

The week has passed rapidly — probably because I have been busy. The principal event has been the balancing of the year's accounts and they will be glad to know that they show a gain of about \$5000.00 after charging off all expense accounts and depreciations on things like the Flats which deteriorate a certain percentage every year.

The Flats are, next to the Water Power, the largest piece of property and they show about the least profit.

Only about 1 per cent can be credited to them (or it) and they

are more troublesome to look
after than most other things.

Still they provide decent homes
for a number of people and a
job for a janitor and that is
better than an unoccupied and
useless building. The worst part
is that it is a kind of property
which cannot be sold and is
likely to hang on for ever.

Next year with the rents a little
higher and coal lower I hope for
a better showing. The Telephone
Bldg. has done better and with
all the Office Taken shows a net
gain of about 5 or 6 per cent.
which is not bad for that kind

of investment. The new electric
business has a little more than
paid expenses which is as well
as could be expected in one year
but now it is getting established
and should show a fair regular
gain. But we should be in
a bad way if we had not the
Mills. The rent they pay for
power and the dividends they
pay on their stock are the
substantial part of the whole
year's business. On the other
hand the expenses (including the
amounts sent to mother and son)
are almost exactly \$5000.00 so that

they are practically equal to the net gain or one half of our income.

Of this amount (expenses) about one half was spent in Tex. Falls and one half in So. Lincoln and Boston but as you were here less than half the year it would be fair to say that it costs us more per month here than in Lincoln. The actual living expenses were not as great here but the B.R. fares and nurses etc. for Thomas brought ~~it~~ up the average. If we could clear \$5000 every year above expenses we should be all right and I hope we may but these are undoubtedly good years

and it would not be safe to
 count on doing so well and we
won't count on it. Does this
 tale of prosperity ease thy apprehensions
 or does it make thee feel that thy
 husband is hard and close to keep
 thee under discipline and a strict
 allowance? I want to do what
 is right and best and I don't like
 to think of thy giving up journeys
 which thou has counted on. I can't
 tell thee how I have admired the
 way in which thou has taken hold
 of thy many problems but if thou

wants me to send the dress offering
to be used for other purposes I will
do so though it was a little dis-
appointing to have thee make the suggestion.

Thee appeared to me to be getting
on so bravely but perhaps I don't
make allowances for thy difficulties
as I should. If thee thinks
thee ought to have the extra money
please say so and I will send it
at once. Dr. Cole has not
made any report yet on hospital
plans. I suppose he is now busy
straightening out his own affairs after

his absence and has not given
the hospital a thought yet. But
I shall punch him up if he puts
it off much longer. The question
of interest now is the base-ball
and foot-ball park. The council
has refused to fence in the
city athletic park beyond the
Grand Hotel and the boys can't
have teams come here to play
unless they can charge admittance
for the games. I have a block
of low ground beyond the school-
house (which is in the Black South

of the Mc Mahons' house) and I
would let them use it if they
would do the necessary grading to
level it. Possibly I may grade
it also if it can be done cheaply.
Some day it will have to be graded
anyway and there is a hill
close at hand. Another
enterprise which I am interested
in is a fanning mill for cleaning
wheat. You will perhaps remember
Mr. Gallinard who lives on the river
bank. He is quite inventive
and has been making fanning mills

by hand for a long time. Of course he cannot compete successfully with factories but he thinks he has an invention which will find a ready market. So I am furnishing the material and he the labor for experimenting. So far the first machine has cost four or five dollars so there need not be alarm. When I want exercise I go over and turn the crank of the machine while he feeds in a mixture of wheat dirt, wild oats, buck-wheat and every conceivable variety of grass and weeds

seeds and then we examine the
results carefully and speculate on
the advantages that might be
acquired by this or that change.

This has turned out to be
decidedly a business letter.
That is what takes all my
time and energies while I
am here and that is what
will make from Lincoln all
the lovelier in June - especially
the 21st. With love and
longing for the day and every
dearest wishes for thee and
Thomas.

Yours

J.F. — May 8. 1900

My dearst —

It seems to me that
that some word is due from thee
which reminds me that some word
is also due from me.

It is much the same story
of daily rounds but this evening
I have started a colored man
and a team of horses at grading
and clearing up behind the flats
and mean to keep him at it
till the lot looks orderly and
care for. I shall have to build
a fence along the line of the alley

to prevent throwing refuse into the
lot from the theater building. They
have always considered it a
dumping ground and will continue
to unless fenced out. Last fall
this work was begun but the
season was too far advanced and
the weather got cold. The Casket
factory ruins are still in evidence
and will have to remain until
the company removes its property
which they will do in perhaps
two months. If both sides of
the river are cleaned up and fenced
in things should have a very

different ~~look~~ look. Last night
Mr. Zimm lighted up his new
electric sign for the first time
and ^{it} is a brilliant success.

I think the doctors had a
meeting last night and I expect
to hear from them soon and
hope they will agree to guarantee
the expenses for the first year
or two. Dr. Cole thought they
could do that and unless they
can it would be a doubtful
measure to build. With loving
and hoping to hear from them
I had a pleasant call in the ^{Parson} ~~Hammahs~~ last night

capacity
Mrs. Adams wants the name, and address of the little glass church.

F.F. - May 10. 1903.

My dear -

This appears to be out of our brand of stationery and while I have plenty of paper my envelopes are nearly gone. So it must be nearly time to get back to base. Will this tell me when this will go to Bryn Mawr if this can raise the money to go on and when this would be ready to go home again so that I can make plans or try to make them to coincide with this. If I go to Battle Creek as will probably be necessary it will not be so.

easy to join there in or about Philadelphia but it is at any rate pleasant to think of such things.

Mother has written saying she is not hurt by my blunt statements and agreeing substantially to the trust plan but she makes me or two suggestions which will require considerable study and rewriting of the trust deed. Dr. Froben called on me yesterday and we discussed hospital matters. The doctors seem confident that the hospital would be quite or nearly self-supporting but they are a little chary of guaranteeing the

expenses. I think however that they will do practically as much and we shall arrange it somehow. Without exactly locking the gift-horse in the mouth they suggest that a location as central as possible would make for convenience. As there would be no house physician there is some reason in having the hospital within easy walking distance of people's houses so that Doctors would not have to drive - especially for night calls.

The old Rink foundation has been suggested and the more I think of it the more the notion appeals

& one. It would be very
desirable to acquire the whole
block between the alley next to our
house and Bismarck Ave. and
it will probably be easy or not
very difficult to get it all.

I should not try to fill up
the whole excavation but shall
remove the stone wall next to the
street and slope the ground off
and grass it over making at
the West end a sunken garden.
At the other end the lot would be
about even with the street and
on the South or part the lot
would of course be graded even with

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the street. This arrangement would
give good light for the basement
and if a hedge could be grown
around the E. North and W. sides
would make a reasonably rural
effect in the heart of the country
seat. We had an inquiry
for a piece on the house we lived
in and I am in hopes we can
sell it. I fancy there will
not regret it deeply.

Charles D. tells me that Lucy
will start very soon and he will
be likely to meet her in St. Paul.
I believe he has held out conditional
inducements that she may perhaps

go East with him as a compensation
for leaving California just when
it was the time to stay and
enjoy it. I don't know when
they will go (if they go) but it
will be some on account of
commencement week at Annapolis
which C. D. is counting on.

I am glad there has found a
tailor and I hope he will do
there a really good job. Let me
know when the money will be
required. It will do there
much good to go into the world
also and I hope there will
successfully stave the necessary

funds out of thy allowance &
make the journey.

What was the matter with the
second girl who was fond of babies?

There spoke plibly of her going
but gave no cause.

It has been a busy week with
nothing in particular doing but
several things - principally the
hospital - in the air & think
about. Schenck come in shortly
and then intervening weeks of
routine. With love for
Grace and love for Thomas and
fond hopes for both
Yours
F. M. M.

J.F. - May 14. 1903.

Thank the train for the picture
of Thomas. He seems older
than when I saw him last
and the photograph sets me
to speculating and wondering what
he will grow to be. He looks
like a nice little boy and I
hope he is in spite of the
trials he makes his mother
suckle. It makes me quite
grave and thoughtful to think of
him growing up every day.

But he has a good and devoted

mother to shape his young
course and by and by perhaps
his dad will have to take a
hand. Lucy should be back
in a day or two and I shall
immediately take her the
picture of the boy. I am
busy with a number of things
but grading the lot by the river
in the rear of the flats takes
as much time as anything.

Tonight I believe the announcement
of the hospital is to appear in
the Journal. Of course that

commits no one but things
seem to be moving and it is
now more than likely that
the building will be begun.

Dr McLean may make trouble.
He is inclined to oppose the
pecuniary guarantee but all the
others according to Guborn will
accept the condition.

With much love to the
Graces my wife and to thy
little Thomas

James

J.F. — May 17. 1903.

My dearest Grace —

It gives me to think the
has been tried. If the goes to
Bryn Mawr the will have to take
a course of training for it consisting
of seeing nobody. That will make
the fresh and bright as a new tin
pan. Of course I said hat
with suit. I remember it distinctly.
What would a suit be without a hat?
The 29th is a bit too early for
me and so the had better not
count on my joining ^{the} you in Phila.
Moreover it would be somewhat

roundabout as to route and
expensive as to cost. But I
hope to be able to leave not
long afterwards. It is nice
that Miss McLean still appreciates
Thomas's merits. I like the
picture more and more. He looks
older. Is he going to be a run-
away boy when left outdoors to
himself? Lucy is home and
I have seen her once and am to
dine there today. She expresses
much regret that there is not coming
out this year. Whether she will
go East I cannot tell. It is

too soon after her arrival for
new plans. But I hope they
will both go and will visit us
in Lincoln. Lucy looks pretty
well but she had a cough when
I saw her. She doesn't seem
to care greatly for California
in the winter. Nothing I have
ever heard has made me want
to go there in preference to other
winter places as the Mediterranean.
There is nothing new about the
hospital. It is temporarily held
up on account of ownership of
two of the lots. It would be

possible to get on without them
but much better to have them.

Perhaps we shall take chances
in acquiring them at some time
in the future as it is unlikely
that anyone else would want them
if we build a hospital next to
them. Dr McLean is also a
stumbling block. He doesn't want
to make a pecuniary guarantee.
Perhaps he can be brought into
line but I suspect he doesn't
greatly care for a hospital on his
own account. Moreover he has scores
against Drs. Frebman & Cole who would

probably be the ones most benefited
by a hospital. It will be necessary
to use tact in organizing the
institution and my idea at present
is to give McLean practically all
the lee-way (npe we Westerns would
say) he wants and leave him no
pretence for separating himself from
the other doctors and from an
institution which openly at any rate
he is obliged to favor. It would
be very bad to begin with another
division among the doctors and I
hope to avoid such a state of
things. The weather has turned

warm - almost hot - at last and
yesterday I put on summer
clothes for the first time - an
agreeable change. Last Wednesday
or Thursday I dined at the Barnums
with Mr and Mrs Adams and Madame
Adams. and Josephine. It was
a successful affair in a quiet
way. Mrs. Barnum and Josephine
have gone to their cottage at the
Lake and I think they expect to
stay there for the season. Mr. Barnum
met Mary Ames in St. Paul and
was properly appreciative. Josephine
looks a little older and more

grown up. Murray left Lucy
at Omaha and went directly
to Delapied to take his final
examinations for diploma - I
suppose they give diplomas. He
has been studying in California
and I hope he will come through
all right. Geo. is working hard
and gradually creeping up in the
line. He appears to be entirely
happy moreover which is a good
thing. Let me know when the
wants the money for thy clothes.
With a great lot of love for
Grace and for Thomas
Barnum (over)

could they loan me the necessary
funds & by a Jordan & Marsh check
and pay up. as it & Lays Falls?

If so I wish they would order
me sent to Mrs. E. E. A. wherever

They can do it without special
effort. vau

Lucy wants a picture of J. What do
they cost?

F.F. - May 22. 1903.

My dearest Grace -

Mother writes me that the
house in Battle Creek will be full
until the middle of June and she
would probably have very little
opportunity to do business before that
time. It will take a couple of
days at any rate and perhaps more
to finish up her affairs. How
long will she be likely to stay
in Penn? I took Thomas' 
picture up to Lucy's and left it
there as a loan. She thinks it
is remarkably good. I like it

more and more. Does Thomas
give any inclination of wanting
to talk? This is the annual
festival night of the Schumann
Club. I had intended to make
my party call on Mrs. Barrara
but shall have to postpone it and
think I shall go to the concert
for a part of the time. a whole
evening would be too much if the
local orchestra has many numbers.

I have been out of the office nearly
all the time this week superintending
grading along the river bank and
building a power line for the new

carpet factory. It has been hot
most of the time and the wind
has blown furiously. You can
imagine the effect on linen
and scalps and other exposed surfaces.
Lucy thinks it will not be nice
if she does not come out and
bring Thomas. They have said
nothing about the proposed Eastern
journey and I fear it is given
up. Mine isn't though. I
think of this a great deal dearer
and wish them well. Much
love to thee, dear one, and to J.
Pema

J.F. - May 24. 1903

Dearest -

It is a beautiful day and
I wish I were in So. L. with it.

Also I hope thou will really get
away to Bryn Mawr this week. The
change should do thee good and rest
thee in spite of dissipation. I told
Lucy that thou was going to take Z.
with thee and leave him in Wilmington
in charge of Mrs. Kields. Did thou not
have such a plan at one time?

How about money? It will be
too late to send thy regular monthly
installment tomorrow but if thou wants
it sent to Wilmington thou can let

me know - Also the suit and
hat many whenever and wherever
they want it sent. It is good
to know about Miss Jackeline and I
send her my best wishes for a happy
new year. Lucy telephoned me
yesterday that my room was now
ready. I said I would go up and
talk about it but last night
they were ~~sitting~~^{out} when I called so
I stopped at the Wascos'. I think
I shall have to decline the kind
offer. It is presuming too far
to live with my cousins when
I make such long stays in F.F.
Does this not think so?

I have been out doing nearly all
the time the past week and the
ground back of the flats is beginning
to look level and the banks to
have a somewhat uniform slope.

There is still much to do but if
the weather is propitious, another
week should finish the work of
grading and perhaps of seeding.

A fence will have to be built
around the whole tract to keep
people and their ashes and refuse
off while the oats sprout and
the green grass gets rooted.

The hospital has been neglected
for a few days owing to press of

grading business but it is beginning
to be clear that the scheme of
having the expenses guaranteed by
the doctors is not the right one.

It seemed a simple expedient if
they were willing to do it but
there are objections. Such a plan
would seem to give exclusive or at
least first rights to those who had
contributed as against those who
had not and those who may come
here to practice in the future.

Any plan which seems to limit
the field of usefulness or of support
should be avoided. Probably the
plan of a large board of trustees

to hold the real estate and exercise nominal control and a small executive committee to oversee the actual running of the hospital is the better way. That would leave the doctors out or limit to connection to their professional relations. In this way a guarantee fund might perhaps be secured from the citizens at large and the doctors could make their subscriptions without any exclusive rights attaching. Such an organization means work for somebody but I think it should not be done by me.

more than by others.

I wrote thee a day or two ago
that mother could not find time
for me before the middle of June.

Unless thou stays longer than thou
implies (by thy order to have me
appear on the 14th) it is not
very likely that I can meet thee
in Wilmington. It may take
several days to get everything
done in Battle Creek. However
we can tell better later.

I am going up to talk with
Lucy now and to give her thy
love and T's. Take a big draught

of wine dearer for thyself and
more for Thomas and I feel that
there will still be some left.

Thine

May 31. 1903.

My dear Sir,

The week has
passed very quickly and again
it is a story of grading.

Grading has proved to be a
larger job than it seemed
likely to be but it really
looks a great deal better than
before I began and if the
grass will only grow it will
be fine. I have leveled
the whole tract back of the
flats and it is now several
feet lower than the street.

The river bank next to the same tract is sloped off evenly down to the water and looks orderly and cared for. Of course the slope is steeper than it ought to be but grass often grows well on banks even steeper and so I hope for success with it.

Lucy still thinks you ought to come out this summer. The Eastern trip seems to be given up. At any rate I have heard nothing more about it and the time is getting late. She has been to the Lake and finds

the old fascination there and so she is to begin or has begun house-cleaning though I don't think they will go out for some time yet. There is no news that I know of.

R. Angus gave an Angelus Recital at the Presbyterian Church yesterday to help along the boys' brigade — an ~~semi~~uniformed organization which marches with wooden guns and advances the cause.

The numbers at the Kings' are diminishing from various accidental causes and now there

are only two or three besides Mr. Picket who remains the same old kindly and slow paced stand-by as ever. Miss Brower will be going soon and when I go there will be hardly anyone unless new people come in. But they probably will come. I think I wrote you that another would have no opportunity to do business with me before the 15th of June.

I have put a good deal of time studying out details of the final disposition of her property. The trust deed is virtually her will

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and when all made there will
be no provision for recalling it
so it is desirable to have it
carefully prepared.

This will be directed to thee
in Wilmington in the hope
that thou has been able to get
away. A week's absence from
daily responsibilities should do
thee good in spite of wild
dissipations and Lucy and I
agreed that it was the right
thing to do - if you could.

I feel the same way thou
does about writing as the time

Draws near for the return.

Letters are such make-shifts
and seem farther in the presence
of the real thing. Is'nt it a
real thing, dearest?

More and more it gets real
as time goes on and Thomas
grows and we grow and our
hopes of others come in sight.

Thine is the dear one and
I send thee my love.

Also remember me to Mrs.
and Miss Kildee.

Yours
129

F.F. - June 2. 1903.

Dearest -

It gave me much satisfaction to get thy letter postmarked at Wilmington. I was afraid something would turn up to prevent thy departure.

But, alas! I cannot join thee. It looks as though the trust business would go through this time and I should be sorry to put it off now until it is done up completely.

You think that while I am

in the trust business it would
be well to include Lois, do
you? Perhaps she would
not think the same way herself
but we can talk about when
we meet again.

joyful thought! It won't be
long now. This will go
off in a few minutes by the
N. P. train and I must now
take it to the station.

My love to them

Vernon

F.F. - June 7. 1903.

My dearie -

It is getting late and I am only going to write thee a little and to tell thee that all is as well as can be. This evening I was up in time to get down to the dam at 7 o'clock to begin digging in the bottom of the river - work which can only be done on Sundays - We worked until 1 P.M. and then I went to dinner and afterward lay down for an hour. Since then I have been up to the C. G. W.'s

Both boys are there and Elsie
is expected home on Wednesday.

She is thinking about college
and is in some danger of being
led into the error of going to
Vassar. I tried to say a word
for Bryn Mawr. Elsie would be
an ornament to any college.

The scraps of letters and cards
have been very cheering and I
have been very glad that they
went ~~to~~ on the journey.

Much love to them, dear ones

MW.

7.7. - June 14. 1863

My dearest -

This is the last one
for the present - t.g. I have been
working all this Sunday morning
separating the papers that go with
me to Michigan from those that
stay and in a few minutes I
must be at Cousin Harriet's for
dinner. The C.D.W's are dining
at Mrs. Rawson's for the time
being. There is nothing to say
except that thy last letters have
given me great joy and that
the thought of seeing thee again

room is my staff of life.

I expect to leave tomorrow
morning by day train so as to
get the evening train out of
St. Paul after seeing the Muses
and then the day train from
Chicago to B.C. — That will
be Tuesday afternoon and it
is impossible to say how long
I must stay there —

Three days should be enough
and I shall try my best
to be home on the 21st

Check for 200.⁰⁰ is enclosed
with profound apologies.
Thine, Vernon

F.F. — July 22. 1903.

Dearest —

Thank thee for the beautiful face-cloths. They are much needed to make my face shine as the morning sun for the way was long and dusty and I have hardly yet got rid of the dirt.

The first evening — Monday — I took my photographs and went to hunt up Lucy. She was at Battle Lake and C. D. was of course in the East. Murray was there just getting ready to go to Battle

Lake also and he said his
mother would stay until Friday.

Last night I took the chair
to Mrs. Adams and she looked it
over and over and tried it up and
down and patted it and wanted
to use it and in short admired
it very politely and then called
on Mrs. Reynolds to admire it also.

Elmer goes away to Vermont soon
to escape hay-fever. I called
at C. J.'s office but did not find
him. Business in the town
seems a little dull and the wave
of prosperous good feeling is apparently

subsiding. Mrs. King greeted me
cordially and everyone asks about
you and Thomas. It is quite
likely that next week I shall go
to Otter Tail Lake to superintend
some surveying and I am not
sure whether it will be an outing
or a tough bit of mosquito fighting.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. A. Brown came up
on the train with me - just back
from Europe - and entertained me
with their experiences. Mr. Parsons
was right in predicting that they
would arrive ahead of schedule time.
They inform me that after all F.F. is
the place to live - With love love.

F.F. - July 23. 1903.

Sam -

Thou wilt find enclosed
My draft for \$493.³² to thy order
which should make thee feel very
rich. While speaking of financial
matters, has thou not received a
West Publ. letter forwarded from
here by Andrew? It contained
a check and if thou has not
received or returned it please let
me know. Murray told me
today that his mother is back
home again and I shall go
to see her tonight. It is
hot - very hot - and hard to do

much so I have been staying in
this afternoon and doing book-
keeping. My grading back of the
flats and on the river bank looked
pretty bad. There were huge weeds
several feet high in parts of it
but today a tramp is cutting
them down and there is some
grass starting nearly every where.

Probably it will be necessary to
seed parts of it again but it
is not a total failure at the
present writing. With much love
and wishes for thee and Thomas
Thine ever
Benjamin

F.F. - July 26. 1903.

Dear mine -

Lucy and Mrs. Beall and the
maid and the two dogs and the
nine parcels and bags and I have
just returned from Swan Lake
this Sunday evening after a very
good resting day. I slept all
night and after a late breakfast
slept a good part of the morning.

We were called on by several
people and we called on the Bamms
and the Witches. Miss Welch is
here but returns to Boston in a
few days. She is interested
in the North End Italians at present

and has met Mrs. Muse in Italian
dresses or something of that sort.

I only saw her for a moment
but wish we could somehow get
acquainted with her ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~our~~
native heath. Friday afternoon
I suddenly decided that it was
as good a time as could be found
to go to Fargo so I hunted up
E. Adams and as there was no time
to consider he decided to go with
me and do some business in Moorhead
which is just over the river. Fargo is
interesting for its metropolitan air
on a small scale. The buildings
are compact and the streets all paved

and the scale of living civilized beyond
any other town in the region.

It has a fine electric plant
which I went especially to see
and electric trolley cars will
soon be running. Altogether it
is as different as possible from
F.F. Some one has said that
F.F. is a tallow candle town and
always will be so and it looks
true. The photographs are being
mounted and it is lonesome without
thee and Thomas. Even the pretentious
chambers of A.C.P. Worthing do not
compensate. But let us be cheerful!
With love, my dears,
Thomas

J.F. - Aug. 3. 1903.

Dear Sir -

It is only this morning that I am back again after nearly a week in the Otter Tail Lake region. It was on the whole a footless week, the result of which is the humming that it is hardly possible to do what I should like very much to do — raise the lake enough to make it a very valuable reservoir. There is too much meadow land to be flooded and it would probably cost more than could be raised for the purpose. But I discovered a delectable place to stay for a

vacation with thee and Thomas.

The house of the famed Isaac Westover - now kept by his daughter who is also the step-mother of Lucy Williams and a successful farmer, stock-trader and summer resort keeper. The place is fifteen to twenty miles from anywhere and is clean and decent and run with an understanding of what city people want. I hope we can go there sometime.

Then we stopped at Otter Tail City, consisting of one hotel and nothing else, kept by someone ending in "oski" but always known as the "Polander". It was plain bad. More than one day would have been passing the

limit of possibilities but fortunately we were out in the rain and so thoroughly drenched which gave us a good excuse for camping in a rich German farmer. Here again things were clean and good and to my surprise rather American than German. — Pie for instance was the real thing. We stayed all day and all night and got back to dinner the next day so that we escaped the Polander almost completely. It was quite an experience and would have been a tedious one except for another refugee — a retired German doctor of the idealistic and philosophic type

common among them and unknown
elsewhere. His speech was slow
and loud and profound and his temper
really kindly and his silhouette
like an Assyrian king.



He did not stop talking for the
whole of the long hours we were
shut in by the rain and it was
with regret that I parted from
him. Yesterday afternoon, which
was Sunday, we drove 12 or 14 miles
to a station on the Nor. Pac. and this
morning I arrived at 6 A.M. with
a head which was much to be
feared. It is nearly train time.
I enclose dft. for 250.⁰⁰ for Aug.
and much love for thee and him
Yours

F. F. - Aug. 5. 1903.

My dearie -

I have just got J's pictures back from Elmer - mounted on dark card board. The one with the in it is for me and Lucy may take her choice of the others. I think she will take the larger one like the one you first sent me. The others I can return to you if you wish. Lucy has just given me a picture of George - a head and a bit of his chesty chest which I shall try to send if I can pack it safely.

Have you received the International Quarterly and will you please let me know whether the file is now

complete? They did not know
when our subscription expired but
if you will let me know I will
have any missing numbers sent.

In penitance I also subscribed
for a copy for the Chippewa Club
and I shall be the only reader
I think. The Hastings bill
enclosed is about one half what
I expected as the price is per pair
instead of per blind. Please pay
it out of your Pepper money.

In regard to subscription for \$5.00
if paid in advance you
should send your check a little
before Sept. 22. You have a
copy of the printed directions I
think. and if you have the money

at that time you had better
pay up and get it to sailing.
After being away nearly a week
things have accumulated so that
I have felt overburdened but the
fog is lifting.

The boarders are numerous
again at the Kings' and there
is very little elbow room.

What news has the concerning
important events?

There is much in my mind
and the new picture before me
is very sweet to look at.

Kiss him for his Dad.

Thine
Peman

J.F. - Aug. 9. 1908.

Dear mine -

It was a very good plan to change the letter paper for the new sheets hold so much. I wish I had lots of things to write to thee but life is continuously same-like for the most part and plain business does'nt furnish much material for letters. Most of the week I have passed much of my time superintending the clearing up of the cash factory ruins and there is still a lot of it to do. I have not seen Lucy since my last writing to thee and have heard nothing new concerning Chas. D's mother. The other cousins I have not yet called on but must attend to them.

at once. On Friday night there was a meeting of Doctors and Mr. Wright at which Freeman and Cole and two others who did not count for much were present. The two others were obliged to go and so the meeting was reduced to just the right size and we talked satisfactorily.

I proposed the plan of organizing a society or association which should consist of a rather large number of representative people whose business should be rather formal and formal when a smaller committee should be chosen to do the real work of the hospital. They agreed with me that it would be better for the doctors not be members of the association

but to make their connection purely professional - for which I was glad.

I also suggested that under the circumstances the work of getting people together for the project ought to fall on the doctors as it did not seem appropriate for me to do it and I think Cole saw the point or felt it and he seemed inclined to take it onto himself. Then we talked of churches and societies and tried to get an idea of the kinds of representatives to be asked as trustees. It will be a democratic association in all probability but we shall try to look out for a few people who will take on themselves the real work.

I shall perhaps go to Otter Tail lake again

soon to do some more investigating.

The securing of a steady flow in the river is more important for me - and I think also for the whole town - than anything I am now concerned in and I hope to find some way of storing or equalizing the flow. It will hardly be worth while to improve any more power unless the river can be made nearly regular and steady. The anarchist has finished a fanning mill which I think I told thee about and he seems pretty well satisfied with the way it works. I'm doubtful but it has not cost much. and may be the germ of an important industry - important to the anarchist at any rate. Today there was work

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To do at the lower dam but I had
very little to do with it so I sat
and talked with the woolen mill
manager and asked him direct questions
about his business which he seemed
ready enough to answer.

The October scheme appeals to me
largely and I hope I can join thee
and Thomas at Annisquam or a S. L.
to help ~~them~~ pack up and fit away.

It will probably be necessary to come
back again but a short season at
the shore would be just ^{what} we all need.

Poor girl! I am sorry too about
little number two. It seems a pity
to be losing time. We all need her
even more than Annisquam. I think
of thee much, dear Grace

Thomas

J. F. - Aug. 12. 1903.

My dearest -

It is difficult to say anything in reply to thy self-abasing long letter but it breeds sympathy and love to know thee well and I can only thank thee for opening thy heart to me so freely.

Thy picture with little Thomas is now before me and it helps to get over the long weeks and sweetens life to know that there is my truly wife.

Lucy told me to-day that she had heard again from Chas. D. and that his mother is still alive but they do not expect her to recover.

I do not suppose he will go to Boston or anywhere else and it does not seem probable that Lucy will go East this summer. — more's the pity — I am sorry that Ruth Putnam seems to have forgotten thee but she is more excusable than most others would be.

Let me know as soon as thou hears anything definite from Amisquam.

I shall look forward to it with zeal and zest.

The Kings are likely to be thrown out of their house soon. Mrs. Picket is said to be on the way home now and they seem to take it for granted that she will want her house.

Mrs. King wants a small flat or house and I infer that she means to give up keeping boarders.

The days are full of little things and leave me rather tired but still I have some inclination to read and often put in a while reading the Atlantic or the North American Review at the C. Club. If the separations are more and more trying, the homecomings are more joyful. And so let the next one be!

Much love to thee and to him

Yours

F.F. - Aug. 16. 1903

My dearest Emory -

It is a pleasant Sunday morning and I have no work to do today which is a relief.

The Journal announced last night the death of Charles D's mother but I have not seen Lucy yet to verify it.

I shall see her some time today. Did she know that Margaret Ames had been having appendicitis and had had the operation performed? She was just beginning to feel it when I was in St. Paul. Charles writes me that it was a mild case with no complications but ~~amply~~ justified the operation. He was present and says he didn't turn a hair.

and he is proud in consequence.

They expect to send Margaret to Milton again this winter. and Catharine and Lydia go East this week.

Charles has given up an outing at Lake Superior with Lesley and wants to know if I can superstitute a few days at Otter Tail Lake with them.

There is no place to stay but I shall write him today asking whether he means to camp out. My work would keep me at or near the foot of Otter Tail Lake and the Dead Lake place which is good to stay at is several miles away. (say ten)

It would be fun to have a few days with them.

There has perhaps heard that F.F. is to

have a new High School and it is now a question where it will be located. I am trying see if it can be put on the corner where mother's three-story mistake now is. The difficult thing is to estimate what salvage could be got out of the old building.

If enough could be saved from it, it would be a good thing for mother to sell it to me and cancel some of her notes by the process and it might be a good thing for me to get a lot of good building material for my hospital without having to pay cash for it and it would also be a good thing to fit the building (School) located there. The lumber in the old building is better than can be bought now and

my notion of covering the hospital
walls to a large extent with plaster would
make the second hand brick available
and just as useful as new brick.

It would probably be worth while to
make some nominal sacrifice in
order to get a large part of my
material in trade instead of for cash
and it would certainly be best for
mother (and for the town also) to
get rid of the old Error in judgment.

Poor Mr. McWahan! He had the
misfortune to ~~start~~ a horse and tip
over a carriage on one of his very
first outings with his new auto-mobile.
Two ladies were turned over and one
of them remained insensible for two
hours but now it appears that neither

if there is seriously hurt.

Please let me know whether the
Internationals which were sent
complete our files or is there one
or more numbers missing? While
we are about it we had better
make it sure. The current
number is rather too much for
me. One or two articles I have
dared to attempt but most of them
are too profound or technical.
One has to know the language in
order to read some of them.

Much love goes with this, dearest.
There is more and more my wife
and necessary other half.
Yours

F.F. - Aug 23. 1903.

Many happy returns of the day to my
dear! The three last fall pictures
are before me as well as the larger
one of thee and Thomas and they
partially fill the gap and I am
grateful thereof. They are good pictures
of good people.

Nothing particularly interesting has
happened the last week unless the
surveying outings are counted. They
were hard work but good fun and
took the whole of three days. On the
last day I took dinner with your
friends Mr. and Mrs. Rossow at Dayton
Hollow. I think you will remember
them and Mr. asked about you. Mrs.
did not talk. It is probably not good

form for him to talk. There appears to be competition in the acquisition of water powers and so I have been hustling to investigate the river for a couple of miles below Rossow's house where we stopped.

Charles D. is home again but I have only seen him once, and then only for a few minutes. He was busy and so I thought better to give him time to get acquainted with his affairs again. Just look at the letter c in acquainted (two lines above) and also in pictatus (sixth line on page 1). Is it conscious or unconscious imitation of a c which you once made and showed me with great enthusiasm? Thanks for the Boston Transcript. It

is a very pleasant souvenir.

Charles Ames has not yet replied to my suggestion that Dead Lake would be a good place for him and Lesly to fish. I wish he would come up and I should manage to get in a day or two with him in connection with my Otter Tail examinations.

This is a very short and stupid letter. I have the Sunday feeling after a rather hard week and my mind doesn't work.

But I love thee very dearly just the same and will try again soon.

Thine
Fras

Sunday evening

It has been a lazy day. I have read at the ship club much of the time and have also slept there some. I have also walked a little and attempted to see Chas. & Lucy but found they had driven to Swan Lake this afternoon.

If thou reads the Atlantic, thou must have seen the Dole tale of Daphne, the American girl, and Apollo. If so perhaps thou will tell me what it was all about and whether he was looney or she was dreaming. The tale was amusing anyway. Then I read over a poem in the No. Am. Review - Odysseus and Calypso - which has struck my fancy rather hard, and another Japanese tale in the Atlantic and attempted but had to give up "The Superior position of woman

in the Republic" or something of that kind - a dismal wail of a woman is grievous - and many other things which have left no impression.

Friday night I had a long talk with an engineer who has been for a long time connected with the State University and who was chief of the party with which I had my first an only experience 22 long years ago in the Northern Pacific. He is now connected in some way with the U.S. Geol. Survey during his numerous vacations and seemed to be drumming up business for the Department. He asked me if investigations of the Red River would be useful to F.F. and thought if I should write to Washington something might come of it. I shall

do it as soon as possible and in course of time we may know how much water flows in the river and how many bugs are contained in each cubic millimeter etc. etc. Curiously enough I had just been using my old level for the first time since I had used it with him in 1881. - when there was only six years old. - no seven.

And today there is 29. and I wish there were only 29. miles away. I should walk it to see how there looks in thy maturity.

With hopes for Annisquam and love for Grace and Thomas

Frederic

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT,

FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

Aug. 25. 1903.

Dearest —

Will you please have the enclosed deeds (3)
returned and acknowledged before a notary?

Two witnesses as usual.

It is a pleasant day — Remember me to J.
Thine

Law.

J.F. - Aug. 30. 1903.

My very dearie -

Two very nice men have just
came at the same time from the
churn up the lovely husband. It is
a beautiful day after many dull
cold ones so he doesn't need as
much churning (They don't look studied)
as he otherwise would. It has been
a busy week with nothing in partic-
ular to show for itself. A little
surveying down river which revealed
large possibilities - too large for me
at present - and a little nearer
town which I have hopes of.

I have got to get more water power
to keep up my plant if it is possible

to get it and most of the week
I have been trying to devise means.
Today and for two more days there
are men and teams in the river
bed deepening the channel which
should add something to the available
head of water but that will not
be enough. Yesterday I put in
nearly all day inventing a book
for electric business records and
yet it is not quite satisfactory.
When I get it to my liking I
shall probably have a book made
with the proper rulings and spacings
and columns etc-etc. I have also
been devising a system of keeping
another's accounts and records which

is meant to be simple and yet
sufficient. We want to keep all
transactions of record for the trust
will probably continue for a good
many years.

Chas. Ames and Lesley are not coming.
They have chosen some other place
and Charles and some of the family,
including Mary, expect to be in B-
for Oct. 3^d and the birthday.
I do not think I can stay
longer than two weeks with them
and it would be great to have
that time at the shore. ~~with~~
Could they not arrange definitely
to have the two weeks beginning
Monday Oct. 5^d and ending Sat. the

17th or possibly Monday the 19th?
I could then get home on Friday -
the 2nd in time for the birthday
and to help to move the family.

It would stretch my two weeks
to two and a half and I do
not think I ought to stay longer.
There is another most important
consideration. Would that not be
just the right time for something
which I will leave thee to guess?

I hope we shall not be disappointed
again. Time is very precious
when measured by infant standards.

With much love for thee and for
thy baby Thomas

Yours

F.F. - Sept. 1. 1903.

My dearest G.

It is 8:18 P.M. after a rather long day spent out-doors superintending various jobs. I have men and teams in the river bottom below the dam scratching painfully at the stony bottom - men at the lower dam clearing away broken timbers and planks mixed with gravel and rock preparatory to an attempt to stop a leak. Then there was Reuben doing the finishing touches to the old Cast Factory ~~right~~ site and Andrew and a machinist doing repairs at the power house so I have felt busy while the other men did the work.

I have looked superficially for the Pepper money list but if it is here I really have no idea where it is. You had better try to think up the things that have been charged to that account and get as near as you can to it. You will have to pay for the Am. Socy & Co shares and then can over draw on the Coolidge & Pepper funds since you say you have enough with them and then can return the overdrafts when you get the next dividends. I enclose a/c. for \$200. for the month and also two checks for you to sign and acknowledge. Please do them reasonably soon but

there is no immediate rush. I return also the Hastings receipted bill which has been forwarded to me. Geo. B. has been expected to day but I do not know whether he came. If he wears the clothes in which we saw him he will make quite a sensation on Lincoln Avenue. Now I must lie out away and come to bed so as to be up with larks and the "Fano of soil"

Much love to the dearies
and to Thomas

Wm

F.F. - Sept. 6. 1903.

My dearest girl -

There is a joy
to my gizzard this cold, dark, wet
Sunday morning and I am beginning
to count the days. If all goes
well it will be a little less than
four weeks. This week I have
done a good job in the river though
it was impossible to get men in
numbers such as I wanted. The
little lower dam is also repaired
and in operation again and thus
two loads are lifted and for a day
or two I have felt like a person
of leisure. Geo. B. is here - big
and strong. He has filled out a

little but is not otherwise much changed. He doesn't exhibit the military set-up but is quite like other people in civilian clothes. He has about one month "leave" and will probably put it all in at home. Murray is thinking of a Mining School in Missouri. I believe he has been advised to keep away from cold winters for a year or two on account of his throat. Dr. Graham told me this morning that the Doctors are trying to move in the organization of a Hospital Society. I think they understand that their part of the business must be accomplished

in order to get their building. If they "move" quickly enough I shall put up the foundation or at any rate the footings this fall so that work could go ahead without delay in the spring.

The Kings are still at the old stand but I believe they think they have found a house. They have the land fever at present and intend to take claims in North Dakota or some place still farther North. The Doctor (he) is to be away much of the winter and I hope he will find his "niche" at last. Doctoring doesn't seem to be his strong point and I notice that

he doesn't go to Wabpeton any more.

But Wm doesn't appear to have
any intentions of giving up practice.

The last few days have been
perfect early autumn days and I
have been down river a bit on
my everlasting search for water-
powers. Some day I hope to work
out the right proposition and one
which shall not be too large for
me to swing. This sounds very
slangy and I apologize. Does
this get tired of my business
letters? That seems to be all they
contain. Still there is room at the
end of this sheet to end very much
love and longing to and for Grace & L.
Kuman

J.F. — Sept. 8. 1903.

My dear —

With humble
apologies I hasten to return
your draft — enclosed.

There is a good girl & thy
Cousin Amelia and far be
it from me to discourage
your proposed kindly act
toward her. I had counted
a good deal on Annisquam
and I know thou had also
but that doesn't matter.
Perhaps we shall manage
some way to get in a

day or two with Miss
Dudley and if we don't
we shall be tolerably all
right at Katie's House.

With love and approval (if
thou wants it)

Thy V.

Thank thee for the deeds

J.F. - Sept. 14. 1903.

My dear an -

I wonder how this is all the last six days since I have heard from thee. It makes the week a little empty which has otherwise been quite filled with doings.

The doctors have at last bestirred themselves and last Wednesday (I think) called a public meeting in the city Hall. They took the precaution to see personally everyone whom they wanted to come and the turn-out was all they wanted. Practically everybody came.

There was really no business to do except to appoint a committee of nine to present a plan of organization at a future meeting but Mr. Barnes as

chairman called as a number of people to speak. It was simply a way of getting the people out and interested in the project. It did not seem appropriate for me to be there so I stayed away but I have been told that Mr. Barrows made a model chairman. The real work of organization must now be taken up and while I do not propose to take an active or open part in it, there seems to be an inclination to have me indicate my wishes.

So I have been working a little for the past two days at a scheme of organization, the main points of which are a large Hospital Society with few responsibilities and a smaller

Board of Managers to do all the work. My scheme at present would go even further and would throw the real authority into the hands of an executive committee of the Board but I shall not attempt to insist upon this plan. The Committee is composed of eight members representing different churches and O.D.W. "at large".

Lucy has been sick for several days - almost dangerously sick with symptoms of pneumonia. C.D. thought yesterday afternoon that the danger was past but she is now suffering a good deal from her old digestive troubles. and her fever

was again up to 103.

C.D. has been staying at home most of the time for several days.

Another went has been the paring down of one of my Tonsils.

It made it sore for a couple of days but now gives me hardly any annoyance and Dr. F. says it is doing all right. If the weather is favorable I shall probably have the other one trimmed in a day or two. It did not cut down into any blood-vessel. I believe I prefer to have them done separately because the soreness is divided enough to allow me to eat without much difficulty while if they were

2

both done at the same time, I
should have to give up ordinary
food and devote myself to milk
and such things. I hope this
will not think me too willful
for having it done now. It seemed
better not to put it off indefinitely
and no one knows when this will
be here again during summer
time. To take up the Hospital
again I have drawn and had blue-
prints made of a footing plan and
shall probably get figures soon for
having the footings done this fall.
Whether I shall also have the
foundation built or started is not
yet quite decided upon though it

is likely that I shall do some of it
if not all.

I think of thee a good deal and of
little Thomas. Does he not give
any more indications of wanting to
talk? He will be a big boy
when he sees his dad again.

But it will not be so long — a
little more than two weeks from
the time thou receives this.

Let me know how thy cousin
Amelia is and I know thou will
be doing thy duty to her in every
way thou can.

With love for thee and Thomas

Thy man
P. M. M.

~~afternoon~~

Mrs. King who has been attending Lucy
tells me that she slept well last night
and feels better today and is at present
not in much pain from her digestive
disturbances. I am going up
to the C. & W. cousins now

W. W.

GEO. B. WRIGHT ESTATE.

A. M. WRIGHT, AGENT.

FERGUS FALLS, MINN.

Sept. 16. 1903.

Dear nie —

I enclose another deed for your signature. Does she know that it is long since she has written to me. I think there

must be a good reason and want to know what it is.

Lucy is improving but has been in a good deal of pain. The fever has not gone yet and Chas. D. stays with her much of the time and they also have a nurse.

The weather is horrid. Today there has been a bit of sun-shine but now it is cloudy again and the rain may come from very habit. Much love, dear

Yours
Emma

J.F. — Sept. 17. 1903.

My dear one —

As I telegraphed you
today, Lay died this morning at about
3 o'clock. She seemed much better
yesterday and in the evening ate
a little supper. That brought
on an acute attack of her stomach
trouble which affected the heart.

Mrs King was called at 10 o'clock
and Truborn came soon afterwards.

But her heart failed to rally on
application of the osteopathic treatments
which had usually given her relief
and even strichnine and nitro-glycerine

produced no effect. She must
have suffered a great deal and
Chas. D. was unable to bear
being with her at the last.

Today he is calm and steady
— more than any one else —
and discusses plans reasonably.

Both Geo. + Murray are here
and will go East with C.D.
and me.

Your prolonged silence gives
me some anxiety concerning
your Cousin Amelia as I
can only imagine that
she is the cause.

I believe the Iowa train is
due in Boston at 8 P.M.
Monday evening and it is
likely that Charles' brothers
Will and George will be there.
It will be unnecessary for
you to come in if it is
inconvenient.

Love to thee, dear ones

Fanny