



George B. Wright and Family Papers

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[1904.]

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest —

Enclosed find by. aft. for \$250.⁰⁰. Yours enclosing
letter from Mr. Cook just received. I am sending him \$50.⁰⁰
in acct. today. Will attend to the silver trunk as soon
as I can. Hastily and with love
Vernon

Mrs. Vernon A. Wright
South Lincoln
Mass.

I sent Thomas' sperm and pusher by registered mail. It is not likely that I will do much packing before Sunday.  Did the initials ever strike you before as familiar?

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest -

Wednesday - Oct. 19, 1904

Time is simply whizzing - marked by a telegram from you yesterday announcing your safe arrival and a letter today mailed at Soo St. M. last Sunday. Speaking of letters, there is one for Miss McLean. What shall I do with it?

Sunday morning we all went to church and afterwards to view the capitol. It is going to be magnificent and seems to me the most complete and perfect modern building I know of anywhere. J. Holyoke went back to the house and dined with us and stayed a while afterwards discussing the new church. Then Charles read the "Circus" from Dream Days or Golden Era and soon it was time to go to my train. Monday I worked and Monday night went early to bed. Tuesday I worked likewise and Tuesday night met Mr. Barnes by appointment and discussed plans for a candy factory which he is going to build (with others) at Grand Forks. Just a plain factory building and I agreed to make the plans in a hurry. While I was out of the office E. Adams came in with a paper from Moorhead and borrowed a set of F.F. library plans with the idea of securing the job for one for a Carnegie library in Moorhead. I have heard nothing more of the matter. Today I have worked hard on plumbing for the hospital and now it is nearly 9 P.M. and C.D. is probably still asleep in the sofa in the sitting room where I left him. He is probably going to St. Louis. I can't. With love, V.A.W.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERRIS FALLS, MINNESOTA

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VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Sunday - Oct. 23. 1904.

My dearest Grace -

It has been a busy week and the next are promises to be
like-wise. On Thursday the Board of Education jumped on me
and said they wanted the drawings as soon as they could get
them. I said I would try to get them out in ten days and
am trying to do it. Mr. Boring has written to a friend asking
him to come up and help him for a week and unless I can
get someone to help trace it will be impossible to finish in
the time. Many people and many things keep interfering. Yesterday
the water-wheel gave out and I had to spend time getting
repairs under way. This is the time of year when people want
things done to their houses to prepare them for the winter and also
the time when it is difficult to get things done. I put as
much of this off as Edward as possible.

Today I have been packing your things to be sent by freight.
By the exercise of great industry and cunning I can probably get
everything into the big box if only the furs will stand crushing.
~~the~~ I have put the furs and some light things into a clean
sapp box but that leaves the big box not quite full and so
I am in doubt. Probably I shall have to find something
to fill in with.

Charles D. went to St. Louis. Mr. Wacker
(over)

decided to go with him as well as Mr. Winslow and at the critical moment a letter from his brother George saying definitely that he would be in St. Louis this week and had engaged rooms settled the matter. Cliff Hinton and his wife are also to be there this week I believe. So I am alone in the house but Mary does very well as far as I can see. She probably makes my soap in a wash dish and uses shoe-blackings to grease her flap jack iron with but I am ignorant. The house looks pretty well cleaned up.

Mrs. Bullock appears to me to have a subdued air when I talk with her at the Tel. Bldg. and I have not seen Amy. The weather has been cloudy much though not all of the time and is cool but not cold. — generally about 53° in the bath room when I get up to have. All things seem crowding in on me just now and mostly the High School. but I am thankful that I had (or took) enough time to get a part which is better than the first one. The library is to have \$2000. extra and ground will be broken this week but the building will not go up until next spring.
With love to the "G.J.C." trio in their Hattie Henry
Nurses.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear Grace —

Oct. 30, 1904.

It is a beautiful day and almost warm — which is different. Chas. D. returned from St. Louis this morning and he certainly is the prize traveller and sight-seer (seer). He did not see Miss McLean which he intended to do, because she was in a distant part of the city and it would have required considerable time to get there — also because he couldn't spare the time. Mr. McMahon & Mr. Winslow were with him but he says that Winslow was not a good person to see things with. He would glance and then want to see something else. And he would give out before the day was half over. W.M. proved to be tougher and stood ^{up} for the whole of the time. They appear to have put in five days and five long evenings looking at the substantial things of the exposition. They had no time for the "Pike" and only visited the "Boer War" by way of "diversionment". Chas. D. does not appear to be tired and has talked all day about it with zeal and great interest and wishes he had time for a month more of it.

Now I can understand how a person might under severe strain put in that amount of time in an exposition solidly but to come home and be able to talk about it is the limit. I know more about it now than I should if I had seen it.

Your boy has at last left the house and will probably leave the town tomorrow. I thought I should never remember to bring

have the mails to mail up the tops. There are two of it. The
pens might have been squeezed into the big box finally but I didn't
know whether they ought to be squeezed so I put them in another box.
It has been a busy week. The High School drawings are about
done but will have to be traced. I fear it will be too late
to put in the foundations this year if the committee wait until
figures can be had for the complete contracts, so that I shall be
blamed for sloth. My only consolation is that by taking time
in the design I have been able to find a facade which is
more satisfactory than the earlier studies which I liked less and
less as I worked in them. I have suggested to the board that
they could have their excavation done immediately without waiting
for bids on the whole work but they are afraid the bids will run
much too high and do not want to have an excavation in their
hands which may not fit their building after it has been
timbered and pained down. The argument is unanswerable so
in order to answer it I have got John Lanistyn to look over
my drawings and make a guess. He does not think they will
run too high but I hesitate to use his figures because some
members of the board would think John prejudiced.

It is born in upon me that you will be wanting money so tomorrow
I will send you a draft. It gave me much satisfaction to hear
of your successful journey and the kindness of the Blodgetts. Please
thank them for me too when you are doing thanking. I am
glad to know that Miss Fry is going to be a periodical boarder too

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VERNON A. WRIGHT
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and most glad to know that R. Tompkins was disposed of without
open rupture. I commend your tact. May it never grow
less! If it is seeking new fields to exercise itself in I
might suggest that the Quelling relatives who burn our coal
will furnish excellent ~~material~~ preserves to invade.

I have just written again to Mr. Cook saying that his
study for the Library is formally accepted and he is authorized
to finish it up. Both Mr. Parsons and Mrs. Welch made a
criticism which I wish you would verify from the original
when you can conveniently. They thought the good warrior
was looking at the maiden instead of at the picture writing.
As I knew what was expected of the warrior, I had not assumed
that there might be a misunderstanding but can see now
that on close examination he might be supposed to be looking
at her though from a distance the photograph does not give
me that impression. Please see what you think about it for
it seems to me important to the expression of the idea of the invention
of picture writing.

Commend me to ~~Mr.~~ Elizabeth. I am pleased to hear it
with love to you and him and him
Yours.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dear G.

Nov. 1. 1904.

I enclose receipt for the boxes. The freight is prepaid and there should be no charge but remembering the apples are cannot be sure so be sure to keep the receipt for presentation if required.

I have sent an order to the Stange Co. to send the trunk to you by Rath. Ex. You will of course have to pay the ex. charges.

In regard to plumbing, if the other fixtures work all right in the bath-room, the trouble is probably with the valve which admits water to the flushing tank. You might examine it and if you cant find out the trouble it will be necessary to get a plumber.

If the hot water ^{also} does not run properly then the trouble would be with the valve of the tank in the attic above the bath-room.

Hastily and with love
V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearie: -

Sunday - Nov. 6, 1904.

It is getting toward evening and I have finished the letters which had been put off during the week and simply had to be attended to today. Now I can breath a little freer, in fact quite freely, and turn home-ward with what remains of my mind - a mere fragment but such as it is it's yours. Your last letter was a very present picture of a domesticity which sets me right with the world. It makes one feel that things are as they should be.

Chas. D. is at Swan Lake today with the MacMahans who are doubtless making plans of things to do with and to their new possessions. We have not had a furnace fire for a week and I have become so accustomed to low temperatures that last night when I went into the Chip. Club for a few minutes (Alha!) I had to flee for fear of taking cold from the exposure to their hot rooms.

The Atlantic is here and also the International Studio and I am absorbing what I require before forwarding them.

7:30 P.M. - In the Atlantic is an article by me Gardiner of Harvard University on "Improving the style of the Bible" which exactly expresses the feelings I endured when Mr. Todd read from the 20th Century version the parable about the stewards in which "three times as much" takes the place of "threelfold." It is not the definable meaning of word entirely but the things which go to make poetry. You must read it when you get a chance. Just as we were sitting down to supper Mr. Parsons telephoned that there

would be a cooking club at his house tomorrow evening and C.D. and I
are bid. We shall probably go. Tuesday night returns will be
received at the Chip. Club and that will make two nights in
succession — such jingity!

The School is in its final stages and unless the Board does
something radical to it, bids will called for very soon — this week
probably. Mr. Province has an offer of position in St. Paul which
will be more permanent than I can ~~offer~~ promise and he will go
as soon as the drawings are finished up. Then if the bids
are satisfactory and ^{one} of them accepted I shall have to have a cheaper
man to do full size detailing and tracing — something of the
Albert type perhaps but I hope he won't be so musical.

Mary has been gradually getting the house done up and I am
now sleeping in the room you had and dressing in the little room
and with the bath-room I feel quite princely. The temperature is
generally about 53° when I take my cold room and only once
has been below 50° and on the whole it is not a bad
temperature to get used to — at any rate it doesn't make colds.

The hospital grounds are being graded but work is at a standstill
as it has been found impossible to put in artificial heating to dry the
plaster — I am not sorry. With much love to thee and the little
ones and regards to Misses try
Thine
P. M.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearie -

11/7/04

With regards, haste and love —
Chuck enclosed —
Y.

Mrs. Vernon Wright
South Lincoln
Mass.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
VERMONT, MINNESOTA

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Nov. 13. 1904.

My dear —

This is a good lady to write me so many more letters than this receives. They help to make the path-way smooth and they jog the current of thought from its too much sameness.

The films were secured from the Carbons some time ago and I will bring them with me unless you need them sooner. I have not paid Mrs. Welch but I forwarded a letter from Miss What's her name some time ago which perhaps enclosed a bill. If it did you might send it back to me and I will pay it. Miss What's her name has gone to other parts Mrs. Welch informed me last Monday night at the Parsons'. It was Caring Club and C.D. and I were bid but he is tired of C.C. although he admitted that the food is always good. So I went alone and enjoyed the Charade which was for me not personal. The Federation people expected that their turn had come but were let off.

The next night I stayed at the Chip. Club until 11 P.M. to get the election returns which were received there. There was a large crowd and Mr. Zimmerman served sandwiches + coffee continuously. Before I left it was evident that Roosevelt had carried the state by a record breaking majority and almost certain that Mr. Dunn was done for which is a very good thing of independent voting.

Later it was shown that Johnson the Democrat has nearly 10,000

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majority although every thing else including the legislature is overwhelmingly Republican. Mr. Mason's case was doubtful for a few days but he was beaten by a few hundred. I am sorry as I think him much better qualified professionally than his opponent.

You have written nothing about the Crooks except that Mr. Cook paid you your interest from which I infer that they are not quite starved out yet. Have you seen the decoration and is the old fellow looking at the picture writing or at the girl? He has not ~~written~~ replied to my letter telling him his work was accepted and enclosing a record check for \$50.00 I hope he received it.

The last of the tracings for the High School was delivered to the blue printer last night and today I have enjoyed a sense of relief quite unusual. If the figures run too high I shall be in a fix for Mr. Province left last night and it will be difficult to get anyone to help if a new set of drawings has to be set up. At my ~~last~~ session with the board they seemed disposed to add things instead of cut out. Stone, for instance, but I feel quite differently about it and while it would be nice to have a cut stone foundation instead of brick I would willingly get on without the stone and put the money into an efficient ventilating system which is now in some danger of being omitted. Personally I should prefer to ~~cut~~ the building to a plain factory and keep ~~the~~ the ventilation rather than to condemn the teachers and

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VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

children to live in unutilized rooms. We shall see.

Today has been a beautiful day and this morning Mr. Adams invited me to a promenade over his estate in the pretence of looking up suitable rock for a library foundation. We took the whole of the morning for it and this afternoon C.D. suggested walking up to C.J.'s. C.J. and myra are just back from St. Louis after a week with Rolla and Elsie seeing the exposition and C.D. wanted to compare notes. They are not as good travellers as he is and he did most of the talking. The hot rooms after a walk in the cool air made me uncontrollably sleepy the whole of the time. Aunt Elsie brought out some pictures and gave me three tiny types of my sister taken at ages varying from three to ten as I guess. I will not send them but will bring them with me.

After I got back to the house I was dead and lay in the leather lounge for an hour or two and now after one of Mary's fragrant Sunday suppers I am recovered again. Tomorrow there will be work again but at least the pressure is lighter. The packing at the hospital is about done.

With love to the very best one and to Thomas and Cyrus

Yours

Vernon

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest -

Monday - Nov. 21. 1904.

You are also a neglected dearie. Yesterday (Sunday) I expected to write to you but had to spend most of the day at the power house and in the evening was dead tired and lay in the leather lounge listening to Mr. Winslow and CD. Mrs. Winslow and Linda had gone somewhere to visit so Mr. came over Saturday and spent Sunday with us.

For several days the electric machinery or rather the water-wheel machinery has been giving trouble and I have had to spend time trying to find out the trouble. Fortunately the High School is temporarily out of the way so the time was to be had. I have hardly thought of the H.S. for several days and now it occurs to me that there have been no inquiries about the plans and I wonder if anybody is going to submit figures. The contract for the foundations for the library has been let to a certain father & son who are justly celebrated as the best stone masons in town and as there will be a lot of the stone to show they will have a chance to show what they can do. It is to be all granite native rock picked for pink color and will be fine. Don't you ever see the Crooks? You haven't mentioned them. Mr. Crook wrote me a week ago that he was going to cast the Hiawatha himself and so of course I misdoubt and should like to know how is coming out as it. The weather has been just as good as it could possibly be for a month and tonight there is a big full moon in a clear

and not call shy. I think I wrote that C.D. and I are invited
to the Memahans for Thanksgiving Day dinner. Mrs. Adams also sent me
a bid but it came too late. And the time is wearing on and
pretty soon I shall have to be cutting loose - for really I shall
probably never be - for the homeward journey. Things will probably
go on just as well whether I leave everything neatly pinned up
or loosely hanging. The people in the flats will have to jump on
Edward for heat and plumbing repairs etc. which will give him much
valuable experience. I shall stop in Michigan and Geo. M. has
said that he would meet me in Lowell whenever I was going through
so I shall probably stop there also and try to get the Lowell library
pared down so that it can be started in the spring. It is not
likely that you will see me much before Christmas day but I
shall be glad to be in Hattie's home once more and see the little
family - not fitting to be a "bug" man. It grieves me that you
are tired. I am tired too and should like to hold your
hand and sympathize. It is only a month and it will pass
quickly enough. This is a very pakey letter from a very pakey
person. I wish it were more cheering for a dearer who needs
cheer. Take love instead and divide with "ours."

Thine

Emma

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest -

Sunday - Nov. 27. 1904.

I am trying to think of all the things that ought to be said and done by way of preparations for home going. I have written to Mrs. Welch to ask how much extra is due for baskets and will pay the bill as soon as she sends the necessary information.

And do you intend or desire to have me bring all the hospital rug and baskets with me and if so how? I have not looked up stairs to see if any trunks are left for me. My summer clothes which I am still wearing can be left behind which will make some room. And did you receive the freight receipt for your boxes and have the boxes arrived and was there extra freight to pay?

The Cal. & Hecla dividends will be sent to So. Lincoln and it will be as well to forward them to me instead of holding them.

I shall want to stop a day or part of a day in Chicago as well as other places and the itinerary may be some thing like this -
Leave F.F. Saturday the 17th by day train - Stay Sat. night and Sunday in St.P. - Leave St.P. Sunday night - Arrive Chicago Monday morning and spend the day there - Leave Chicago Monday evening and get to Battle Creek about 10 P.M. same night - Spend Tuesday in Battle Creek and leave in the afternoon - Arrive at Albany about noon on Wednesday and get to Lowell some way same day - Spend Thursday in Lowell with Cousin "Geary" and leave in the evening so as

to get home Friday morning. Some of these arrangements may not work out and I may have to stay more than a day in Lowell which would make it Saturday instead of Friday but I shall try to be home before Sunday in any case. How do you do?

A representative of the Moorhead Library Board has been in to see me and there may be a chance for me but the probability is that the job will go to a Fargo man. They want a dome and some columns on the part — the columns, not the dome, are to be on the part; The dome will be on the top. — If they give it to me I shall do it this winter.

The McMahan dinner on Thanksgiving day was a late dinner with the Colos, the Jewetts, and Miss Thors in addition to the family and C.D. and me. After dinner the McGowan with Miss Reed and a good friend of Mr.'s, the Cy. Bealls and some others whom I can't now recall came in to play 500. A very enjoyable evening was passed etc, etc. We were also bid to the C.'s but too late. Friday afternoon I stole an hour to hear Mr. Masor perform a Beethoven recital at the Presbyterian Church. It was good and quite remarkable considering. I don't suppose he had ever heard the things played by anyone else and yet he did them with understanding and appreciation and, so far as I could see, just as any musician would have played them. He was beaten in his attempt on the judgeship and is somewhat cast down. There is no news that I know of. It is long since I have heard much from thee. With love Edward

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear -

Dec. 1. 1904

The enclosed card was received a few days since and has been quietly lying in my pocket.

The inference seems to be that they have not been officially informed of your return. Poor mothers don't have time for receptions and such things do they? I have paid the bill for hospital work and baskets.

The high school figures were satisfactory and the contract was let to the builders who are down stairs in the Telephone Bldg. It is a relief for if they had been too high there is no telling how long it would have taken to get the drawings re-arranged to come down to the limit. The weather has at last turned cold - not too cold but wintry. Let a fellow know how P + T + C. and getting on with you. I will send dft. tomorrow. It is nearly N.P. train time so I stop with love

Vernon

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear —

Dec. 4. 1904.

It is a cold and cheerless day but it helps as much as another to advance the home going. Business things are going very well and I hope that nothing will occur to delay getting off. The Library is now again the center of interest and bids are to be asked for at once. I shall have to take drawings for both the Library and High School home with me as well as the Church Library and detail drawings will have to be made in the book-rooms or in town.

Last night C.D. suggested that we call on the Angers and we did. Richard had just returned from St. Louis and he and C.D. had to talk it over. I probably know as much about it as I shall if I had been there. Mrs. Worthing is staying at home while Mr. is seeking a new location in the far West. She brought down the daughter and she is certainly a well looking baby. They say she is good and makes very little trouble. She has doubled her weight too. But it nearly gave me nervous prostration to see Miss Jeanie jump her and thump her without a moment's interval for some twenty minutes or thereabouts. Angus has a cold and was not brought down. Madame inquired about you and the boys and so did all the rest. And this reminds me that Mrs. McMahon wanted me to tell you that she hoped you were home-sick for Fergus Falls.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
ATTESTED

I understood her to imply that she had told you you would be or something of the kind.

It nearly became necessary to telegraph you to find out where my winter clothes were concealed but it occurred to me that Mary might know and she did. She does pretty well for us as far as I can see which is only skin deep.

Last Sunday evening I passed with the Adamses and Mrs. Adams wants to get German songs illustrated in the manner of the French Bonnet songs. If I don't forget utterly about it I must try Schwartz's or Oliver Ditson's for her.

The Civic League has come to life again and held a meeting at the Grand Hotel on Friday. Mr. Todd invited me and I went on condition that he would also ask others who are not members of the committee. They may have been asked but they did not come. We discussed various small matters and Mr. Todd is to appear before the city council to advocate enforcement of the spitting ordinance and the purchase of receptacles for rubbish to be placed in the streets. It was also the sense of the meeting that Mr. Barbican should clear up his calamities as chimneys are ~~opposite~~ near the lime kilns. I didn't inform them that I owned the property. Please don't be silent too long. With love for all the little family at Hatter House

Thine

Vernon

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dearest —

Dec. 14. 1904.

The time is flying and the business of getting away is getting congested. Within the next day or two the question of the kind of stove to be used in the High School must be settled and the Library contract must be let if possible. Bids were ~~opened~~ opened today and they are again too high but I think it will be possible to make some sacrifice that will enable us to award the contract. At any rate it will not be necessary to give up everything. I am glad that I got Mr. Crook in at the beginning for it would be too late now.

The weather has turned wintry and the thermometer stands anywhere from zero to a few degrees below the freezing point.

It is pleasant enough though — only Lincoln will be pleasant. Chas. D. is not likely to go with me but he may come later if he doesn't go to California. That is as near as anyone can get to the truth. Murray will come home for Christmas and after he returns C.D. will close the house and go to the Grand Hotel which is now cheerful and attractive. What will become of the faithful Mary I do not know. With love to them and the little fellows — Vernon

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dec. 15. 1904.

Dear —

Your letter telling of the boxes and the absence of the furs came this morning. They must have been stolen and of course I shall enter a complaint when I get home but it will not avail because of the impossibility of fixing the responsibility on any particular R.R. The mattress was not put in and I did not understand that it was to go but will hunt it up. It is probably in the attic. The Walker-Lordan box #2 did not seem to fit in anywhere so I thought I would take it along with me as hand baggage but now it will have to be boxed and sent by freight for the number of hand things is getting too great. There is no chance that Chas. D. will go with me and that probably means that Murray will not go either so it will be as well to invite Kathryn if you want her without waiting to hear from Chas. D. He was pleased to hear from you I judged but all the same he may not answer at once. It has been a busy day. The library contract was awarded to Samitgen Bros, the contractors of the hospital. It is not quite clear whose the money for the heating and plumbing is to come from but it

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will have to be found somehow and so it will be.

The School committee building committee also met at my office this afternoon to discuss stone and brick and the possibility of working in a gymnasium. The usual

routine was followed - The Board refers matters to the Bldg. Committee and the Committee refers them back to the board.

Still the day has advanced matters and I am encouraged.

You may remember some talk of a forgery case in which a certain person had been sending me forged checks. He has been arrested and two or three days ago there was some danger that I should have to be here as a witness. But he has secured bail and I think the trial will be postponed though I shall not be quite sure until I am gone and away.

I now expect to get started on Sunday morning and shall not be able to stop in St. Paul for more than an hour or two at most. The rest of the program will go through barring accidents and I shall be in Lowell Wednesday night and home as soon as possible thereafter.

I hope I can be of use in the domestic problems and will try at any rate. So courage, dearie,

Many shall have be present
and I shall not forget that
you are short one half m. allowance

With love

Frederic

[Dec. 18, 1904]

501 GRAND AVENUE.
ST. PAUL.

My dear Gracie —

I got away Sat. night by
the N. P. after a couple of days
of scrambling and partly on that
account perhaps but more likely
because of coffee for dinner my
hand writing is what you see.

As far as I can see everything
was sufficiently settled and taken care
of before I left and if it or they
will stay settled for a while that
is all that can be expected or
asked. Mary is here with the

youngest of her brood and the rest
are expected home this week. They
are wrapping up china dogs and pigs
etc. as Christmas presents to each
other and the house is pretty quiet.
I wish you were here this "minut."
All the morning I was in
Minneapolis getting information about
stone and did not get down here
till half past one, but I had
telephoned to Mary to engage dinner
so she was expecting me.

Harriet Mills and Mrs. Adams are
about the only ladies whom I have
seen lately and they both sent
messages to you of an appropriate

kind, the wording of which has now
escaped me. I leave tonight at
8:30 on Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul
train for Chicago and expect to be
in Battle Creek tomorrow night at
9:25. I think the wife of
my Vermont cousin nurse sister will
be there visiting. Of course there
had to be someone as usual.

Much love to thee, dearie, and to
the little boys. I hope Thomas
will know his dad and not be
afraid of him.

Ever
Kenne

Sunday, Dec. 18. '04

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Feb. 25. 1905.

My dearest —

I enclose the Crook mortgage and you can have Mr. Smith make out a satisfaction of it and a new mortgage for \$500.⁰⁰ whenever it is convenient.

When the papers are all drawn Mr. Crook will have coming to him \$125.⁰⁰ less the interest he owes or soon will owe and which I figure to be \$17.²⁵

There should be a promissory note for \$600.⁰⁰ with your mortgage but I do not find it. Do you know whether Mr. Crook ever signed and gave it to you? The mortgage is probably just as good without it but it should have been made and in drawing the new papers you should see that a note for \$500.⁰⁰ is made at the same time, payable in two years at 5% if that is what you agree upon. I am pretty busy picking up loose ends but I want to know about my family just the same.

Little Vernon was out doors yesterday but he is said to be weak and thin. Dr. Freben's Gertrude has pneumonia and is pretty sick but I have not heard how she is today.

With love Vernon.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
TERRILL LANE, BIRMINGHAM

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VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dear Mr. —

March 26, 1915

Here it is Sunday already and a week nearly gone. The new paper is up at C.D.'s house and my key is lost and the doors all locked so I have to use office paper. In Battle Creek I found another pretty well and the Doctor also. There was only one extra cousin staying at the house - a very nice young person, wife of a grandson of Mrs. Noble. Another cousin was in the city however but not staying at the house. She had come from California to safeguard her rights, which seems to mean that she had waited some twenty odd years for Mrs. Noble to die and could not stand waiting any longer. The Doctor's life is now a burden. She seemed to think that she would assume control the moment she arrived but as the Doctor is administrator (temporarily at least) her plan could not be entirely realized. So she demands statements which he, being slow, does not provide and I think trouble is in store for all concerned. The Cal. cousin has notified the doctor that she will expect rent for her share of the house beginning with the day of Mrs. Noble's death and this will

probably result in renting ~~the~~ it at a comparatively early day. Livestories are now being made of all the furniture and countless accumulations of over a half century. Mrs. Noble never could give away or throw away anything without pains. Mother has had invitations from two or three people to come and stay with them — one in Michigan and one in California that I remember. I suggested that C.D. might possibly want her to keep house for him and the notion had occurred to her but of course nothing could be done or said about it in the absence of an invitation. I don't know whether she would accept or not. I did not go to Saint Paul at all. It was possible to make a quick connection in Minneapolis and still have a little time to attend to Jennie's wood yard so I did it and arrived in F.F. Thursday afternoon. You will not be surprised to hear that on Friday evening I received a hurry up telephone from Mrs. McWhan inviting me to come over and meet a few friends who were to play 500. Not knowing how it ~~back~~ out I went and found that a few meant ~~ten~~ tables (10) and that the occasion was the McWhan twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Mr. Parsons sang ~~it~~. He has a good voice and did it well. I can understand that he was a great success as Ko Ko in the Micado. Most of the people you know were there and I think some others.

Tonight all society boards the train for Minneapolis to hear "Parsifal." Boston could not fill a house to listen to it but Minneapolis can and is proud of itself.

Mr. Jewett has already heard it and is said to have preferred "Buster Brown" which is also running. I will think of poor Mrs. McGowan sitting through five hours of "Parsifal." — also others.

I saw Mrs. Adams this afternoon and swapped accounts of the progress of our children. Frances has had the grip but you would not know it. She is fat and hearty and rolled in her pines. Every one asks about you and Thomas and the baby (not Cyrus) and I try to "distribute suitableness" artistically. It is lonesome out here just the same and I should like my family. With love and big ones
Vernon

F.F. — Mech. 29. 1905

My dear dear —

It was good to hear of thee in Providence although the letter was a wee bit doleful and consequently touching. I hope thee stayed until Thursday as bid to do.

Of course you must keep Miss Starkweather. I don't want any nameless terns hovering round thee or even any with any number of names. It is born in as me more and more that it is not good to live apart and if you feel disposed to undertake it I should like to have you come out and be with me. It will be difficult to get away ^{from here} a

apply for his old activities. to be satisfied no such as possible as that he may scanty possessions? (and probably not many) I fear it would create a scandal if we went elsewhere. What do you think? In a smaller house the problem might be simpler. There would be plumbing at any rate. They are likely to keep me busy here and then the fences and cow pastures will have to be looked after soon. Demands have already begun to come in for the pastures. The evenings are not quite long enough to attend to them after dinner — the normal time for such businesses. Kiss Thomas and Cyrus for me and let Thomas kiss thee for his Daddy. ^{if you are likely to come it would be well to make no change at home. also please write}
F.F.

and more difficult to stay away more than a very few days. If you think F.F. does not agree with you I want urge it but otherwise I should like to have you here.

I have asked C.D. if he had any plans and think he has none except that he intends to go East — when he gets around to it. I offered to rent his house from him and take him as a boarder. He asked if it would make any difference if he had the house raised and I said that if you were well it probably would not but if you were not well I had rather not have it done while we were in it. He thought that if it were to be done

he could just as well have it done between now and the middle of May which seemed to me like an admission that he would like to have us there.

He was to see if he could get some one to raise ~~the~~ house and then the matter rests and is likely to continue resting. The main question is — Do you want to come and do you think it would be best for you to come? If you do I can continue negotiations or perhaps try Mr Windsor. He is to move out about May 15th which might do very well. Which house would you rather have? C.D.'s with furniture (and Mary) or the other with our own

on his house to hold until I can
hear from you. If he doesn't want
to rent his house I shall look for
something else. Should you care to
come in any case before May 15th?
Isn't it about that time that your new
nurse-maid will be coming to you?

As I remember Mr. Windham said
that ^{they} would fit into their new home
in about 6 weeks which would be
approximately May 15th.

Please take it as easily as you
can and keep Miss Starkweather as
long as you want her and as she
can stay. Don't worry and the
world will continue to wag.

With much love
Vernon

F.F. - Apr. 2. 1905.

Dearest - The day before receiving
your urgent appeal I had written
saying that I thought so too and
you probably received the letter
after my telegram saying that I
would arrange it somehow. It was
last Sunday that I first spoke
to Chas. D. and after giving him
a week to think about it I counseled
him again this morning saying that
Domest's developments at home made
it necessary to come to a ~~conclusion~~
of some kind soon. Apparently the
situation is thus. He doesn't really
know what he wants or expects to do
as a permanent arrangement. He

asked whether you would bring your
own domestics or hire them here
and I told him that I thought you
would bring one and secure another
here - Mary if she wanted to stay -
Then he said that Mary is coughing
quite badly nights and that he didn't
think she could do much work.

It appeared to me that he is coming
to see whether she is going to fit
well or not. He said that if she
didn't, he would certainly have to
close up for he couldn't think of
training a girl himself and no
stranger one would know how to
run things as Mary does. She looks
pretty well but I have heard coughing

at night which I thought was C.D.
himself. He said also that he would
talk to Mary about taking more
work in case the family was increased
and to the Doctor as to her
condition. I think I can see
that he looks upon Mary as the
mainstay of his permanent or
semi-permanent arrangement and does
not want to break it up for a
temporary condition of things. I told
him in answer to his question that
you might stay until Oct. or Nov.
Making up his mind is so difficult
a process that I shall speak to
Mr Windsor tomorrow morning and
see if I can get a strong attachment

I enclose check for \$200.⁰⁰

According to my book I had given you
100.⁰⁰ during March as advance money.
Of and when you want more let
me know. It is raining today
but warmer and the grass should turn
green unless cold begins again.

With much love Yours

CRANE & CO. ALTON

J.F. — Apr. 5. 1905.

Dearie — Two letters from you this afternoon only two days old—which seems to bring us near. It is also cheering to write a more cheerful line chez toi. C.D. is considering — I presume — and getting ready to interview Mary and Dr. Frohman. In the mean time I am thinking that if there is any doubt about Mary's troubles, I don't want to take chances. Mr. Windsor wants to sell his house but if he doesn't sell it in two weeks will rent it and has said he would give me first chance. This may work out all right but is unpleasantly uncertain for if at the end of two weeks he should have a purchaser or

the string, he would not want to turn him down and sent to me. I know of no other house but will try to find one. It must be managed, for six months is too long. I have been trying to think of some way to dispose of Waltham and your letter saying the Anns will take him seems just right. They must take the curb bit however for he pulls too strong without it. And of course the Wrons are the people to take the king.

Looking again at your letter I am reminded that I spoke to Dr Freeman some days ago about your glasses. He has doubtless forgotten. You know his Gertrude is sick with pneumonia.

I hear nothing about her so she must be alive. Secondly - I have not put kerosene in my hair and it is needed.

Of course I should be willing and glad to have Jimmie take our house for the summer if you feel so disposed. In that case they might like to keep one of the cows - probably not both - The only question is whether it would not be more expensive than to go somewhere else. You may write to her at any time if you like. I hope to have something more definite to write about houses soon. As for a general house girl we shall probably have to try St Paul. With much love Vera

J.F. — Apr. 8. 1905

My dearest —

Mr. Windsor has today given me the refusal of his house for a few days and it will be necessary to give him a definite answer as soon as possible. So I should like to have you say whether you would accept it in case C.D. does not make up his mind. The chances are not numerous to get livable houses and before hearing from ~~you~~ Mr. Windsor today I telegraphed asking you if you would take the Wheelock house. You will remember that it is on East Vernon Ave. and has ~~piaggas~~ piazzas and is pretty well shaded.

It has a bath-room but is not likely to be in as good condition as the Windsor house.

I tried to see Dr. Freeman today & ask him about Mary but he was busy and I could not wait. Please answer as soon as possible so that we shall not fall between chairs and miss them all.

It has been a busy day. This evening the main pulley or fly-wheel of my electric plant broke and will be out of commission for several days. Later the scrap with the School Committee over the color of the mortar came up and I took my stand on the

matter. They appear to have been ~~unable~~ & unwilling to go so far as to turn me off and get another man so I believe no action was taken and the matter remains in my hands & do as I see fit.

I hope it is all worth the candle. Tonight I go to Mpls. & see a machinery man on Sunday morning and hope to dine in St. Paul with the Amoses. I shall probably be back again by Monday morning.

Hastily and with love for
those.
Knewstew.

F.F. — Apr. 11. 1905

Dearie —

The Shonto house is inhabited by the Shonto family this summer and is not for rent. I hear that there are one or two houses in the ultra Grand Hotel region. They are probably on high land but the region is populous and of the kind which we should not be likely to assimilate (?). The Windsor house seems altogether the best chance and I hope that we can have it. Mr. Windsor has promised that if he does not sell it this week, I can have it.

all that is to be done is to wait. It is not allowable to stand outside with a gun and keep off people who may look like purchasers.

I had a nice time in St. Paul. Charles and Alice had gone to California - partly on business - but Mary and the younger children were there and Mr and Mrs. Liffamy and Mrs. Morse and Esther were invited to dinner. They all asked after you and seemed to know that you had seen the Wayland Morse.

The Crook situation is distressing and I wish I had

much money to spend or opportunities to offer. So let him have all the money he wants so that he may at least have work for his patent hoe.

The high school is beginning to pour out of the ground and I like the effect of the rusticated basement. (red brick and white mortar) I think some of the board were surprised and think are queer. I be.

Be good and don't get tired or eat things that don't agree for the sake of the man who loves thus dearly.

Yours
Please express my best regards to Elizabeth.

F. F. Sunday - Apr. 16. 1900

My dearest -

Last night before Mr. Windsor's ^{week} was really quite gone I went over the house with ^{him} and told him I would take it for five months at \$25.00 per mo. - his price. And now breathing is easier for there was all the time some danger that a slip would occur. It is a delightful little house and in excellent condition from top to bottom. You remember there are only three bed rooms and that is the greatest disadvantage but the plumbing is modern and good. I wish the Windsors would leave their range but they want it in their new house. What shall we do? Before taking the house I

Talked with C.D. again. He says that Treban said Mary might not do more work than she is now doing and that it was necessary to expect that she would some day break down. C.D. would be rather helpless without her and so it seems better not to make a new arrangement which might leave him to take care of himself when we are gone.

For myself I feel that having a house of one's own ~~is more~~ to live in has advantages over living in the houses of relatives. We shall be short of furniture and may want to buy some in St. Paul.

It doesn't look as though you would be able to come straight through

without stopping in St. Paul. There is the servant question. I don't feel like putting it into Mary to find us a maid of all work and we shall have to find one ourselves when you come though. Of course it may be possible to get one here and I will enquire but the usual advertisements are still appearing and it is doubtful whether we can secure a competent person here. I long to see thee and the boys. It has been a cold week - like a return to winter. It freezes every night and warms up enough to thaw in the day but the wind has been from the North and cold. Your receipt for silver trunk has been forwarded to me from Congress St. With love from

J.F. — Apr. 21. 1905

My dearest —

It is long since I have written to you and longer since you have written to me. Perhaps there is something in the way now.

It has been a busy week and I have been out so much during the day and interrupted so much when in the office that I have worked three evenings. It is necessary to keep ahead of the two buildings and for several days things have seemed to crowd. But now I feel relieved and think the way through the present rush of

things to be done is clear.

Nothing that I know has happened except perhaps that C.D. has begun to consider the Hospital organization.

If I had had less on my mind and had been able to egg him a bit, something sure would have been done by now. As it is, do not despair.

The Civic League is showing some activity and I must clean up my scattered premises. Mrs. Laid has actually succeeded in getting one or two conspicuous lots plowed up and perhaps they will be planted or seeded.

Four weeks from tomorrow you will

be starting. I am getting impatient to see my little family. It will be a cozy little house when we are well settled and I think it will not be difficult to be quiet there — not so difficult as on the hill at any rate.

Please write me just little scraps — not long letters if they are too much of an undertaking — but little ones as often as twice a week if you can.

Your man gets anxious to know about his very dear ones at home.

Much love to you all there.

Thomas

Dividend checks were received — Thank you

and told me not to wait. Just
as I was going Mary remembered
seeing him. Take it down from some
days ago. So that settled it and
I explained C.D.'s absence to Mr. Todd.

Elmer has just telephoned me to come
to dinner and take his usual walk
down the river in the afternoon.

I wish you were here. It is
a day to make living its own
and sufficient excuse for being and
it would be so much better to share
it with you. Does Cyrus begin to
make ~~signs~~ signs of walking or
talking? Kiss them both for their
Dad and be good to yourself for the
sake of your Ma.

F.F. - Apr. 23. 1905

Dearest -

It was a relief to hear from
you and to know that you are not
worse even if not very husky yet.
Also to hear that the little boys are
thriving. I hasten to take advantage
of your delicate and deeply concealed
suggestion contained in the stamped
envelopes. Was it audacity or merely
or thrift? - a desire to save the
stamps which you had no other
use for?

Easter Sunday is a delightful day
in F.F. There are no buds but
it is warm and pleasant. I have
come from hearing Mr. Todd give

a good talk on multiplying the points of contact. Generally the impression made by going to his church is pathetic by reason of the scantiness of the attendance. But today the room was full which was pleasant.

There was a double choir (I was at the point of writing it "quint") which did pretty well under Mrs. Adams' leadership at the organ.

And there was the added attraction of the Knights Templar, seated in the front benches in full regalia and with the smoothest of shaven chins and perfection of curled mustaches.

The contribution was not announced by Mr. Ladd but at the proper moment

the head knight rose and addressing the organization as if no body else were in the room ordered that a contribution be made for the benefit of the poor. Whereupon knight McMahon and knight Colis passed boxes, not omitting the congregation at large. At the conclusion of the services Mr. Ladd asked us to be seated while the knights retired — in order to prevent the plumes becoming soiled by rubbing up against the people. I was glad that I sat on the back bench under the gallery where mine was not conspicuous. C.D. decided to go to church and got food and ready by 10:45 and then could not find his coat. He hunted downstairs and hunted upstairs

J.F. - Apr. 27. 1905.

Draust -

The days are swimming by and I am trying to keep up with my building work. As the whole the situation does not look desperate and it seems as though the impatient things are getting themselves settled and that it will be easy when the plumbing is out of the way. That will be in a couple of days if I have good luck.

I don't get much time to consider housekeeping matters. I should like to have a maid of all work settled before you arrive if possible and everything ready to receive the dear family.

It does not seem to me that it should be necessary to bring a Swedish

maid with you. There are so many here and if even of them are eligible there must be some in St. Paul who would come if properly urged.

Last night I dined at the Parsons' to fill a vacancy. There were Mrs. Barrow and a friend who is visiting her - Mr. was absent. And there were Mr. and Mrs. Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Evans ^{and C.D.} We stayed later than was proper and I woke early this morning and did not fit to sleep again. Consequently I am somewhat done up and shall retire early. Mrs. Adams says I look fat and hearty so don't be alarmed. The beautiful box of ties is

the box of beautiful ties arrived duly and delighted the eye and heart of me. The black one was worn last night and is all right. The others are almost too beautiful to wear and will have to wait for you appreciate them. The pictures are charming. Thomas is fast leaving his babyhood behind him. The change is almost startling. Cyrus did not look so changed but just healthy. A big one for each of you.
Ever
Kennebec

J.F. — Apr. 30, 1905

Dear —

I will try to find a maid here and if it is impossible we can probably get one in St. Paul. Mrs. Adams doesn't know of any at this moment and neither does Mary but I will keep trying. You have not told me whether you think it best to buy a range. You know the kitchen is in pretty close connection with the rest of the house and a range would sometimes make it pretty hot. On the other hand it is difficult to have hot water without a range. It will cost \$50.⁰⁰ and I will fit me if you say so. The beds, springs and mattresses shall be attended to at once. As for the playand, I should rather not

ask for it. although it is better for
a play to be played on than to stand
idle and unused.

The domestic is the serious problem
but it seems to me too expensive
to pay expenses out and back for a
five months stay. It would amount
to \$20.00 per month or as much as
the wages. If I had more time
I am sure I could find someone
nearer but time just now is at a
premium.

Your list looks formidable. I did
not know we owned so much household
furnishing but it will not go far in
the Windsor house.

My judgment is that Jemie will
find keeping a horse too expensive
for the pasture will only partly take

care of a cow and the horse would
have to be fed on boughten food.

If she wants to keep him after it
has been explained that it costs a good
deal to keep a horse in Lincoln. I have
no objection but I don't think Jemie
realizes how much it costs.

Don't the Ameses want him anymore?

If you get posts and wire perhaps
the boys could build fence during
the summer. If so, get it but
you will scarcely be able to
attend to it yourself before leaving.

You might however make a trade
with C. Forman to build it for a
certain price - to be determined by
E. Tanner perhaps.

With love Forman

F.F. - May 2. 1905.

Dear -

I enclose check for
\$350.⁰⁰ and if it is not
enough to pay up and get
away with please let me
know. I have't time to
write anything except to
say that all is well in
Minnesota

With lots of love,
Finner

Mrs. Vernon A. Wright
So. Lincoln
Massachusetts

F.F. — May 5. 1905.

Dear —

I have seen and talked with Miss Hübner who is at present substituting at Mrs. Lowry's.

Mrs. Lowry says that Miss H. is superior to the general run but without a great deal of experience.

I think she doesn't pretend to be an all round cook but Mrs. Lowry says her bread is all right.

She, Miss H. again, looks clean and neat — possibly she is too superior — but she seemed anxious to get the job which is hopeful. She comes from Iowa and has not been here

long.

Miss Nora Erickson is unable to take a position on account of a helpless child who requires attendance more than her mother is able to give.

There is also Miss Rasmussen - Minnie, I believe - who lives out on the road to Swan Lake. If I can't go out tomorrow I shall try to see Miss R. on Sunday. I think I shall take Miss Hübner unless Minnie seems more promising.

Not that I have over much confidence but because I feel helpless and should not know whether she or any other would be satisfactory by simply

seeing and talking.

She wants the job - as I said before and if she does not prove satisfactory she can probably fill the place till I can get someone in St. Paul.

My rushing days continue but all the same daylight is showing through. The hospital has a coat of sizing (called gloss-oil) put on the plaster walls and they shine and reflect like the passage to Keith's theater. I almost want to have them repainted they look so clean and ivory white. Love to all my beloved ones
Keweenaw

F. F. — May 7, 1905

Dearest —

The important step has been taken and Miss Huebner is to be at hand May 18th. She wanted a little more time to herself after leaving Mrs. Louny for sewing but I did not want to put it off longer. This arrangement gives her only two or three days. She will probably find time for sewing before you arrive as the house will probably be left in good condition by Mrs. Windsor. Mrs. Louny says she thinks Miss H. will do very well. She, Mrs. L., likes her better the longer she knows her and thinks she is perhaps better than the regular girl who is soon to return. I drove out into the country to see

Annie Peterson but found that
Annie did not exist. She had
however three sisters who did exist.
Two were learning dress-making and
a third one was doing something
else so there was nothing to be had
from them.

Notre has just written that she
expects to go to stay with Jennie
and regretted that the horse was not
to be left with them. So I have
replied that I would write to you
not to make any other arrangement
for disposing of the beast and I would
pay for his food during the summer.

It will make a great difference
to them I suppose and so this
may be the best thing to do.

I am glad you have invited Jennie
to come before you leave.
There is nothing new here - not
even the weather, which blows
from the north and keeps almost
cold. Would it not be a good
plan to have our furniture painted.

If so, what color will you have
the various pieces? And shall
they all be of the same color?

If you reply promptly, I may be
able to get them painted and dried
before they will be needed for use -
our use. Two weeks more.

Much love

Anna

May 13. 1905

Dearest -

The event of interest is the getting together of the Hospital committee and the adoption of a form of Articles of Incorporation and the selection of a Board of Trustees. This work is advisory only but will undoubtedly be accepted by a meeting to be held next Friday evening. There are to be fifteen trustees - five women and ten men - and the women are Mrs. Barrow, Mrs. Corliss, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Jesse Phillips and Miss Goetzinger who is County Supt. of Schools.

It was considered prefer for me
to go on the board also.

Chas. J. - W. S. Parsons - W. B. Windsor -
E. C. Adams - are among the men.

C. D. preferred not to be included.

I have called on all the women
except Miss Gutzinger this afternoon
and they have all accepted their job.

The men will have to be seen
tomorrow.

I will get the moving under way
at once and shall go to St. Paul
Friday night and stay there till
you come on Monday. Perhaps
I shall buy some furniture. We
shall need it. The stove is

barained for. Mrs. Adams says
we must not expect too much
of the domestic though she is
up to the average. I dined with
them again today, C. D. being in
Battle Lake where he went to
inspect a horse bought for him
by Mrs. Winslow.

The rain fall has been enormous
but the last three days have been
fair and warm and building is
again proceeding.

With love and anticipations of
seeing my dear ones soon

Yours.

Send Miss Starkweather's bill.

F.F. — May 2. 1906

My dearie —

Your first came this morning. I saw my man in Wpks but could not do anything in account of abuse of his principal. — stayed in St. Paul Saturday night and came up Sunday by day train. Found my bed made (by Harriet) and the house dry enough but made a fire for form sake. I sleep at home and meal with C.D. — Have been too busy to look for a domestic but have heard of one or two chances.

You were prompt in getting a boarding place. It seems to me that if you go to N.Y. you can hardly get other things done by the 15th unless you rush more than is seemly.

I am not unwilling to have you
here again but should prefer you
whole rather than broken into bits.

Among other things would it not be
well to buy clothes for yourself
as well as for L. and C. Perhaps
you have already undertaken it
but if not please beware of the
thief of time.

I have seen the Adams and Miss
McLean but have been in the
hospital only a moment.

Francis looks thin but has grown
tall and learned to talk.

The Ames family is likely to be
in B. M. the last of this month.
With love —
Emma

Let me know your financial needs in time.

F.F. — May 6. 1956.

Dearest Grace —

It is cold — enough to be real winter. Yesterday there were furious snow storms lasting a minute at a time and followed by bright sun-shine. For the last two nights there has been frost. But we have hopes. I still sleep at home and eat with C.D. I have not agreed a domestic or done any other thing which I ought except those most urgently pressing in the daily business. I will try to get the floor finished even if I can't fit a domestic.

Elmer & Co. has just been in telling me about Frances. I will not try to tell it all now but he thinks the chances against her although the Cal. doctor said she had an even chance. Just now she seems better and eats pretty well

but does not gain weight. They give her strong foods and quite a variety. She likes raw beef and bacon as well as anything.

Elmer has had his cows tested and one of them showed some temperature, but it did not follow the curve of regular tubercular cases ^{the cow} and is probably all right. Neither Frances nor our children have had milk from this particular animal and the other two showed no trace of reaction. This is comforting at any rate.

Jimie's land is probably sold at \$27,500. It will be a sure thing when the money is paid but the contracts have been sent to her for her signature.

I am very busy with the usual multitude of small duties but with

the library and school. Some out of the way, I cannot be accompanied to the same extent as last year.

Mr. Windsor does not seem very well. He has appointed me as a committee to look after the grounds at the Hospital with Mrs. Primmer and Mrs. Wheelock.

So far as I know our friends are pretty well and

I long for the sight of you and your boys. Let me know how it is with you highly - i.e. don't hear the letter till

you get full postage weight and reply

Yours
D.

10 Chestnut St
Monday, May 8/05

My dear Daughter = Sister

I am touched at a tender point by your notable note. Sharing as I do Vernon's aversion to whatever may be emptily formal or unreal, I yet regard the advent of a child as an event of the highest order, & deserving of some kind of significant celebration, especially by those who can accept their own offspring as both a precious gift and a sacred trust.

Of course the superstitious belief that some magical efficacy goes with a baptismal or christening ceremony has no place in our minds. But the parent

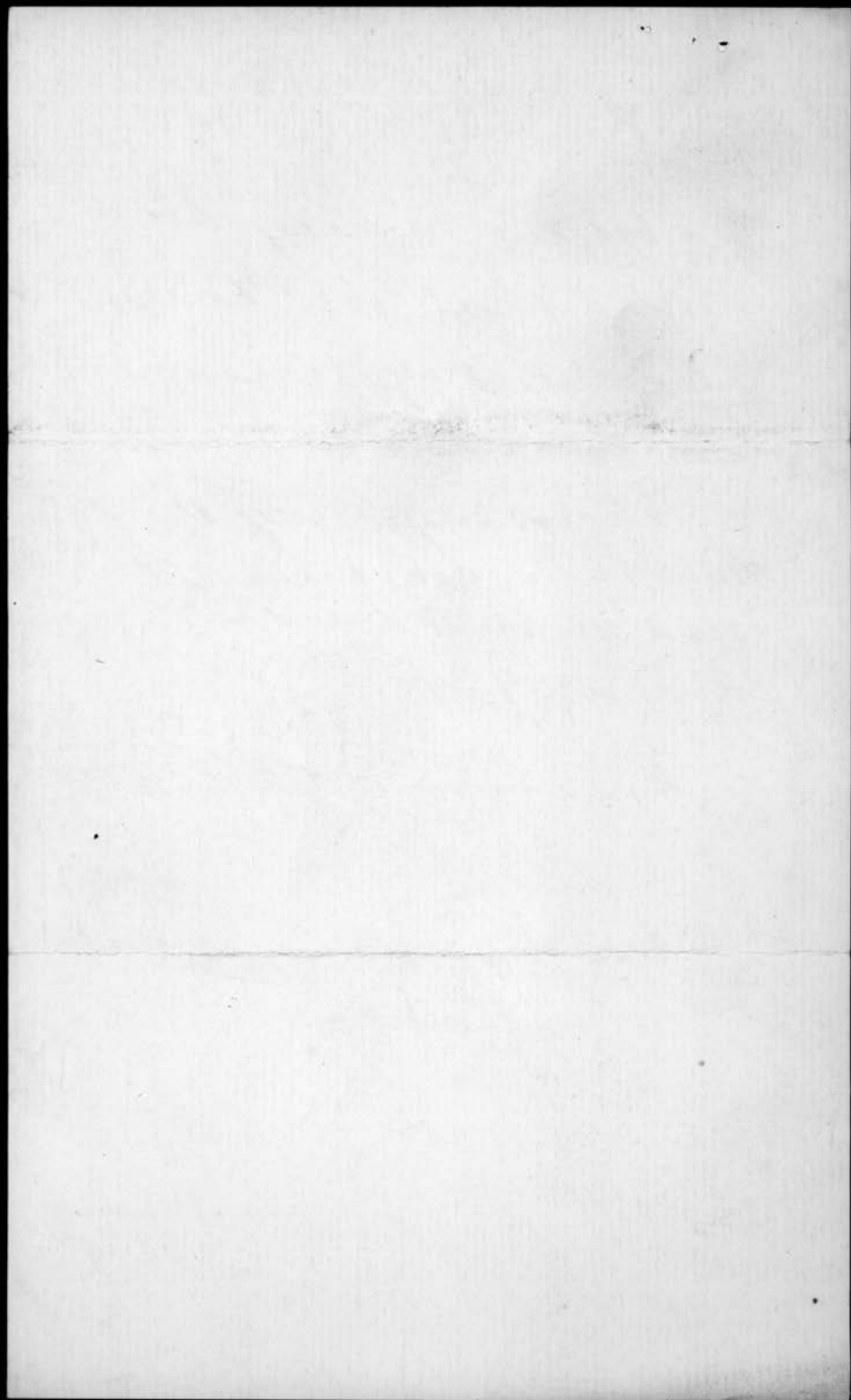
is dedicated in dedicating
the child; & the act may
carry with it a deepening
of parental devotion, as the
marriage clasp of hands carries
with it a confirmation of
the whispered vows. Perhaps,
too, at some future day, the
young heart will be moved
with an uplifting emotion,
or a desire to be worthy of a
place in the fellowship of
the Good, when the parent,
in some confidential hour,
tells the story of infant
consecration. And will not
the very memory of such a
consecration continually prepare
the way for such heart intimacies?

I confess I have come to love
both weddings & christenings; and
your little people are objects of
a more tender interest to me as
perhaps they are to yourself, because
of what you have written.
Affectionately Chas. F. Ames

P.S.

I believe Fanny has
written that we have
accepted your invita-
tion to come to you
on Thursday (May 11). -
Can you conveniently
send to meet the train
due at 9.39?

C. G. A.



VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest Grace —

May 11. 1906

It is delightful to know that you are going to start so soon. I enclose drafts for \$150.00 to help along. I am not sure that there will be a domestic in the house when you arrive but at any rate the house will be cleaned up and the floors down. The weather is fine again.

The great business event is that Jimmie's lot in Upts. is almost surely sold. I have received \$2500. as first payment and forfeit money and if Jimmie and Hippolyte sign the contracts they will have that much at any rate. Jimmie has written me a long and effusive letter to express her gratitude and satisfaction.

Be good to my boys and considerate to their mother and all be good and meet me in St. Paul as soon as possible. You must let me know at once as you can so that I can arrange with Mary Anne and you would do well to write her also. I shall want to spend about two days in Upts. so you had better write me whether you would also stay a day in St. Paul or come through as directly as possible.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear -

May 11, 1906.

I forgot to say anything about the route to take. I came by Penn. R.R. to Chicago and Burlington Route to St Paul and would advise you to do the same. The Burlington Route trains leave from the same station in Chicago that the P.R.R. trains run into. This is true of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St Paul trains also but the latter are more popular and more crowded than the Burlington which are just as good. I think you should take a train on the P.R.R. which gets to Chicago in the afternoon at about 4 or 5 o'clock and connects with the St. P. and N.P. train leaving at about 6 or 6:30.

The very fast train arrives in Chicago in the morning and you would have to wait all day.

By the route I have advised you can check your trunks through to St. Paul and have the great in Phila wire for sleeper accommodations. Hastily V.A.W.

J.F. - May 13. 1906.

My dearest -

The letter from K. asking you to meet her in N.Y., (if it can be done with your Uncle Robert's approval) is indeed a surprising development. It is something of a blow to have your coming delayed when I thought it was about settled but if you think you ought to stay and meet K. I do not feel like objecting. I am not sure it would be best for you to do it and I shall be a little surprised if K is really allowed to go because it will certainly mean work and excitement for her - still if you

want to stay or think you ought
to, don't mind me. I am getting
along very comfortably and C.D.
will probably keep me a couple
of weeks longer.

As regard to Mary Kelly, I can't
quite approve. It costs too much
to bring her out and back again
for so short a time and it is
not likely that her whiskey fondness
has deserted her. I had about
decided to advertise. The objection
is that I don't know a desirable
person from the other kind. I don't
really want anyone until you
are ready to come and then
if there is no other chance in

sight I can try advertising.

Miss McLean seems to me more
comfortable as to the burden of
the hospital. She appears to be
getting used to it and to take
it more easily. I have not
seen a great deal of her - not
as much as I should - but
that is the feeling I have.

Whatever you decide to do
please let me know as early as
possible so that I can arrange
for my Minneapolis trip to meet
you. I sent \$150.00 a day or
two ago thinking you would start
at once. If you need more let
me know. Big ones for you all U.

F.F. — May 22. 1906

My dearest —

I find your letter on my return from Minneapolis where I have been for three days attending to real estate matters. Of course it is disappointing to have your return postponed yet another week but the weather has been so unsettled and much of the time so bad that I am glad you have not been here with the kiddies. June 1st is early enough to invade this country and I can wait till June 8th or 10th. It would be too bad to stay so long and thus miss commencement. So you may stay if you will write to me twice in a while. The N.Y. excursion still seems to me undesirable if it can be decently avoided. I cannot

think it would be good for either
K. or you and I hope you want
do it unless it is a "deed".

You do not say that the little
boys are well so I know they must
be and I am sure Cyrus is more
comfortable as well as better looking.

Thomas' letter contains a great deal
of interesting news. His hand writing
is improving. There is nothing new
here. I did not go to St. Paul
when in Minneapolis because I
wanted all the time and it was
up to much to go back and forth.

Since you are not coming over
I will enclose a deed for you
to sign and have acknowledged and
witnessed by two witnesses ^{and return.} When
will you want money? Have

you all the clothes and hats that
are good for you?

It is business time and I must
stop but will try to write more
soon.

with love

Yours.

F.F. — May 29. 1906.

Dearest — Thanks for the deed —
Also because you have bought tickets
and will have to come. I will
meet you in St. Paul on Sunday
morning and we shall probably
come straight up on the G.N.

I shall go down a day or two
ahead of time and do business
and will try to soothe you by
looking up your pray hat.

I expect she will deny it up
and down and if she does I
shall call her another.

At the meeting of the hospital
association last night, Mr. Windsor
and Mr. Fringer were re-elected

and Mrs. Metcalf, the huestler, was
put into Miss Goettinger's place.

The latter lady withdrew an acct.

of removal to Moorhead.

The weather is not good and
you are in luck to be out of the
Golden Grain Belt.

I have a \$10.⁰⁰ a day foreman
at work on my dam with only
two men putting under his
direction and I must go out
and find more putters.

Please do not think it shameful
to bring back part of the enclosed
draft for \$250.⁰⁰

With love

Yours.

F.F. — June 2. 1906

Dearest —

I have advertised for a dancer
and have faint hopes — if they don't
win a fair lady perhaps they will
produce a brawny one.

I thought I had secured Augusta who
worked for Mrs. Adams last summer
but alas-a-day — I will tell you
about it when you come.

It is circus-day and one of the
few bright ones we have had.

By June 10th the cold and wet
one will be all used up and
there will be nothing left for us but
have none. I enclose letters and
am as ever
Your ever
U.

Peterman for the milk. This afternoon
I expect to devote some time to
arranging my belongings and tomorrow
will take the laundry stuff to Mrs.
Anderson. I will enclose check
for Mr. Ellms which should be
carried or sent to him as soon as
possible according to Junior's account
for he seems to need it. I might
have sent it directly but do not
remember whether he gets his mail in
Lincoln or Wayland. I will also
enclose check for \$150.00 to your
order. With much love to the
and the little boys and greetings
to all others. Thomas

Elsie's address not to be had today - family at lake

Fergus Falls, Sunday, Oct. 14, '06

My dearest Grace -

By this time I
can think of you as it hangs in
the "B.S." and I hope that the
inevitable wear and tear (is that right?)
have not destroyed the charm.

Your letter made me very glad
that you went by the Chicago way
and Thomas's postal card has been
dearly appreciated by me and will be
shown to Aunty Klean.

I am sleeping in the Flat and
sneaking at Charles' house which
is a very good arrangement. I got
down to the dam at 7 A.M. to
start the work as it seems necessary.

It has gone rather badly or rather slowly. Three days last week and two days this week with one day for a poor substitute is all I have been able to get out of the brick-layers.

In the mean time I invent jobs for the other men in order to hold onto them. The design of the little power house is being changed to fit the circumstances by reducing its height and simplifying as much as possible.

Architecture to fit the brick-layer should be as good as a coat to fit the cloth any day. I had my session with Miss Rehn and she took it tearfully. She was certainly much pained to be thrown out but showed no signs

of an intention to give up hospital work. Unless she has since changed her mind she will try for a place in some other hospital. She does not want to stay in F.F. on account of talk and I hope she will go as soon as possible for she will have difficulty in holding her tongue if she stays here. It was certainly hard on her and, I think, unexpected but she is young and it will do her more good than anything that could happen to her unless she fails to get another position.

The laundry bag is still in the dining room at the flat and nothing has been attempted to expect to pay Mr.

Thought it was probably apoplexy (?)
Last Sunday afternoon I took Miss
Burbank riding and at her request we
went out to her friend Mr. Knackendoffler
to give him a message about squashes
and such like. I could not tell whether
she was well or ill and she didn't.

Evidently there has been much wear
and tear at home and I am glad
that you are so philosophical. I think
you had better go ahead and have done
the things which seem necessary to keep
the place in order. Whether it is
advisable to paint the outside at this
time of year will depend on the weather
but I should think it could be done now
as well as in the spring. We shall
doubtless need a new carriage of some kind

Jugus Falls, Oct. 21. 1906

My dearest -

The snow is on the
ground and the Sunday quiet is all
about. In the first place let me
confess that your trunks have not
yet left here. It seems impossible
to get them away. I went to the N.P.
Station the day I got back from N.P.
and found them there but they were
only crates instead of fully boxed as
I had directed. The smaller one might
have gone that way but the large one
did not seem secure so I went to find
it. It was not to be found and
there I forgot about it for about three
or four days for at that time I was
acting as foreman at the dam from

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. Since then I have been four times to find Ole and Edward has been many more times but one thing after another has happened to prevent his attending to it - a funeral in his family and a snow storm which made wheeling his cart through the streets practically impossible have been the last obstacles. Tomorrow I will continue the chase. There has really not been a day for the last week that Edward has not made one or more trips on account of the trucks. Flat 11 opposite ours is rented to the Yarrowes after Nov. 1. Hannah came in and makes my bed daily. The old dame is still putting along - the snow stopped the work yesterday -

There seems to be no end to it but the pay-roll goes monthly as just the same. There have been no hindrances except the difficulty of securing brick-layers, but everything goes so slowly. I hope to have the machine in operation by Nov. 1st but cannot count on that date or any other. I think I told you that C.D. invited me to meals. I was there about two days when he received word of the sudden death of his brother William. Chas. D. and Murray immediately packed up and went East and I am now at Mrs. Rawson's three times a day.

No cause was stated in the newspapers announcing William's death but C.D.

but if the democrat will hold together
safely you might wait till I get home.
I am sorry that Miss seems disappointing
and perhaps she will amend. It seemed
to me on the train that she did not
have a natural instinct for making herself
useful and I thought that you would
find it necessary to ask her to do
things instead of waiting for her to see
them and do them herself. As for the
sitting with you in the evening, I
supposed that was expected and one of
the necessary conditions which might
or might not prove agreeable.

I shall be glad to get back again.

It is not good to stay in Fergus Falls
too long even if one does feel that his work
is here — With love to thee and the boys
Remond
(over)

Elsie's address is 44 - Lower St.,

Wellington —

which would pay a higher rate than
share stock at its present price.

If you prefer to buy more share stock
with your rights you would be entitled
to buy 10 new shares at 25.⁰⁰ each and
you would have 9 rights left over to
sell or you could buy one more right
and then buy 11 new shares. How
you get the \$250.⁰⁰ or \$275 to buy
the new 10 or 11 shares with?

I shall hear from Moss & Cabot in a
few days and shall then tell you
what they advise and what I am
going to do with mine.

Had you not better send your check
directly to Lois this time? It would
seem rather strained to send it out
to me and then have me return it
to her. Besides it will be time to

Jugue Falls — Oct. 28, 1906.

My dearest one —

Your last letter shows
that you have been busy and so have
I. The week has gone quickly.

Every morning sees me at the dam
at 7 o'clock and I stay there all
day except when Edward comes down
down to say that someone is waiting
to see me. The generator is connected
and has not fallen through the floor
and I begin to have hopes that it
won't. There is considerable machinery

still to set up and wire connections to
make inside and outside the house.

Today I have been catching up on
neglected correspondence and at 10 o'clock
went up to Harriet's to dinner. She

is lonesome without her children and thinks she will not be able to find enough work to keep her busy. She sends her love.

Your trucks have fun. After some investigation it turns out that it would be quite as cheap to take them as extra baggage. In order to send them at company's risk instead of mine I paid $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the rate which for the western end is higher than excess baggage rate. But I did not want to take risks this time. The receipt is enclosed and you must be sure to keep it where it can't get lost. I also send Boston check for \$300.00 to begin as. You will have to decide on stores and such like all by your self. Funds will doubtless

run short but there will be more coming.

Was your Am. T. and T. dividend larger or smaller than usual for the lesser regular payment. Mine was \$9.00 more than usual and I wonder if they had mixed up our accounts and taken that amount from you or whether all were getting a large dividend. Please try to remember to answer this question. You have doubtless received notification of new stock issue by Shoe Corporation. It must be attended to very soon and I have written to Morse and Cabot for advice. My impression is that it would be better for you to sell the rights — they should be worth about \$5.00 for each common share you own and you have 109 shares. This would give you over \$500.00 which you could invest in something

send it when you receive this.

The first of the month is the time
I have been sending them.

Peter Winsor returned your clippings
with the little note which I enclose.
I have not seen him but he will
be likely to mention them when
I see him again.

Hannah continues to make my
bed but I have seen her only once.
In fact I hardly see anyone.

Mr Hannah has asked me to
designs for the outside of his house.
He says he has no plans for the
inside yet. I have agreed to try
help them but not to be regularly
architect. With love and

Yours for the family — your own
Winsor

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear Grassy —

Nov. 2. 1906

as this is a business letter I write in business paper. Moss and Cabot are inclined to advise selling shoe rights which agrees with my views.

You must have received my letter just after writing. Shoe machinery stock has been profitable but the price is now so high that it yields only about $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on the value. Rights are now selling at about \$4.80 each and your 109 rights should bring a little over \$500.⁰⁰ I should advise you to sell them all and buy through Moss and Cabot 5 shares of Duluth Edison Preferred stock which will cost about \$450 and yield two and a half times as much as the same money invested in shoe stock. This ^{investment} will leave you a small

balance to keep which may come in handy for the approaching Genl. Elec. issue of new stock of which you must have received notice by this time. I shall write again Sunday. The assignment of shoe rights should be filled out and signed leaving the name of the purchaser blank. It should be

Yours truly VAW.
Sent to M & C. W. Devershire St.

Jungus Falls, Nov. 4. 1906

My dear -

For the first time in a long while it is a warm afternoon and the wind which has been with us unchangeably for the same time is drying up. The Automobile stands in its garage and has scarcely been out for a month and I had to use a Cook conveyance to transport the laundry packages. I have dined with Harriet again today. She has good reports from Carter and Mary. Mary has got over her first homesickness I judge. Carter was at Moosehead a week ago and telephoned (with Miss Hutchinson) asking to borrow

your famous "Wore" dress for a
fancy dress party.

Mrs. Reynolds is very low again.
She has been unconscious for five
days and is not expected to recover.
Elmer had a telephone message this
morning saying she might not last
through the day. It seems to
have been a sudden collapse.

My work drops a bit but I hope
that in another week real progress
will be made.

I have sent Mr. Rose to the
Dayton Hotel site and he is taking
soundings and measurements.

The town is considerably stirred up
over election prospects but I see

or hear very little of it except at
Mrs. Reynolds'. The front room
is the ~~the~~ political lobby and there is
a good deal of chaffing which cuts
no wood or ice. Mr. Wheelock
has published his last number before
election and feels relief and is prepared
to drop politics. I sit next to
him at lunch and dinner and
that is about all the society I get.
When will I get home? Sometime
in December is as near as I
can guess at it. I am afraid
it will be but a short time before
Christmas but that is the extreme
limit. Meanwhile much love
to thee and thy little boys. Yours

Mrs. Pearson moved last night and today
we had meals in the new house —
the Riverside Inn. I am afraid it
will be her undoing but hope she may
make it go. I have been to two
shows this week — a radium, liquid
air and wireless show under the
auspices of the Pres. Church and a moving
picture show. The Chase Block corner
has been handsomely decorated with electric
lights and a real moving picture show
with afternoon and evening performances
every day has begun business.

N.B. The pajamas are fine except
that there is no puckering strip.
With love
Ann

Fryer Falls. Nov. 11. 1906.

My dearest —

In your letter of 6th
you do not say anything about
Shoe Mach rights although you should
have received mine, advising you to
sell them. I believe the matter
must be attended to before the 15th
and as if you did not receive any
letter on the subject you had better
attend to it at once unless you think
otherwise. I have sold mine and
think you would do well to sell and buy
about 5 shares of Duluth Edison preferred
through Moss and Cabot.

I saw Francis Adams a few days ago
and the improvement is very noticeable

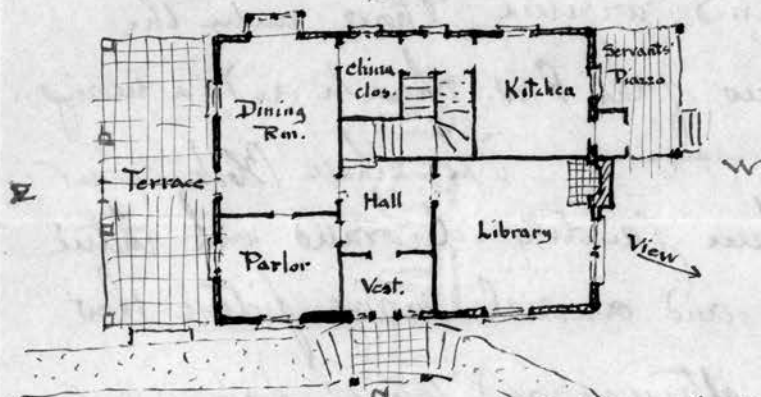
She was bundled up in a carriage so that I saw only her face but it has filled out and now she looks almost normal. Today I have been in the new power house all day cleaning up the new machine. It has been started at slow speed and goes finely but has not been brought up to speed or given any load yet. I have hopes that by tomorrow night we can run the lights on it. As for the furnace that is still a problem but this week should see it ready to start unless something goes wrong.

Last Monday night I went to the Hauwaho's and talked over their house plans.

They want a tiny brick house complete

in a single rectangle and it will be impossible to fit the rooms they want of the size they want in the area they are trying to limit the plan to.

The general scheme at present is like the sketch —



There would be four bed rooms in the second story. The outside would be red brick with white trimmings and if you have time and opportunity I wish you would get me a Kodak photograph of the red brick Pierce house near Lincoln center. From Mrs. Hauwaho's talk I think that would be something like what she wants.

done up by the Caribish Indians.
I enclose to you my pay for money
I receive check for \$250.00. You
have not acknowledge receipt of the
\$300.00 sent just before the first
of November and if you did not
get it let me know. I assume that
you did get it however. As all
your other papers are here I think
you would do well to send me the
Duluth certificate to be filed with
the others. Winter began today
and it is snowing and blowing and
is getting cold. It looks like the
real winter and I would I were
out of it and with thee.

Much love to thee

Wm. W. Brown

Sugar Falls, Nov. 18, 1906

Denise -

It has been a strenuous
week. I am down at the power-
house at 7 a.m. and stay there all
day. The dynamo works and is
in service for giving lights evenings
but the governor is rebellious and
we have not yet been able to use
it in connection with the dynamo
for all day service. It is probably
only a matter of adjustment but it
takes a lot of time to work it out
and the end is not yet. In the
mean time everything else suffers
from neglect. The hospital had
the smallest earnings during October of

any month yet and as we had a
car load of coal coming or come we
ran way behind. As a result the
finance committee seems to be really
moving and I have hopes. At the
last meeting we adjourned for one
week and are to meet again tomorrow
to hear how the committee is getting
along with its work.

The election has come and gone
and Dator Cole's brother is elected
under by the present Gov. Johnson.

Mr. Adams is returned to the legislature
and the family is thinking of moving
to St. Paul during the session if
a convenient flat can be found
ready furnished. I dined with

them today and Francis looked much
better. She is not yet normal
however and today seemed too nervous
and excited and consequently got tired.

She is quite spoiled which makes
it difficult to manage her satisfactorily.
She walks somewhat tottingly and
is alert and interested in things.

I have not seen Miss Pembroke.

Chas. D. returned Friday and I have
just come from his house to the office.

Tomorrow I begin meeting with him
again. He spoke of receiving a
letter from you and wished to be remembered.

Your letter shall be given to him
immediately. Murray stayed in
St. Paul to see the University fit

remembered to you when I wrote.

Munay had Parker S., Robert U. and Marion Brown to dinner today and it was quite a social time. The Hannah plans are coming as fairly well. I do them evenings mostly and between times when I am waiting for telegrams concerning the former.

Sleighing has been fine, but today it is ~~chattering~~ and raining again.

I cannot very well advise about the down stairs closet without seeing it. If it will hold out you had better let it. If not - do your worst. With much love, dearie,

(Certificate received)

8.

Fergus Falls, Nov. 25. 06

Dearest -

P. Winsor returned only two clippings to me, and that is all he received from me. I am quite sure that you sent me only two. The other must be somewhere else.

It grieves me to hear you tired again after feeling so well and strong. Please try not to overdo again when you get excited up. I hope you will be able to find a job for Miss Way. You need a strong person.

My job is just now discouraging and I cannot see the end of it. I have worked two weeks on the former and have not improved it at all. It is

impossible to get the only man in this
part of the country who knows anything
about those machines and the factory
at Ashland - near S. Framingham -
wrote that they will be unable to
send any one soon. The delay
is getting bothersome for several people
are waiting for electric current
and all are more or less dependant
on the new outfit. At present
all I can do is to observe the
actions of things and describe the
symptoms as well as I can and
try to get a diagnosis and remedy
from the factory. That takes time and
I cannot say when it will end.
It does not look as though I could

be home by Thomas' birthday. It
does not seem ~~probable~~ ^{likely} that the
trouble will continue for another
month but if there is something
radically wrong with the machine
it is possible. Please be prepared
for any delay. It must be started
before I can give it up and leave.
I am spending week days and
Sundays at it and am prepared
to stand any expense but the
means do ~~not~~ not appear.

Charles D. read your note and
said he would be very glad to have
you keep the things which were
Lucy's. To night he asked to be

It is a granchey letter but it
is not meant to be and I
hope you can read between
lines that it carries lots of
love to you and the two little
boys.

V.

1. H. with reference to it
the case of the known but a
number of cases - it is
not clear if the latter
will not be case only to one

Fergus Falls, Minn. 11.30.06

My dearest -

Your letter and a note from Mrs. Eder to say that I am not to worry came today. It is hard luck but I think you did the very best thing to go to your Uncle's when you could not without responsibility. You may be sure that I shall not stay a day longer than necessary.

At present I am trying an experiment with my machine which looks promising and I hope will be successful.

Thanksgiving day I had a long looked for report from Minneapolis in the morning and then went to the Pemberton for dinner with Miss W.L.

and the Luntan family. We stayed
all the afternoon and had a good
time. Sunday I am invited to
the Miles' to meet Miss Harris and
her mother and Miss Burbank —
quite gay. Miss Burbank looks
pretty well — not too well but
pretty well. They all ask about
you and I say you are pretty
well, thank you.

I sent the elec. light postal on
its way at your request with an
estimate of 20 lights for the house
and 2 for the barn. It is getting
late and I bid thee be of good
cheer and hope as is thy

Thine

Fergus Falls, Dec. 2. 1906.

Dearest —

This is the first Sunday I have done no work since you left F.F. Last night the Winslows arrived from Battle Lake and this morning I stayed a little while and covered but as breakfast was late there didn't seem to be much time before the hour for repairing to Harriet's. There were Miss Harris and her mother who seems a nice person and Miss Hutchinson who was here for a day or two and Miss Benham.

We stayed after dinner and I played my usual role of oyster while the others talked more or less entertainingly. Then I walked home with Miss B. Her father is not well since Thanksgiving day and she thinks the symptoms are not encouraging although he will probably go

back to his work tomorrow. Yesterday he told her all about his business affairs which he has never done before and I think that impressed her as it naturally would. Dr. Freeman says the trouble is undoubtedly cerebral but on the other hand the same symptoms have occurred before during the last five years. Miss Burbank spoke of the matter as if she were describing somebody's else situation instead of her own. I shall not repeat it to anyone although she did not say not to.

Miss Mable May's engagement is announced to a fellow named Davenport who lives in the town of Western — farming region where Miss Roberts lives. He is a Universalist which may partly account for the breaking down of Methodism which you noticed before you left F.F.

Last night the governor was operated with the full load on the machine for the first time. It is not satisfactory but I hope it will be possible to use it just the same. The situation had become difficult. I shall still have to spend my time with it attempting to remedy troubles but shall begin to close up business matters and get ready for departure as soon as the thing can safely be left.

I know that you have now been a week at your Uncle's and no telegrams have reached me from you so I hope that you are getting rested. You need a guardian, dearie, and you must not be too unwilling when I try to slacken the pace for you — Will you?
With love Emma

Fergus Falls — 12/7/06

My dearest —

There is considerable consolation in the cheerful tone of your sick letter. I hope you will stay with your Uncle Robert as long as you ought to which will be longer than you will want to.

How about Christmas? I understand that Josephine Bonanza has written that she has not heard from you yet.

If the party is to be given up you ought to let her know as soon as possible so that she can do something else. And would it not be better to give it up?

My prospects are not much improved today. The only thing now seems to be to wait for a factory export and they are unable to promise one in less

than two or three weeks. I keep at them and may be able to bottle them into doing something worse.

It begins to look doubtful whether I can get back for Christmas without cutting loose and leaving the work of the year unfinished and a string of dissatisfied men behind me. I should dislike very much to do this.

The first cold weather has come but it already gives signs of getting warmer. Among other troubles there is practically a coal famine and I am anxious about the hospital and the Riv. flats.

Mr. Bunker went to his work as he said he would and I have not heard of any home coming of it.

Miss McLean is invited to dinner at Dr. Doughty's this evening. She wanted

to know if I was going so that she could have someone to go with. Alas! I am not bid. The Hannah plans are coming on and are about settled.

They may have to be cut down when the estimates are made but I hope not.

This is a warning letter to go in the morning mail.

With love and hope
Yours.

J.F. → Dec. 9. 1906.

Dear —

Again it is Sunday and I am taking it easier than for a long time.

It is snowing and quite cold but everything is quiet and it makes one realize what a work day business and home are by comparison! There is not much that is new to relate. Tomorrow there will be a hospital meeting when our financial trials will again be brought up. I keep out of it almost entirely for the sake of consistency.

The governor is doing better and gives signs of eventually doing satisfactory things.

The company has wired me that they will send an engineer in a few days and I am almost encouraged to ask them to wait for further developments.

I have spent practically all my time

at the power house for a month or more
and have neglected everything else.

But if the old thing really intends to
become definite I can arrange to get home
before Christmas as originally planned.

You may be sure that I shall try hard
and let some things go if necessary and
if possible. This afternoon I must

call on Mrs. McWhorter who invited me to
Thanksgiving dinner with C.D. and Murray.

Also the bread and butter call is due at
the Bunkers'. I see Mr. B. going to
his work daily so I hope he is out
of immediate danger. Francis looked
well the last time I saw her but tired
and nervous. Mrs. Adams said she had
not fainted in weeks during the month but
still she appears to be gaining strength and
activity. I paid the Sevan Lake Club
membership a few days ago but have

done nothing more in the plans. We can
discuss them this winter. The Hannah
plans are nearly finished. I work on them
evenings when I can but have done very
little on them for a week. I hope
they will be able to build without cutting
down and off everything but the bare walls.

C.D.'s water troubles are progressing
satisfactorily. The council have formally
accepted the arbitration agreement and the
work of estimating the value will probably
now go forward soon. He will be glad
enough to get out of it on anything like
fair terms.

If all goes well it will not be very
long now before we meet at the "B.B."
in Oxbow. Speed the day!

With love

Prunus

Miss Dolan that you had
been in the office and were
looking well. But looks don't
count as I look the picture
of health every one says. So
how is it with you; are you
well or are you ill. meaning
any kind of a distemper.



GRAND HÔTEL

• PARIS •

Adresse Télégraphique
PALAIORSAY

Pour téléphoner
de la Province

Paris, le Dec. 12th 1906

They are both ~~great~~ comfortable
for Louise. Triplic is a lovely
place and their house is
very comfortable, at least
was so when I was there
but in cold weather I should
think it would be difficult
to heat and there are plenty
of draughts. They think of
moving in to Étapes as it
is such a distance when the
weather is bad to go to mar-
ket. Louise has to go twice
a week and replenish other-
wise they would have no-
thing. The only way to reach
Étapes is on one's feet unless
you hire a donkey-cart to take
you there and back. Louise
rather sniffs at donkey carts
I thought of taking a ride

that way but I found it did
not seem to give the pleasure
we I had hoped it would
even the children thought
it was more fun to walk.
I thought it would be such
fun to belabour the donkey
and have no fears of running
away.

Fred is still in Germany
but hopes to be in Paris
this week. I don't do much
as yet. Since I have been
in Paris to get my dress tried
on and a warm coat made
is all I have been able to ac-
complish. Thank goodness this
is about over and if the weather
is good I shall take more
walks and try to see some-
thing of Paris that way. Not
do right seeing but just walk
about the less crowded
and noisy streets.

I find noise troubles me and
I can only do so much. Really
while I was with Louise I
was much better than I have
been over here. I walked in the
morning (after a late breakfast
in bed) laid down for an hour
in the afternoon took another
walk and went to bed
promptly at nine. and I had
my feelings in my head. I have
them a little here. I am so
anxious to get strong and to
begin work but I feel I must
not just yet.

Fred has been so kind and
nice and so has Maurin
They have been very good
to me and considerate. Want-
ing me to do what I think
best. But it is mad leaving

to be so nearly well and
yet not strong enough to
enjoy this great opportunity.

I do not know where we
shall be for Christmas, prob-
ably in Paris. If Fice does
not come on I shall spend
it with Miss Whitman who
has just taken a little flat-
and has asked me to be
with her all I can.

But just write me a line
I have heard nothing from
you directly since I left
Boston and I long to have
a letter from you. Your dear
things. With much love
and kisses to the children

Travelling
Kathryn.

J.F. — 12/13/1906

My dearest —

Five years ago today
Thomas was born. It seems like
a proper point to stop and think
and cast up accounts etc. etc.

But I am not going to to any great
extent. We can do that when
I get home if we feel inclined
and can get along without if we
can't.

I think I told you
about Miss McLean showing her
nurse a portrait of what had been
Mrs. Forsyth and which had been
removed for alleged cancer by Dr.
McLean. I told her at the time

that she was placing a good deal of confidence in them but she said they could be trusted to keep their mouths shut. The story has come to Mr. Windsor and I don't know how far it has been in general circulation. He is very properly annoyed by it for of course Miss McLean has no business to criticize a doctor to his nurses. Can you remember whether you ever mentioned the matter to any one either in Ingersoll or elsewhere? It seems most probable that one of the nurses has blabbed but I want to be sure. I cannot tell whether there will be any outcome

or whether the matter will be passed over but if Dr. McLean hears of it and chooses to make a row Miss McLean may be put in an unfortunate position. Of course it is unprofessional to point out mistakes of a doctor. — Miss McLean has just been here in my office with some copies of rules which she wants me to print. I told her the story had come to Mr. Windsor. She explained that she pointed out the cysts but had not said there was no cancer. I am afraid they took it as I did — to mean that there was no cancer. I am promised a man for my furnace on Saturday. May he prove me all kinds of an idiot if he will only make it so satisfactorily — Yours.

Ingers Falls, Dec. 13, 1906

My dear Thomas -

This is your
birth-day and so I am going
to write you a letter to tell you
that I think of you often and
love you as much as if you
were here. Five years old is
a very good age for a little boy
to be and there are a great many
things you can do now which
you could not do when you were
as little as Cyrus.

I hope to be home with you
all in Lincoln soon so that we

can have our Christmas together.
It gets lonely here without my
little boys and their mother.

I wonder if you will be big
enough to learn to skate when
I get home. Give my love
to mother and Cyrus and kiss
them both for me with big
kisses. Father.

Betty Klein has just come in
and sends her love. She hopes
you are having a nice time with
Kathleen and any other child that
may be ready to play.

Fergus Falls, 12.18.1906

Dear Sir -

I am still waiting for my man. He was to be here last Saturday and it is now Tuesday and Christmas one week away. Your letter saying that you would stay at Reading after Christmas was a disappointment but it is right for you stay if your uncle thinks so and I hope you will be much better for adopting the sensible course. If you are not to be home in Christmas it is now doubtful if I shall get there until a few days later. My man cannot be much longer delayed I am sure but I ought to stop a couple of days in St. Paul and a day or two in

Chicago. The thing that really troubles me is that the expert ~~will~~ may be unable to improve matters greatly. In that case I should feel desperate about the situation. The company manager presumes that their man will be able to adjust the machine immediately so I am trusting that they are right. Other matters could be wound up in short order.

The tea-kettle was enquired about a few days ago and was still sustained as to its inside. The photograph I am unable to locate at C. D.'s and he does not think it can be there. The notices I will take to him. Yesterday it was right cold and I was

reduced to borrowing a ton of coal from the Telephone Bldg. in order to keep the fires in the Flats. Two days before Mr. Gray had given me his last single ton. But today the long expected car arrived. It is not the one I ordered six weeks ago but Mr. Gray gives it to me and I have to spare 10 tons of it for the hospital. Another car is expected soon but it is all pretty uncertain. Please don't do anything to set you back or delay your progress toward wellness is the prayer of your
J.

I have a little box from China which Lewis will bring home with me

August Falls, 12.23.'06

My dear —

My expert has been working on the machine for three days without important results. This afternoon I have been at Cif's and the man was left alone at his job. Now on my return at 6:30 I find it going almost satisfactorily for the first time. Mr. Expert was not there and I have not seen him and hardly dare to hope that he has found a cure "and yet" — Tomorrow morning he will be there again and if the best proves to be true I can pack up in a day or two and be off. I think I shall go to Wahpeton for a day and stay one or two days in St. Paul and about a day in Chicago

This arrangement would bring me home
about the last of December but I
shall telegraph as soon as I know
more definitely.

The situation did not look very hopeful
a few hours ago and the prospect of
successfully operating the old thing is
now so overwhelming that there is
no room for any other idea in
any feeble brains.

I have not ^{seen} Miss Barbank for
some time and have heard nothing new
about her father. Miss McLean looks
fairly well and I think the hospital
is doing fairly well — not too well.
I have not heard whether the Adamses
will all go to St. Paul as they thought
of doing. The Barrows are likely

to go to New York before long. They
had rather expected to stay here this
winter but Mr. Barrows has not been
very well and I think they may
go South again after seeing Miss
Josephine. There may be plenty of
other personal news but I do not
move in circles where it is passed
about. This is the very last sheet
of this white paper and I hope it
may be my last letter from F.F.
for several months to come.

Also I hope to find them getting
stronger in the pine as well as under
the hat — and the little boys hearty.
I have not worried about them as acct. of
the very good account of Miss Dany which
Miss McLean has given — Vernon.

for my interest and you can fight Hannah, for cant show any authority from me but I distinctly remember talking him. he could not in our expense. my letters to him forbid him doing any thing of the kind and he has never made any report to me or claimed to do for me I will write you from Seattle if you wish me to do so.

Mr. Samuel Hill
709 Second Ave.,
Seattle, Washington

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

March 6, 1908

My dear Samuel:-

Since I heard from you the plumbing business has been dull; times are hard; and I have had time to spare which has been occupied in corresponding with the Minneapolis Trust Company in order to ascertain what your interest is in the so called "Austin Dam". Their records are not very complete but there is no reasonable doubt that you own an undivided 3/50 of the property, being an undivided one half of a 3/25 interest derived from a joint ownership with James W. Griffin of three of the original twenty-five mortgage bonds. The mortgage was foreclosed and by agreement of the bond-holders the property was bid in by two men in New York in whose name the title to your interest still rests.

Owing to frequent and expensive outlays for repairs the business has not been profitable for a number of years. The property is now in fairly good physical condition but as usual more filling will be required as soon as the ground thaws. The present value is wholly speculative and depends upon the cost of maintaining the dam for the next seven years, the period of the existing lease. At the termination of the lease it is not likely that a new lease will be made with the city as the city is now building a new dam of its own.

My interests are getting more and more tied up with the local water-powers and it is in order to have a hand in all power questions which may come up that I wish to get your share of this property. C. D. Wright and I have recently purchased an undivided two-fifths of the Austin Dam property for about \$1350. and this price represents as near as may be the present market value. The necessity under the terms of the lease of maintaining the dam for seven years more has a "Bearish" influence on the quotations.

On this basis your 3/50 part should be worth \$202.50. I am informed by Mr. Hannah who is local agent for the property that there is an unpaid liability for your share of the cost of maintaining the dam amounting to \$336.24. If you sell at the above figure you will therefore owe me exactly \$133.74.

At this point you will allow me to pause in indecision whether to blush at such an exhibition of nerve or to contemplate with just professional admiration this beautiful example of book-keeping which does credit to my careful training in the not least important branch of our art. On reflection the latter sentiment gains the approval of the inner witness and I think of sending the account to Mr. J. Powers who would doubtless receive it with appreciation.

As a business proposition I hardly know what to do. Perhaps the best thing is to put it up to "The Professor", of whom, with due expressions of professional respect and regard, I have the honor to inscribe myself

The obedient and obliged "Helper"

Dear Ratz: Glad to hear from you. I hoped Hannah was dead. I told him he could not act for me nor incur any expense. I advanced the money for years and paid these English gentlemen MacMaster part. I think \$2096 at last. So they really owe me money. I will give you a \$200

Vernon A. Wright

27735.
Room 1700.

Dictated

House address
#4 Clinton Ave
Jersey City
N.J.

26 Broadway,

New York, March 24th 1908

My dear Grace.

Yours of the 18th ultimo and 21st inst recieved, and you must excuse me for not answering you before but I am so tired at night that I have not written any personal or private letters this winter much to Jennie disgust.

Regarding the Stewart picture I do not care to sell my share (one third interest) or do I care to buy any bodies else share.

You will no doubt be interested to know that we are now house keeping and are very well fixed in a new two family house on Clinton Ave just across the street from Mr Graffs house.

We were able to arrange this, as I have been given charge of a new department, all the construction of the S.O.Co. of N.Y., S.O.Co of N.J. and the Imperial Oil Co of Canada, Demestic Trade, being roughly all the in Demestic Trade in the N.E. part of U.S. all of British America from Vancouver to Halafax. or, rather St Johns New Foundland.

Early in the year it was decided by the powers that be that this work be taken out of the hands of constructors and put in the hands of a engineer located in the New York Office who would be responsible for every thing in connection with the construction and maintainance of the buildings, tanks, wharves, docks and mechanical plant of all their stations. I have been selected for that job and have had an office fitted up for me of the 17th floor of the S.O.Co. building where I have my assistant and draughtsmen.

17725
DICTATED

26 Broadway,

New York,

My new plant that I am building at Bayway N.J. is almost finished and as I am doing that work and the Domestic Trade construction and repairs as well as remodeling a building that the S.O.Co. have just bought, fitting it up as a warehouse and offices I don't have very much spare time to my self.

More than half of my time is spent on trolley cars and the trains often not getting home till late in the evening, and away half of my Sundays.

I shall try to call up Charles D. Wright on his return to the city on March 27th and if he can arrange it have him out to dinner some evening.

I am sorry about your eyes and hope that will be better soon, Jennie and myself are both looking forward to the time we can see you all, we both are very anxious to see the children.

How is Vernon and his damn dam, hope he is having luck with the construction, I put in about 1100 cu yds of reinforced concrete in a period extending from the last week in Nov to the third week in Jan and so far have not had any trouble with it, I did not use salamanders but I spent about \$ 500.00 in covering up the work from the effects of the frost.

This Bayway job is said to be the best arranged plant of its kind that the S.O.CO. have and has attracted a great lot of attention from oil men who are familiar with the requirements and defects of similar plants in this part of the world.

Well I think I must cut it short now, tell the boys that when they

27735
Grace (3)

DICTATED

26 Broadway,

New York,

come over to see me I will take them out in my auto to see the sights
tell them it is a funny one but much better than any one in Fergus
Fall because it only has three wheels so dont make so much dust.

Jennie sends her love to all and says to tell you that she is
busy darning my wearing apparel and she says even if I do have a swell
job over in New York and I do have my name painted on the door she is
still her own biddy but lives in hopes.

Well bye bye till the next time you hear from me, love to all.

Your brother.

Tom

C O P Y .

Athens, 7th Apr., 1908.

My dear Miss Dolan:-

We are just back from a tour of 19 days in southern Greece. It has been a rough and tumble trip by rail, carriage, steamboat, mule and foot, sleeping anywhere, eating anything (that we could get), admiring ancient ruins, cursing modern Greeks (more or less) and their works and want of them, roasted, chilled, frozen, soaked and blown away, in plain, mountain, snow, dust and mud, on highway, mule-track, no track at all, over rocks and rivers, under them, scaling the sides of ravines on paths beside which the gutters and roofs of ten story buildings would seem a modern boulevard, trusting Providence and the mules and not our courier and coming back to Athens in season to help celebrate the Independence Day of Greece and wondering whether the Greeks of to-day would not have made better Turks.

It would be tedious to give in detail the steps of our journey, what we saw and the bits of Greek history which we got from ruins, guide book and memory. We went first to Old Corinth where the American School is now excavating and then to the hill Acro Corinth, close by, for the view of central Greece - much admired by the ancients. The second day was given to Mycenae (where Dr. Schliemann made not so many years ago his famous discoveries), the tomb of Agamemnon, Argos and Tiryns. The third day saw us at Nauplia and Epidauras. Then to Tripolis from whence we proceeded to Sparta, Mistra, Trypi, Langada Gorge and Kalamata. Turning north we next visited Messene, Diavolitzai, Megalopolis, Karytaena, Andritsaena, Phigalia (Temple of Bassae), Krestena, Olymphia, Patras, Gulf of Corinth, Delphi, the Canal, Saronic Gulf and the Piraeus. We had hoped to go to northern Greece but there is hardly enough to tempt one, excepting the Monasteries of Meteora, especially if the time is limited. Marathon and Thermopylae and Thebes are not now interesting as there is little or nothing to be seen there. Upon the whole our visit to Greece would satisfy most people I think, other visits

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are much better made by reading its history elsewhere.

To come back to the present - the playing of bands and the marching of troops in front of my window tells me that the Independence services in the Cathedral are over and that the King is on his way back to the Palace; it is just across the Square and I can see him and other members of the Family entering it by the middle door. There is not much enthusiasm.

On our travels many Greeks spoke to us in English, usually beginning with "When you come from". It seems many go to America to take up the fruit and confectionery business, often they become citizens. One was from Boston and held forth, he said, at the corner of Tremont and Canton Sts. He knew the Roberts Co. and other sweet lights of the town.

Travel in Greece except on the northern boundary seems safe; we noticed though that the mail coach from Tripolis to Sparta carried a guard of two soldiers. We were not held up, but we did hold up a shepherd lad who said that he saw a boy who had found Marion's watch which the courier lost from the pocket of her coat which he was carrying. We kept him as a witness for a number of hours till his father came and acted as hostage until the police appeared. They were prompt in coming over to Mistra, where we were, from Sparta and I think they will get the watch as the wild people have much respect for the authorities.

If one shepherd lad caused us annoyance another made our visit to the ruins in Olymphis very pleasant by playing for us sweet airs from his little reed lute. We saw him with his sheep and engaged him to do it for us which he willingly did and the effect was most agreeable. I have told you that I bought the lute and his crock and shoes, but I do not think that I mentioned that he appeared at the station the next day as we were going and gave us farewell tunes on another lute which he had meanwhile made. It was a gracious, not Grecceious, act for which he duly received the fraction of a drachme for which his soul was longing.

I have not written to Edith or Thatcher for some time and as they may wish to know in what part of the world we now are perhaps

I may trouble you to send this along to them as it really is intended for a "round robin" letter.

We shall now go to Smyrna and into the country from there and finally reach Constantinople in about ten days.

With best wishes to all,

Most cordially,

P. F. Raymond, 2d.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Tuesday Oct. 12. '09

My dear Grace - I am back at the old stand since last night (Monday).
Mr. Barrows has been kept busy with the affairs of the O.T.P. Co. and
has things moving. He has had many conferences with the committee
of the City Council and ^{had} ~~has~~ stand off many counter proposals. Last
night we had a meeting in his office with Mr. Parsons and Mr. Kidder of
Wahpeton and tried to decide what we would concede and what we would
not. This morning Mr. Barrows met his committee again and at
noon it was announced that all negotiations were off. The committee
held out for a 5 yr. term and we for $7\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. as Mr. B. had compromised
to that extent during my absence. About four o'clock this afternoon
Mr. B. was called up by telephone and negotiations were again opened up.
The council committee agreed to our $7\frac{1}{2}$ yr. condition and we yielded on
a point which we think is not likely to be important. I was understand

that Mr. Parsons is to review² the contract this evening and see that it is substantially as agreed upon by us last night and that it will then be acted upon by the council at its adjourned meeting tonight.

In the mean time we have been going ahead with our line building. Most of the material has already been shipped and we hope to ^{have} a current in F.F. in about two weeks if the council acts tonight as we now expect.

Francis Adams died Sunday and I attended his funeral at the house today. There is not much to be said. Every one agrees that it is better that she did not live. I have not seen either Mr. or Mrs. Adams.

There is some mail here for you which I will forward. I shall be very busy for several days. Things have accumulated on my desk and off of it. I was unable to see Mr. Burch in Uppl. and shall probably go down soon to get his advice.

VERNON A. WRIGHT

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Sunday afternoon in Chicago it was raining a little. Monday morning in Minneapolis it was blowing and snowing occasionally. Monday night in F.F. it was cold and a high wind was bringing winter weather from Medicine Hat. Last Thursday the thermometer stood at 89° - now it is freezing and I have worn my winter overcoat all day.

Please don't allow yourself to get tired. Stop and lie down and let things go undone when you begin to be tired and before you are too far gone - is the prayer of your
Y.

VERNON A. WRIGHT

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Oct. 18. '09

My dear —

I am reflecting you most shamefully and feel it. Yesterday I expected to write you but too many things occurred and the time was gone before I knew it. I dined with the Adamses. Mrs. Adams looks a little worn but behaves quite normally. She is going to take up the Woman's Club work to help fill her time. Mr. Barrows took me to the dance for the first time since I returned and then Mrs. Barrows asked me to stay & tea. afterwards I chatted with Chas D. who returned by the afternoon train, i.e. he chatted. Last Friday Mr. Burch was here all day and then I took the 2 A.M. train and spent the day in Upls. looking for necessary equipment for the new business. We are rather overwhelmed with the details of getting things going but all

material most urgently needed has now been shipped. The next difficulty will be to get prompt delivery from the railroads.

If all goes well I think I can be back in Lincoln again before Thanksgiving as planned. That will not be a very long time now.

I have no word from you yet. Don't write if it is too much additional burden but of course I should like to know how you get on and whether the school arrangement promises well for Thomas.

I saw Charles Ames and Ledy in St Paul. The family is all at home except Alice who is taking kindly to her college life at B.M. There are a few letters to forward - mostly dividend checks.

Are you good and do you rest when you think you ought to work as your own earnestly wishes. It will not be long now. With much love

V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My dear Cassie -

Oct. 19. 1909.

The days are flying and we are trying to make things fly too. There is some delay in securing materials but nearly every thing is now here or on the way. People are good natured as yet but I should not like to disappoint them for long. Charles D. had a good time in the East and is now having a good time telling the neighbors about it evenings. Remember me kindly to my daughter as well as to my sons and take big one for thyself. News travels fast - Hilda says that Lincoln is like Swan Lake - U.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Dearest G.

Oct. 24. '09

Sunday evening after a busy day. I am in my office and have just been chasing an English sparrow round and round the room trying to make him go out of the open window while he kept trying to get through the ceiling. This morning early the water was let out of the mill pond and about nine o'clock we shut up everything tight at the dam (mill lt.) and got horses and men at work scraping out the accumulations of the recent flood. When the water was held back the river bottom below the dam could be seen pretty well and showed a mass of rock and timber and pipes and wires. We had four hours to work and in that time were able to clear out passages for the water below the water wheels

2

so that operations will now be fairly satisfactory though not as good as before the wash-out. This afternoon Mr. Bancroft and I have been out to see the men build the new line to town. It is going pretty well but we are still short of material and may be delayed a few days. This is about the way every day goes. I see nobody except in business and do not patronize either the Bijou or Lyceum theatres in the evening. I telephoned your message to Miss Pembroke and understood her to say she had written to you. If there is any news in town she is much more likely to know of it than I.

This is the day Margie was to be with you. I hope she came and that the day was propitious. I wish I could write letters like yours.

It will be good to be home with the little family and not have to write at all.

Much love to everyone of you. Vera.

VERNON A. WRIGHT

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

My very dear one —

Oct. 28. 1909.

The time is moving on but yet it seems to drag. We are still working on our new line and still waiting for insulators. It will be at least a week and probably more before the lights can be turned on even if everything goes well. In the mean time, I wish I could see my family. I shall try very hard to be back by Thanksgiving. Nothing but unforeseen events shall prevent. Mr. Ridings, your facile correspondent, has sent me a bunch of samples for "my winter suit." Of course I shall have to select something but I shall go with misgivings to the tailor for I know they ^(the tailor) disapprove of people buying their own goods and hardly like to make up suits under such conditions. Still it would never do to turn down Mr. Ridings. I don't know why but it would 'nt. My present clothes are shabby and frayed but will have to go for another month. The work at my city dam is finished for this season

bearing new troubles, and the wheels of industry etc. are turning again. On Nov. 1st the Otter Tail Power Co. takes possession in theory though in practice there will probably be no change until next summer.

It is a move in the right direction and gives a feeling of relief although the daily routine will be exactly the same. Hilmer will continue to attend to trouble calls and Miss Alberta will keep the accounts and the cash box. We have had a meeting of the O.T.P. Co. and decided to increase the capital stock. It is probable that preferred stock will be offered to the public for investment. We don't know whether they will be afraid of it because the other dam went out or favorably inclined because ours didn't. We can only tell by trying.

I think often of you and hope the attic stunt has not really done you harm. But don't - please don't - do it any more. Write to me when you can - not otherwise - Your letters are more appreciated than my beauty notes would show - with best love to all four. V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Oct. 31. '09

Dearest —

It occurs to me that you may have bills to pay which will require funds. You will find enclosed check for \$250.⁰⁰ — also a waiver of notice of the meeting at which the stock capitalization of the C.T. P. Co. was increased — Also a proxy. We sometimes want to call meetings on short notice and if all the stock is represented, it can be done without formality. Will you please sign and return to me. I have been out on the line most of the day. We are stringing wire today. Tonight I had supper at the Adamses. Margorie appears to have enjoyed her visit and admired the house. Mrs. Adams says that M- is a good correspondent but Sam doesn't write at all. Chas. D. took Mary and two of her friends out to Lily Wendell's today so there was no dinner at our house. The weather is holding finely. A week ago

it was cold but for several days it has been warmer again - almost Indian summer. Thomas's letter came last night and was admired by the Adams family tonight. I have not shown it to Chas. D. yet but shall do so. I infer that the alphabet at the end of the letter is intended to show an interest in literary matters. It was all right except the J and Z which were both turned the wrong way. I hope Thomas will continue to like his school and get on well enough to be kept in the public school. It ought to be good for him. I have not seen Miss Burbank nor been to the Hospital since I got back. Neither have I seen Dr. Freeman. One of his small daughters occasionally be seen roller skating up and down the street on the concrete sidewalks.

I wish I could look in on you. Cheer up! it will not be long.
with love for all of you
Freeman

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Nov. 4. '09

Dearest — Things are going well and barring accidents we should have lights in F.F. Saturday night of this week. The line will be completed tomorrow - Friday. Last night I spent with Mr Kidder in Wahpeton making out a contract with the city for pumping and another with new street car company. Of course the council will have to act on it but there appears to be a good chance of the pumping contract going through soon. McKenridge is still taking time to consider but the prospect is not discouraging. These things all have a cheering tendency but your nice long sectional letter received tonight was needed and filled a vacancy full up. I am very glad that your new nurse is to stay until I get back. It relieves me a good deal to know that she is there to relieve you. You must have received my check soon after sending your last letter. Yours V.

VERNON A. WRIGHT
FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

Sunday, Nov. 7, '09.

Dearst —

This will be another short one. I have no glasses with me. Last night we had lights in F.F. from Dayton Hollow. They were not up to good standard and it may be some time before we can make them entirely satisfactory but people were glad to have them. This morning I had to work over our transformers. Mrs. Adams asked me to dinner — also Florence Lument and Louise Underwood. Afterwards Mr. Barons took me, with an engineer to Dayton Hollow to inspect the dam. and then I went home with Mr. B. to supper. Now it is 9:30 and nearly bed time. It is pleasant to feel that the first corner is turned. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Barons ask about you and I tell them you are fine or thereabouts. With much love — V.