



Laura Jane Musser and
Family Papers.

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Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Love Darling -

At last a letter - When my one here
woud ask what I heard from you
and Mary I woud have to say - "I
guess they have forgotten they have
a mother or father - Mr. Lantz had a
word since the 11th a week ago!" Well
any way your letter makes me very
happy and I how thankful I am you
are no longer home sick and also that
Mary and you are getting along so
beautifully together - that makes me

rejoice and bring real happiness to
thy soul - I just hope it will continue
and you both will join and take joyfully
from each other -

So the brownies are good - I have
told Pauline to send some next week

with your laundry -
Aunt Laura went home last Thursday - Daddy
went with her - They spent the first night
in Minneapolis and went on the next day -
A very tiresome ride I gather - So much
ice that they had to drive very slowly -
I miss her sadly - She is so dear
and thoughtful and true so hard to

be above his former misdeeds now always all
to do to do -

Uncle Alvin is improving steadily - Just thinking he
had an operation for a large abscess on his
arm - They were very much alarmed but it is
all right almost and he is improving steadily.
But I have been very much worried - for the person
had gotten into his system - Now he is hav-
ing draining every and he ought soon to be able
to sit up -

I do hope you will enjoy your music next
week. Schunk - I was to this yesterday, the

I wanted you and Mary to take only
one lesson a week so that ought to be
arranged satisfactorily - All also happy
your French is so much easier - Do you
still have to be tutored? What do you
mean about personal questions she
asks you?

I will write to Margaret or you can,
but if she comes you must pay all
of her expenses - I think it will be
nice for you to have a week and
with Mary at the time of the Memorial
Concert -

I am enclosing your program and
this also and the Science Syllabus to
Yassar for you -

Kept mks you nice & having your
Mid Year examinations and I do hope
you and Mary will have no trouble passing
them -

Yesterday was the first day I have been
to any one home since you both left and
I hope now I will have no more colds -
It was a shame that I couldn't have
come more with you both when you
were home but I was so happy just
to have you under my wing! Plus your
hearts I do love you both so deeply -
Was interested in learning about Radio City - you
must have enjoyed your day in New York and
I hope you for later - Letting Mary fix your hair!!

January 21st 1937

Must do that Lotie for that is the only
little thing left to overcome - Please Please
be a big person - Realize your soul is
the big thing in your life and develop
it by being so radiantly happy you
will draw all unto you - You
can do it - I am betting on you!!
I noticed such a change for the
better in your attitude towards others
than you were some - Miss Guerin
said - "How is Laura Jane Mrs Whittier"
I said "fine" - She said with tears in
her eyes - "She came in to see me
the first day she was home" - There is
a lonely soul and you brought joy
to her - Lotie darling I know your
great personality and I know how
difficult you are making it impossible

Lotie precious -

I was so happy to get another
letter from you today when Daddy
went from Church to get the mail.
You know how pleased you always
are to hear from some one on
Sunday - That is the matter
with my precious Mary - Only
one letter since she has been
gone - I thought of course I
would hear today but what joy
it gives me to hear how darling
she is to you and I suppose
you are to her -

Your letter sounded a little
lonely and I don't want you
to be that for one minute -

I just said to Daddy. Any one with
your personality should be one of
the happiest persons on earth but
you evidently haven't quite found out
what a force you have within you
in good and radiating joy around
you. As soon as you have found
that key you will laugh for joy -
First of all never be upset by
any criticism coming from Miss
Harbridge. She doesn't find that
way but if someone makes such
a statement to her she knows at
once there is something wrong
and you are there to profit
by criticism my precious Aunt
heart and there is no one

More any one than Miss Harbridge for I succeed - We know
the secret is to try to be a Criticiser is a big person.
But you say in your Harbridge place - "There is a girl in your school
of whom you are very fond and are deeply anxious that she make
a grand success - You know her as Miss Harbridge. Love you and
you can see where she is failing - Just some little thing - "Wonder you
just say anything or would you try and help her by telling her of it.
Mother can only get that important point across to you - You are
become the most sought for girl there - Just to your darling
National say and all that heart of expression that you are
using in wondering they might act thus and so would be about
in being all of your friends - No matter how they act - For there
too I have nice things that you notice about them - You

to come and spend a few days with
them, so maybe we will go around
the first of March just before
we go to meet you and Mary
at Easter time -

The nicks are flying by and
before we know it we will be with
you girls -

It was a shame about the Concerts -
I had already met Margaret, but
maybe she can spend a week
with you when you can get
away - I haven't seen any of your friends
close up since you left - I suppose
they have been very busy with exams -
I do love you so, Sister and Mary
too - devotedly - Mother -

And I am praying every day
that you will understand to
bring joy to others - so just be
your radiant natural self -
Stop ~~analyzing~~ analyzing
my motives of others - go into
their rooms with a smile - help
them in any way you can - and
still hold yourself more or less
aloof - Be so understanding of
their troubles but never never
criticize others unkindly -
And above all pray many times
a day to your dear Heavenly
Father - He is just waiting to
help you - Your prayers will
be answered I know - all
of your exams will be easy

if you only pray - Prayer was
what brought you to me - Prayer
was what kept you here on earth
and prayer has sustained you
and me always - I do miss
you so but my joy will be
great if you succeed in finding
yourself and the key I have
always tried to give you which
will mean happiness -

Your laundry hasn't come yet
but when it comes and is sent
on Pauline will send the brownies.
I don't want to send your records
because I am sure they will be broken.
The Gilespies are all here for
dinner and the children murdered

Wetmore and even trying to amuse themselves - they like
to play with dolls but not for long - I trust you will be
a model boy when you return this summer -
That Wednesday I must go to city and take Mrs. Lyman
with me and to make working dress which you want
I collected with the night you left -

Just Marion writes that lunch etc. is now getting
along wonderfully - be sure to my program -

to this from Louis Margaret Menden came to other
day saying they are waiting a time on the floor
in Florida and wanted Daddy, Aunt Fannie and me

[Jan. 24, 1934]

LINDEN HILL
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

Mr. Writing -

As to the project you wrote about
taking up. I certainly wouldn't if
I see you become in my instance
it has a bad effect eventually. After
you have reached the age of 25 or 30
do it if you want to but when
one doesn't care for it as I know
you do not why take it on? -

How soon I will tell you as I told
Mary after you are 18 you could
but I trust you won't!

Am sorry about Betty Russell but
I would feel Mrs. Hartbridge did just
right - Betty has no mother and she
is under Mrs. Hartbridge's care and you
must be old enough - Besides is Betty older
or any girl in school to realize

Let's darling -

As I told you and Mary - I am
writing to you just as soon
as I receive your letters. It
makes me feel my dad that
Mary doesn't write - I have only had
one letter in now almost three weeks.
I fear she forgets she has a
mother or Daddy - I am very happy
that you two are getting along
so beautifully. That pleases me
more than I can express -

How you must have enjoyed
Myra's Mrs. Concert - I feel
that she is the most outstanding
Pianist in the world today. Am

Glad you heard her in the Town Hall. That is where I heard her once. And after it was over in all went up to the front and she must have played an hour and she would keep asking what we wanted. I asked for several and she played two or three things I called for -

Yehude Weinberg is not a great musician now. He was a marvel as a child but now that he is older one expects much in the way of interpretation which of course he can't give because he hasn't had enough experience in trying to give a breadth to his work and a

sympathy and understanding that one looks for in an artist. As a person thinks and acts it will be portrayed in his music. So that is only another form of expressing one's self. You certainly must want some time ago - as to stockings. Now you go into the city you can buy some $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen pairs and buy around .75 if you can and charge them to me -

I am jealous of other org and tell you what I heard from many and why didn't she quit and also Mayone told me to the girl and you didn't mention it then. You are it surely is your place to quit just - but to the girl said they

Bring Mr & Mrs Friel Regan - Mr & Mrs Butler
and the Landables are here for dinner -
Monday 3rd - Daddy and I went to
the Stephen Simons - I sat on the
bench when eating and I dined
most of my dinner in my lap!

Tonight Amphicat meets at the
Landables - Here comes Daddy for
lunch so must stop -

Uncle Alts is improving right
along and we are so happy about
that - With warm love to you
and Mary - Devotedly -
Mother

January 24th 1934 -

the serious consequence that
follow from any thing like that.
Just take it from your Mother
who loves you & Mary devotedly
that Mrs Hartbridge knows what
she is about - And it's a
wonderful opportunity you are
having to be under a person
who has the vision and intelligence
that Miss Hartbridge has -

I saw Mrs Gluck the other
day when I was in the city -
She looked so pretty and she
asked about you and Mary -
She said that Adele is so happy
at Vassar - that Ruth Lutz is
bubbling over with enthusiasm -

That the first year she was more
or less lonely but now she has
adjusted herself and loves it -

Perhaps if you go to College for
two years and then go on with
your music - keeping up music all
of the time of course -

If you are getting C. in your theme
you write that is very good and
you don't need to be discouraged
at all - I am so happy you
are enjoying Mrs. Schenk so
much - I am sure you will
accomplish a great deal now
with your music -

Mrs. Schenk has her studio in the
Morrison County room at the right

do you go in the front door -

About your mel. rec. - I don't know what to say I am sure.
Would you like to stand it and Betty Anglin's but I fear
that wouldn't work out because she is busy in the city and
you need to get out and find my and that would hardly
be proper - I ~~may~~ ^{will} write Margaret - You are the sweetest girl
I ever knew because of the expense but I love her too that I may
pay her expenses if she can get away - so I am waiting
to hear.

How little work we find my happy for I find that you
are really trying to make the best of everything - That

Directions for Crocheting prof com spread.

Make a chain of 7 - Put together
making circle -

Put your thread on needle and go
into hole and take off first 2 and
then 1 - Do this 20 times - viz - putting
thread on needle ^{and go into circle as above -} until you have
20 stitches in circle -

Then make chain of 3 - Put thread on next, and
go into ~~chain~~ stitch of circle - ~~put thread on~~
pull through and take first two off then one
put thread on needle and go into same
hole as before and take off as before -
Thread on needle go into next stitch
and take off - ^{needle} Over again and put 2 stitches
as above in same hole as per sample
do that all way around - first 1 - then 2
in the stitch below -

Then make a chain of 3 for the next circle

(Put thread on always when making stitches
and take off 2. then 1 - I won't say that
any more -

This time in making the 3rd row of circle
put 2 stitches in 1 hole - then 1 stitch
in a hole for 3 times (3 single stitches
as per sample - then 2 stitches in 1 hole -
then take 1 chain stitch and proceed as
above all around circle -

4th row of circle - Make chain of 3 and
put thread on and this time put
2 stitches in hole below then 1 stitch
in next and again 1 in next - then make
your prof com by putting 5 stitches in
1 hole, then to make the prof com put needle
in 1st chain of prof com stitch & pull together.
then 1 stitch in next hole & 1 in next - and then
2 in one - make a chain of 1 and go around
the circle in the same way as you started
4th row —

LINDEN HILL
LITTLE FALLS, MINN.

Love darling -

Will I see another letter or not rather -
So you want your crocheting with
directions - do you think you can
follow without some one helping
you? I have been sitting pretty nearly
all day answering letters to
the members of the Department
of Ed. who have written me
in appreciation of my services
these past 15 years - you see
Governor Olson has appointed three
new members and Mr. Willard and I
are off -

Daddy is giving a dinner to
50 new boys at the Buckman

Hotel tonight -

I am sending your Science Syllabus to you for I thought perhaps you would want to write them a letter -

Dearest Tom - Mother -

Will write more next time - but my hand is so weary from writing - I miss you girls more than I can express but happy you are happy!

~~It that means more to me than anything else -~~

4th row 1/2 fact one - chain of 3 - 2 stitches in 1/2 1/5 single
4 2 in 1 - chain of 3 & continues as before

5th row - Make Chain of 3 - Put 2 in ones
hole - then 7 single stitches as patterns (1 in
each hole) then 2 in one - Make chain of
2 - and continues same as beginning of 5 row.
all around circle -

6th row - Chain of 3 - 2 stitches in 1 hole - then
1 stitch in 2 single holes and make popcorn
as before - then 3 single stitches & popcorn -
then 2 single stitches and ^{then} 2 in 1 hole - Make
Chain of 2 and continue around circle as above

7th Row - Chain of 3 - 2 stitches in 1 hole - 11 (Eleven
single stitches - then 2 in one - then Chain of 2
Continue around the same way -

8th Look at patterns and you can see how it's done -

Loikes my precious little daughter -

Your letter has just come and as always -
I was so happy to get it. So you gave
that Mary would rather be free on Thursday -
I shall hire Miss Hartbridge to have someone
you would enjoy spend Thursday and
Friday with you - Margaret wired that
she couldn't spend a week-end with you
until the middle of February due to friends
visiting her for two or three week-ends.

I have been thinking you were all
through with your mid year exam -

and was so surprised that they came
this morn.

As to Mary, don't be so upset over her - she
is fundamental and she has been looking
forward a long time to this morn and with
Barbara and boys I suppose - He does love
you as much as you love her only she
shows it in a different way - don't be
overly anxious about anything and don't you
let her know that she does, hurts you and
finally you will successfully overcome
any questions you may have regarding
her - Her own sister and brother one
doesn't want to be too intimate with -
You are coming along by car and

beards and are on coming one obstacle after the other.
New York not to worry on any thing she says but
know to laugh it off and say something very
nice to her which will make her ashamed
of having hurt you always - I am so thankful
you don't love your temper any more and as for
you trying to be like any of the girls you mention
it would make me sick if you try. I must
you to be like Muriel and all of her charming
personality and power - the girl so like you and
understandably when Mary says that you don't mind
that she says and says that you are putting
yourself out for the other girls and do not defend

upon her she will change - It is a
guilty flesh in human nature that the
things we get to be only anxious about
are the things we never attain but if we
settle back and do the best we can
and pray to our Heavenly Father to help us
to be in harmony with him - to love
more - to never dwell on the unpleasant and
to know that by persevering we can attain
to any end we desire - we will go ahead
rapidly - never doubt your ability and if
anyone else who is not as strong in faith
in God, sees how fast you are developing
they will be jealous and try to put ~~some~~
obstacles in the way but you don't need
to fall on it or reel down to the foot of

the mountains so to speak to you?

Don't me ask Mary what you are doing
to offend her - for once take the reins in
your own hands and take them happily
and you watch what will happen - I
am counting on you!

How pleased I am to hear what
you say of Miss Hartbridge - all you write
is true - Don't stand in awe of any one,
it isn't necessary -

I shall be interested in hearing what you
did with your exams -

This afternoon I am entertaining, Child

Interest Club - This morning Mr. Laid French.
Yesterday Daddy, Henry & I went to the city
to get 'Hebe'. Mr. took her down last Friday
to be altered - Hebe is certainly happy to
get home - She is just wild. It was so
cute to see her when I went into the store
she was in a cage and she just yelped
for joy.

How Dear of Jane Edwardsen to invite you
to the work end - I do think she is a
lovely girl and I know you appreciate her
and her kindness - Please give her my love -
You will have a delightful time I know -
Uncle Otis is improving right along for

which we are so thankful -

I received a very letter from Mother the
other day -

Now you mother must write to thank her for the
\$2.50 she sent to you Christmas - Also the things
and the others? Aunt Betty must send a dress
letter but said she hadn't heard from you so
please write at once and tell her how much
you appreciated the carded fruit so well as
the letter from my friends - (In her word it was
we are known - you don't need to tell her that) -
Gladie, Charles and Connie Margaret's are in

New York and are coming out to ~~see~~
you girls while they are east -

With a heart full of love -

My love to Mary -

Devotely Mother -

Jan 31st 1934

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

February 25th 1934

Lottie Darling -

What a wonderful letter you wrote to me this last time. I guess I will have to have it framed or something like that for it is the first time that you have gone into detail about any thing you have been doing and thinking. So that I could just take a peep! Oh you girls only realized how hungry I am to hear any little thing you would write that kind of a letter any time - Am glad you didn't send me the discouraging letter you spoke about for I would probably have boarded the next train for Hartbridge!!

Daddy and I went to the Pelisipia for dinner

Today and they all wanted to go to the movie
to see the Eskimo picture and I was rather pleased
for I wanted to come home and write letters but
when I got here I was so sleepy I went to
bed for the afternoon and now it is getting
late and I shall have to go to bed in earnest.

This has been a very strenuous week. Something
my day. Sarah Ward came up Wednesday and
stayed until Thursday. I gave a luncheon for
her and a dinner and then I drove her to the city
taking Mrs. Watkins along with us and Mr. Pelham
also went. I am getting a few summer clothes
because Daddy and I will be leaving in about
two weeks for Florida and then Hawaii. I will
see you and Mary. I can hardly wait. I guess
there will be no doubt but what we will go
to Bermuda - leaving the 24th morning then the 26th
and returning the 29th morning in New York.

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

The afternoon of the 31st then we will have a
couple of days in New York for you will
have to be back in school on the 2nd of April.

You asked Loco Maxine Taylor played the
night of Irene's concert. She played very well
but her pieces were not nearly as difficult
as before and her mother told me that she
practised very little. She is so interested in
her school that she doesn't want to take the
time to practice - She wore a blue silk dress and
looked just darling -

Irene doesn't know whether Mr. Sawyer will
be in New York or not next year - I think
it would be nice if he is then for you to
study with him - but while you are in New School

I would do anything she wants you to - to the best
of your ability for you can go back very easily
to the relaxed method -

I was very much interested in what you
said of your talk with Miss Hartridge and
Margaret about going back next year - I have
been thinking much about it too and I really
believe it would be a splendid thing - Mary
won't be there and you can see how well you
can get along with so one of your family
to boss you! - but you and Mary could get
together with ends once in awhile and if Mr
Fayrer is in New York you can study with him.
Mrs Mundy said Mr F. couldn't teach at Vassar
but in this way you would have a year with
him, of course if Miss Hartridge would consent
before going to college - Miss Hartridge

how you had in New York didn't you - How
I should have enjoyed seeing those manuscripts
and the exhibit at the Metropolitan - then
Toscanini's concert - I agree with you - he
is the best conductor in the world -
Wasn't it nice you were able to get those
fine seats from a boy outside the hall
when you thought you were going to miss it.

You and Mary ought to solve your
problems. I think to do what you
suggested in your letter would be fine -
I will endeavor to finish typing the Meditations
and enclose it here - You shall have your

Brown - Kotly and Soap -

With a heart full of love to you both -
Devotedly
Mother -

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Wrote me a beautiful letter about you both and
she told me just what she told you about
your being the best in standing of any girl
who had been gone thru from a small high school
so that pleased me enormously - She considers
you a very superior student - but don't tell!!

Margaret wrote me a delightful letter about you
and she thinks you are developing so fast
into a fine young woman - She loves the
way you are meeting your problems
and attacking them and overcoming - so
that made me superlatively happy -

So you are crocheting are you - Is your
Cap like Mary's? a Lusher? What a grand

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Taddy sends his love. He has been having
febr here in the room and it is too
cute the way she will stay on the bath room
rug which I bring in to the room - she
is getting so large you wouldn't know her
except for her black eye!

I

Affirmation

I pray the Prayer of Communion with God.

II

Discussion

To feel in actual touch with God,- that is the crowning joy of true prayer. We all are God's children therefore we walk in loneliness of heart until we make our conscious connection with him.

All the world is seeking. People rush hither and yon, striving to get one thing after another, looking for happiness. All people, because of their very nature must seek "the peace that passeth understanding." Without this the life must be "bound in shallows and in miseries." But all too few realize their own innate spiritual quality or recognize the nature of their need.

We might say that every human being is "home-sick" for God, a wanderer on earth, until he finds his peace and joy in communion with the Father. Is such peace, such fullness of joy possible to all? It is, because God is an intelligent, as well as a loving being. We are not shut off from the way to him. It is our responsibility to seek and to find the way.

And so we say that the crowning experience of prayer comes in a sense of communion with the Father Supreme!

Why is this so unusual an experience? We have learned that thought is the central force in our lives. We will therefore look to a mistake in our thinking, for an

answer to this question.

What ideas about God prevent our having the perfect love, the complete faith, that casteth out fear?

Fear! That is a basic difficulty. Can we wash our minds completely from the domination of fear? Even when we think we no longer fear God, we still are carrying in the sub-conscious a welter of fear ideas.

It has taken thousands of years for man to gradually and often painfully free his mind from fear, - especially fear of the anger of God. At dawn of history on this earth, men were faced with difficulties and disasters. They learned but slowly the laws whereby nature could be controlled. Man's supremacy over things is even now incomplete. But in ages past life was much more difficult. Because of ignorance, superstition, human cruelty, and natural dangers fear ruled the hearts of men. The easiest explanation of all trouble was that some enemy was to blame. It might be another person or it might be an evil spirit. Gradually there grew up in the minds of men ideas of a multitude of spirits, good and evil. These must be placated. And so it is that the idea of one supreme deity developed with inconceivable slowness. Even as late as the days of the permanent settlement in Palestine the Children of Israel conceived of Jehovah as little more than their local and particular deity. He was the God of Israel. The Gods of the Philistines and Egyptians were real to the Israelitish mind. In Exodus 12:12, we find the writer quoting Jehovah as saying "Against all the Gods of Egypt I will execute judgement." In Deuteronomy 6:14 it is written- "Ye shall not go after the Gods of the people around about you, (for the Lord thy God is a jealous God)

While there are very early references to Jehovah as

Lord of the whole earth, the prevalent idea was that the Gods of the Philistines or others possessed some power, even though Jehovah had more power. This idea was only slowly and after centuries of effort wiped from the minds of the Hebrew nation.

The idea of the loving nature of God has had an even harder struggle. First, it came in the idea that God loved a chosen few. Then, that he loved those that loved him. Thence, slowly and with many failures, to an idea of the actual nature of God as loving. David, Hosea, other prophets up to the time of Jesus rose to mountain peaks of spiritual insight, from which they proclaimed the truth, conceiving the God of the Universe as a God of Love. But it was Jesus who revolutionized the thinking of his followers about God. He knew the Father as no other one before or since his time. So steadily, persistently, by parable and metaphor, by word and act, he inculcated the idea of a God of Love exceedingly eager to bless every human being. He based his teaching on his intimate knowledge of "the Law and the Prophets", our Old Testament. But his inner and secret knowledge of God enabled him to replace the emphasis and to sweep aside the older, cruder ideas. Read with care his sayings:

Ye have heard it said of old time (Exodus 21:24) - "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but I say unto you, that ye resist not evil***" ye have heard it said "Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy, but I say unto you 'love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you: That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: For he maketh his sun to rise on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what

reward have ye? Do not even the publicans set the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5; 44-48). Read also Luke 6:27-39 and John 15.

But older, cruder ideas were so firmly fixed that even his closest followers did not get Jesus' vision in its entirety. Throughout the centuries this teaching of Jesus that God is always and to all a loving Father, has had a real struggle even to survive. But the light has never been utterly lost. In our day more and more people are grasping this truth. But even now it takes a real effort to erase from our minds our own mistaken ideas of God.

And so it is that we need to work continuously to cleanse the mind completely of our older ideas of God. We accept the leadership of Jesus. Should we not so fill our minds with his teaching that the abundant life he lived and taught may flow through our veins?

We can not have perfect communion with one whom we feel is a God of wrath and hate, one who crushes and destroys his enemies. Jesus taught that God was always loving to all people—Matthew 5:45.

Is there, then, no punishment for sin? Certainly, but it works out in another way, to be considered later. Briefly, the sin, the mistake itself, by the person's own act, cuts off a proportional part of the continuous stream of God's lifegiving love. The responsibility is with the person. Insofar as anyone turns from his darker ways, cleanses his mind and his life from his mistakes and his sins, just so far he begins to receive the current of Divine forgiveness and love.

The channels of his life begin to open so that he is able to receive more of his share of God's abundant life.

The degree of communion with God rests upon our degree of faith and loving trust. We seek the perfect love that casteth out fear. We wonder why our prayers are not answered, when we have not taken time to understand the way in which the answer must come.

III Application

Many, many are writing that the fifteen minutes a day with these letters are more precious than they dreamed. A few are still having difficulty to quiet the mind and heart for even the brief period necessary each day. To these latter, I say PERSEVERE. Without spiritual growth, the life must be bound in shallows and ultimately in futility. The self control gained in budgeting your time, leading yourself to an enjoyment of the quiet moments, in directing your thought instead of being at the mercy of an undisciplined set of errant ideas, these qualities will affect your whole life, may even determine your ultimate success or failure. PERSEVERE, in daily study. "Take time to be Holy. Speak oft with thy Lord."

Meditation

Read each day a bit of Scripture as follows: (1) John 13: 33-38; (2) John 14; (3) John 15; (4) John 16; (5) John 17; (6) Luke 12: 1-22; (7) Luke 12: 23-49.

After reading , take time to pray. Quiet the body.
Quiet the mind. Pray, Thanksgiving and Praise, Pen~~t~~-
tence and Forgiveness, Petition and waiting quietly
for ideas to enter the mind from him, increasing the
sense of communion. "Speak to him, thou for he heareth
and Spirit with Sp~~o~~rit doth meet Closer is he than
breathing, and nearer than hand~~s~~ or feet."

Mrs. R. A. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Lotsie darling:

At last a letter from my little girl and you have no idea how much I loved it-for it has been almost two full weeks since I have heard from you and needless to say I have been a little anxious but still I knew that if there was anything wrong I would hear.

I am so sorry that you have had a cold and missed out on part of your week end. Did you get to visit Jane at all? You see I don't know just where she lives so you must be sure and tell me in your next letter, also tell me all about her family and her home and did you enjoy being with her?

What about Vassar, did you have your interview also, or when do you have it? You didn't say one word about Vassar, how did you like it and did you see any one whom you knew there? I think your idea of majoring in music a very good one, if you can get the right instruction there, Mrs. Mundy said that her daughter didn't like the piano instructor at Vassar but as long as she intended majoring in piano she took of the assistant who was afraid to tell her anything I shouldnt have said that she didn't like the instructor for they were good friends, but she didn't want to take the method she taught for it was so different from the method she had been studying. You could talk it over when you go there the next time. Mrs. Mundy's daughter had the reputation of being the most brilliant pianist who had ever been at Vassar.

So you didn't pass your examinations in History*that was too bad, what do you think was the trouble? Has it been hard for you right along? I do hope that you are not overdoing for I don't want you

to have a driven feeling at all for if you do you can't do good work, and I would much rather have you take another year and enjoy your work. Are you still tutoring in french? You are evidently enjoying your music n'est pas? I am so glad if you are.

Daddy and I are expecting to go down to the Russian Ballet Tuesday for the matinee and then come home for a party that Mrs. Thompson is giving that night for the Child Interest Club so it will be a busy day for us. No I did not hear Milstein play, I should have enjoyed hearing him. I do hope you can hear Ruth Sleucyynski, when she played in California she made the Conductor provoked because she told him that he was playing a certain piece too fast!

I have been reading in the paper about the very cold weather that you have been having in the east, you must have felt right at home? Today is simply beautiful, so sunny and warm but as you can imagine very wet under foot- on the way home from church I met Lillian and Julie and I asked them if they had heard from you lately and Lillian said that she guessed that she owed you a letter, that was just in passing so I didn't hear anything more. They played at a little program for the Ladies Working Club the other day and Mary played the little organ which wasn't exactly in tune with the fiddles but of course don't mention it when you write, Rosemary, Mary Lillian and Julie also the girl who plays the cello.

You would hardly know Hebe she is so large, today she looks too darling for Marie gave her a bath, she forgets herself once in awhile and we have to scold her and then she runs to the basement feeling very sad.

What do you think, I am going up to the Washington School once or twice a week to take Short Hand and Typing. I am trying to write this letter without looking but it has taken me so long that I will

have to stop and rest. Daddy and I are going to the Millers for dinner tonight, last evening we went to the Roberts for dinner and cards so you see we are still keeping up the giddy whirl!

Now please do not let such a long time elapse before you write again for it doesn't help me to have very good nights.

Dearest love to my precious Lotsie, and all Mary that if she isn't better about writing there will be no going away next year, give her my dearest love- I have given Pauline your instructions about the brownies!

Affectionately,

Mother -

February 11th 1934

Please give the enclosed to Madame Lubin -
and return in your next letter her receipt
never mind I am sending it to her directly -

try and discover what the trouble is -
I do hope you are not trying to
keep up such a tremendous correspondence
as you did earlier in the fall - I shall
be very much disappointed if you don't throw
yourself into your contacts there at school
and have a grand time with the girls
there - That is so important to me dear -

I must send you some more meditations -
they do help me so much - Pray for guidance
and for help to put your self in harmony
with God - just as soon as you can live
in a peaceful state with your God you
will find everything clearing up as if by

Be sure
& thank
Agnes
(Mrs. C. J. H. H. H.)
for the
postcard

Mrs. R. A. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

totter precious little daughter - Your letter to
Daddy came Wednesday and I am going to
answer it this afternoon -

I have just returned from Mrs. Fearing
for the second time today - She washed
and set my hair this morning and when
I returned it was so yellow I had
to go right back again - This time it was
so bad and I hope will last a few
days - I guess when I go to New York
I will have to have a Bob!! How do
you think I will look - Just happened

don't you? Then when I returned I thought
I would take her out a minute and on
bumping her in she jumped on me and
caught her teeth in the front of my
brown dress making quite a hole, which
leaves me rather destitute for clothes -

Yesterday I entertained Helen Gillespie
Bridge Club for lunch inviting Mrs. Bettsberg
up from the city and she spent the night
here going home this noon -

Lara Mand wrote me to ask whether it
would be convenient for me to have her
come and visit me within the next
few days so I have written for her to

Come if not necessary -

Your reports came a day or two ago - You
didn't do so well as in the fall and I wonder
what was matter? Do you enjoy your teachers and
do you go to them when you don't understand?
I would like to know just what the trouble is
so I might be able to help you - Do you
feel that your subjects are too difficult?
There is no reason for you to get such poor
marks unless you don't understand your work.
And you and the teachers don't work together -
You have a fine mind so don't worry - In time

We are going to the J. B. Hotels for duplicates
this m - I am so sleepy I shall
have to take a nap -

Oh yes. Daddy and I went to St Cloud
& hear Rabinoff Wednesday - He played
the violin perfectly - His accompanist
was perfect too - a great treat -
Irene had her pupils recital Thursday
and it was most interesting - all did
very well - but I did miss you darling -
Rosemary S. did better than any one - Maxine was
my gold - the boy & girl from Royalton did very
well - Helen G. was awfully cute - a little 5 yrs
old girl was too sweet and a 6 yrs old boy -
John Mr Farsons Ensemble played! Also
Rosemary S. piano - Mr Farson Violin - Irene C. cello -

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Magic - You are so highly sensitized
that if you allow any dissonance
to creep in it will effect all of your
contacts and work - Don't worry but
love more - Don't get provoked at any one
but endeavor to see their point of view
and agree with them if possible -
I pray many times a day for you and Mary
and if you must to make Daddy and
me supremely happy you will learn
to adjust your self to life and give of
your self untravailing to others - Think of

nice little things to do for your friends
don't be influenced by any unpleasant
things you hear - you have a great
power within if you can only find it
and use it successfully - Enough
said!

I do hope you had the milk and milk
Margaret and that you both had a grand
time - just think in a little over three
weeks on will probably be leaving for
Florida where on will spend a few
days with Cousin Margaret and Cliff and I rather
think Aunt Laura will go too - and then
up to get you and I do hope Daddy
will take us to Bermuda where we

can milk together! better and play golf for
a few days - that was and I just can
hardly wait to go with you and Mary -

Please write me about my things - you didn't
say what the fortune teller said about you - at
least two meanings to her that she did tell
you about Sam Alice etc -

I really don't think you missed such a great
deal as not seeing the Bull & Horse - at first
I thought it was my good - but thinking it over
I just it lacked much - the staying there my poor
but you will have many opportunities to see
things just as truly if not much more so.

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

That was my good - the trio - I fear I
nearly disgraced myself during the assembly
Music for Mrs Landahl sat next to me and
made such ridiculous remarks I just
laughed so hard I could hardly stop!

Well now to my rap - I love you dearly
dearly - I do not enjoy being so far away
from my girls for they and Daddy are
my most precious possessions -
Do you know has anyone spent the week end
with you? Devotedly

Feb - 17th 1934 Mother -
Mrs (Harbridge) wrote me a lovely
letter a week ago -

Mail to hear them - So think of getting
two of your items in the annual -
My but I am proud of you.
You don't know how happy I was to
hear your voice on the phone from
Chicago - Aunt Laura met me there
and we left that night for Lake
Plebs - Arrived Tuesday noon and
we spent three days with the Muscys.
They are so wonderful to us - It was
most interesting to see that part of
Florida - Inland - The Muscys are
creating a beautiful home on a
lake and a golf course right near.
We drove to several interesting
places which I will tell you about
when I see you - I am so sleepy
now I must go to bed - We arrived
here this noon - Have time to a
more tonight and "now to bed"
In just 6 days!!! Daddy will be here tomorrow
Dearest Tom - Devotedly Mother -

March 17th 1934 -



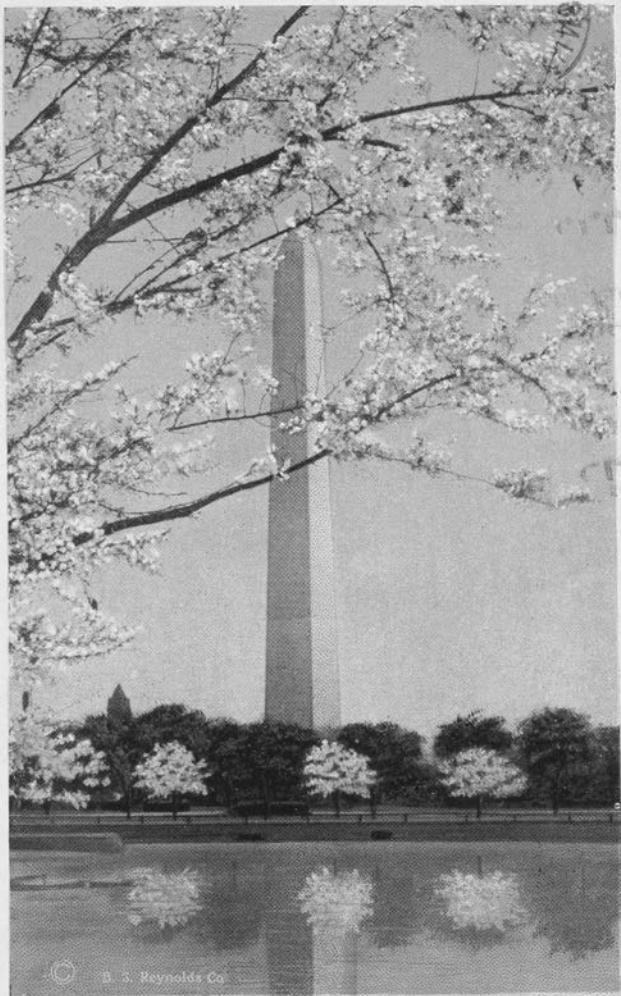
HOTEL WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Letter Darling -

Your nice long letter was forwarded to
me in February or rather late March and
I was surely happy to get it - You wrote
there were no news but you wrote me
much of interest - From your description
you have been having a rather difficult
period of adjustment and your mother
feels heart sick to think you have
to have so much of that for really
little. Life is so happy if we
don't make it difficult - I know
that you have had to contend
with but I feel you are doing
alright and if you can only
keep happy and develop a

real sense of humor on all
of these apparently undeserving
criticisms you will be a leader
of great worth - but as I have
told many of my friends when
they tell me their troubles take
it all as a joke and laugh
my thing off and one of them was
Mrs Tanner and she said the other
day "When you told me to laugh
about these things when they seemed
so big to me I didn't think I
could but finally I have succeeded
and what did seem of so much
moment ~~was~~ ^{now} most trivial - Most
criticisms from friends are very
superficial and its probably because
of jealousy or a bad liver!!
I am so pleased you want to

have your extraordinary for lunch on the 24th I will be so happy
to see you again -
Am glad you are interested in strong the basket ball
game and know you will enjoy the faculty play -
Also am glad you enjoy the day trips so much - I can
hardly wait to see you this evening - I will try desperately
hard not to show all of my worth for all at once but
it will be difficult!
I don't know why you should be so pictured yourself as
involved or called for you have always been a perfectly
healthy and sound child so I would advise such a demand
made from your mind!
Strive for the confessions - I can hardly



WASHINGTON MONUMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

88346

The Washington Monument, towering 555 feet in height, is the highest stone structure in the world. Seen either by day or by night the Monument is an impressive sight, especially so in this view with the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms.



ADDRESS
YOUR MAIL
CARD
STREET AND
NUMBER



THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

C. T. AMERICAN ART COLORED.

Lotie Dear - I'm now only here
a month later in time than
the Cherry blossoms. Now we
are having a delightful
trip so far. A snow storm
yesterday. Daddy still has a
hard time talking on account of
his cold. Received Mrs. Hartridge's
letter forwarded from home. You can
tell her. Will leave for New York
Thursday and will meet you
Friday. Sorry I can't go to
Bermuda. I will have a Raffey time
anyway - Love mother.



Miss Laura Jane Musser
of the Hartridge School
Plainfield
New Jersey.

My precious Lotie

In cleaning up the room I found
the Envelope under the cushions of the
Couch and that perhaps you might
read it - Also I found another room
key which will be appreciated by the
proprietor I imagine!

Of course I am fulfiling my duty
to leave my two darling children but
do you know I do for that if you
try and comply in any way with the
rules and keep happy and interested
as your friend you will come home
in a jocular mood and a much

stronger character!!

Didn't I have a fine time and it
is needless to say I am very proud

of you both and for you both have real
personalities and are going to make
your mark in the world -

I managed to get back to the hotel
just in time - My Stomach is better
and I hope you are fine as a
Fiddle -

New York by electric light Carriage
on in the fog was simply beautiful
I got here about 7:45 - I had such
a delightful visit with Miss Wagoner
and she says all the excitement of
a few miles past was due as is
the case usually by year to a
condition of mind and body and of course
Miss A. has to have her rules and has
to expect the girls will turn up to them.
You may have your brownie. I

Think us plan of Candy and no desert
if you don't want it — Am sorry
not to have had a talk with Mrs H.

I am going down alone for a bit
to eat — Oarant love and May

God bless and keep you dear and
happy — Don't forget your prayers —
I love you love you love you —

Mother —

April 2 1934

A National Problem

For centuries, man has had to face the problem of govt. and had to adjust it accordingly with the wishes of the people. Several various attempts have been made which have either proven success or failure either because they suit just one singular period and don't hold out for all time, or don't fit in with the period or wishes of the people at all. Fortunately indeed one the leaders, king or president, who can form a govt. suited to all purposes and able to ride the storm of public opinion successfully. (But the strange thing about govt. is that it will involve nearly every country, even if it's only confined to one country. The results may be good or bad.)

But it presents one big problem and this problem is the one of the foremost problems that presents itself to us as a people today.

I could take any one country and use it for an example, and not be wrong in saying that its govt. presents a problem to the world at large; however I will use Germany's govt. and its relation to the United States govt. as a striking example.

Germany ^{for some} recently ~~has~~ time has been a monarchy but recently conditions have changed and Germany has turned Fascist, with a dictator to take the place of king. The result is that ~~this~~ ^{are} this new govt. have probably been good for the ^{majority} German people as it has corresponded to their wishes.

Fascism
this gov.

but it has presented a huge problem to the world in general.
~~Many~~^{many} of the immediate countries dislike this gov. for
several reasons one of ~~these~~^{these} is that it is not in sympathy
with the people etc. Germany though hastied to introduce
or get people to introduce Fascism to its neighbors and has
also tried to get the United States interested in it.

390

46, 49

343

4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14

Love Darling -

Just a note again - I haven't gotten
any news as yet from you so I
judge the dress hasn't come but
you probably will get it today -
As to going to John Musers wedding
you would have to leave on Friday
the 31st in order to get there and
I hardly think you could be gone
so long. You wouldn't get back
until Sunday the 2nd. It would be

Nice if you could go but I fear it
would hardly be wise to be gone so
long and maybe you still have
exams - on Friday - If it were the
next mth you probably could have
made it.

Will you please tell me when
you get this what you want for
your birthday present. Be sure and
write to me in Muscatine - 1314
Mulberry Ave - You will get this
the 27th and if you write that

Day I will get it or if you mit the
28 I can still get it there before
m can. Perhaps a set of golf clubs?
We would love to get to Plainfield
before the 5th but I fear m can't
arrive on your birthday and I am
so sorry -

Have just heard on the Radio that
Philip Agnew's oldest boy - 9 yrs
old has been kidnapped - It is so
terrible - We are all just sick about
it - They live in Tacoma -

Mr Larr all over out playing golf this morning - It is so lovely - I can't get a very good score -

The tulips are all out - the lilacs will soon be out - The place is beginning to look very lovely with the leaves almost out on the trees -

Les Arent is driving east and will probably be here before Mr Larr - Sally is very happy about it -

Mr Larr had to put up a new Pergola by the river - the other

Just about tumbled down -

Can hardly wait to see you and
the days are going fast. Am
so anxious to know how your
music exam - came out -

A heart full of love -
Affectionately - Mother.

May 23rd -

Tonight we go to the Sandells for
supper and tomorrow to the J. B. Hotel.



EN ROUTE

Mary & Leta Darling -

How I should like to
have a glimpse of your blessed
faces today and I trust they
will be smiling ones - I
do hope you are feeling fine
Leta and are all over the
indigestion - I was so sick
when I boarded the train
last night I stopped to get
some Hall's all - and
some Bismuth powders -
neither of which I need

For after a good night's rest
I feel quite like my usual -
We have just been going through
a regular Cloud burst &
now the Sun is shining -
but it is quite cold -
I got off the train in Detroit
and ran my way up to the
waiting room to see Alice
for I had mind her to
meet me but no Alice
and I was awfully
disappointed -
There are my few people

Thursday - a lady offers me no on her way
to Nevada - I wonder if it is true although
she doesn't look like the regular divorcee -
There has certainly been a great deal of news
for the my thing from under water -
I am thinking that for the time of Clara's news
I am enjoying my news -
She has however saying it goes better
and that no my thing you can think of -
April 3rd 1834
I cannot come to this

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

John Darling -

Your letter has just come and I am so
happy to get it but our song Miss Harbridge
says such unkind things to you and Mary -
and that the Jones m. are unadvised as
to the bringing up of our children and about
your being so tired and jaggish etc - You
do not need to go back next year but
I do hope you and Mary will endeavor
to behave as I would want you to the
rest of this year. Try and act as she
wants you to. Be very careful of your
appearance - Put yourself out more than you

to be kind to everyone and especially Mrs Hartbridge.

You see it is just as I have told you your actions speak louder than words and people are apt to judge you without looking beneath and really finding the true Lotus and Mary but your Mother knows all about you both and that you are true blue and will make Daddy and me very proud of you someday and those who know you will write only the bestest things of you both. I hope Mrs Hartbridge will write something nice about you before you leave this summer.

I have written to her about it's being my fault about the Brownies - it was a shame that I didn't have an opportunity to talk to her. However I was feeling so ill that day I fear that

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

I Couldn't Tell said all that was on my mind.

We have had some beautiful days here but
it now looks like rain - Helz is sitting here
next to me and I am sure is sending her
coggie love to you and Mary -

The Gillespie family was here yesterday
for dinner - Connie has left so they are
looking for a new maid -

I sent the book in your laundry box -
Tonight I go for duplicate dinner at
Mrs. Fred Hobbs -

My day and every I send up prayers for
my two precious girls and please don't
forget your prayers and feel your

Mind with pleasant thoughts for as a
man thinks so is he - And whatever
you do reflects either good or bad on your
parents so if you want Miss Hertledge
to think well of us you will have to
be pretty nearly perfect from now on -
I love you more than words can tell -
Devotely Mother -

April 9/1934 -



EN ROUTE

Steve Darling -

This is a jiggly train but I wanted
to write a note to you and Mary
and mail them at Albany -

You just don't know how happy
I was to see you both today
and to realize too that you both
are developing the way I want
you to - You look so well
and that pleased me - That
you and Mary are so kind
to each other that delighted me -
and now you are both going
to get Miss Kentridge's violinist
as never before - She is most

anxious for you to be happy
but not at the expense of your
conduct. Some girls are naturally
given to doing anything just
as their advisors or those in
charge of them want and expect
them to do - they have an intuitive
feeling for others and think first
as to how they will react to
them and ^{give} do the thing that
pleases - but as a rule they are
not the strongest characters - it
is those who have overcome that
are the leaders and the ones on whom
we depend - You and Mary have
learned much and I am pleased
to pieces - Don't be critical of
any one for you don't want others
to be critical of you - I am so

happy you and Mary in getting along so nicely now -
I hope your way with one of the activities will ^{be} great and
fructuous -

I certainly had to rush for the train - but I made
it - got off at Liberty Street - took a taxi to John Street -
drove to Grand Central - walked westward - reached
St. Hutton - and just got on the train when it started!
That's often - I expect for -
Milton -

April 17th 1934

Mrs. R. D. Musser
608 Highland Avenue
Little Falls, Minnesota

Lotie Darling -

Maybe I wasn't happy to get your letter the day
after I returned - You didn't mention having heard
from me so I wonder if you received the letter
I wrote to you and Mary the same day I left you
and which I mailed at Albany -

Leaving you girls was certainly hard for me too
for you are my dearest possessions and I would
rejoice if I could have you with me any minute
but that would hardly do! So my next greatest
joy is in hearing from you regularly and
knowing that you are happy -

Mrs. Hartbridge told me how much she
enjoyed you and that she always felt so

sure of you as to fundamentals - that you
always reacted right etc. etc. - so please
know that she really care for you.

I don't like to moralize in all of my letters
for I feel now you are developing so fast
that it isn't necessary but from your
letter I gather that you are getting a
wrong reaction to the girls attitude toward
you -

The fact that you can't grasp always what
the girls are talking about is simply because
you are beginning to feel what I prophesied
you would feel because you just didn't
learn to be vitally interested in what
was being talked about unless it had
some bearing on what you were interested

is - at home here you found that it didn't
matter much but I told you it would when
you met strangers or school girls
away from here - Now in order to overcome
all of this throw yourself mentally wholeheartedly
into this time, this interests, whether it
appeals to you or not - Don't try to state
your own opinions - just listen and agree
when you can or keep still - Don't criticize
any one for Mary is now suffering from having
done that - She just couldn't learn until
she had a severe lesson - Now she has
learned I hope - Don't feel inferior in
any way to others - Be so filled with

gladness and the joy of being that all
well to draw to you - the last three days
in New York were delightful to me for you
were always happy - you must wonder
why this one or that one did thus and so
You are your own sweet self and adorable -

How glad you enjoyed "Dismal" and "Rivers
on the Rock" for they are both my good
books -

We do need rain here for it is so dusty
and windy - I found all well at home -
John nearly ate me up - Dad is having
the vegetable garden ploughed today -

I see Mary I loved her letter I found
here waiting for me - but she hasn't

written since I left - That's all over I have been
of yours I give as much too small - If
you haven't enough I will run to get you some.
I expect to leave for Hamath before next week
and will probably be away two or three weeks -
to the end I shall be on my way east
again to be at Mary's graduation and will visit
as that I can bring you that time - just
46 days home! and then I will see my girls
to my old friend and to your best -

affectionately
Mother

April 23rd Saturday - 25 years old -