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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENTHEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
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## Received at

BAC74 10=BOOTHBAYHARBOR ME JUL 21 1013A

GEORGE B VAN SCHAACK=

*72000* CARE MRS CONSTANCE ROGERS COAN EXETER NHAMP=

 RETURNING VIA WHITE MOUNTAINS WILL TELEPHONE TOMORROW MORNING  
 ABOUT TEN=

DONALD.

1051A.

COAN.

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS



Lilac Cottage, Wiscasset, Maine

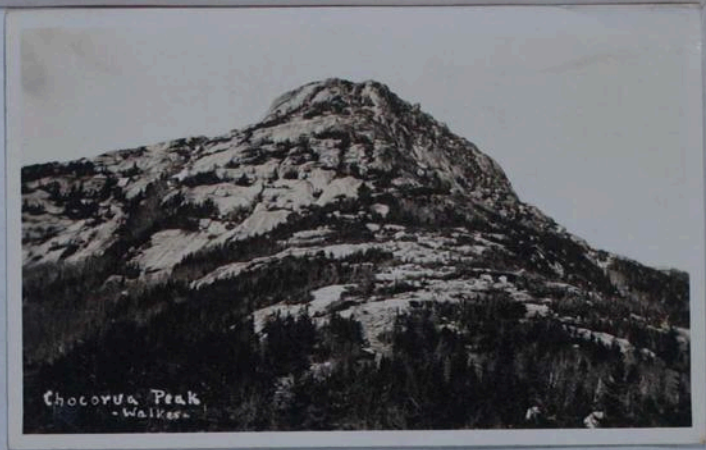
R. LEPPER

Wiscasset. — 22 July, 1937

Dear G:— I felt a qualm when you sounded so disappointed, this morning. I knew that a meeting at Chocoma would be practically impossible to plan, so I hadn't counted on it. I don't even feel sure we can get away from here in time for me to climb the mountain tomorrow afternoon, should tomorrow be a good day. But I believe it worth trying. — Let me know where you are, & come to us when you can.

Henry + Elizabeth send their cordial regards. E. said she felt it in her bones there was something wrong with your marriage. They feel bad for you.

Give our affectionate good wishes to C. + tell her we are sorry not to see her. Our love to you. — Donald





TAMMORT  
JUL  
24  
A.M.  
1937  
N.Y.S.H.

Mr. Geo. B. Van Schaack,  
% Mrs. Constance Coan,  
72 Front St.,  
Exeter, N. H.

POST CARD

TRAIL COTTAGE, TAMMORT, N. H.  
PHOTO BY C. E. WALTER

Well, Boy, I made it, but  
I've not done such a trek in 20  
years! - Wished I'd had that  
map you bore off with you, so that  
I might have identified peaks.

Found 2 youngsters up at the Lib-  
erty shelter who were spending the night.  
Should like to do that sometime! View blaze to  
the north. Mt. Washington was a ghost, but  
the ranges to the N. were very beautiful. Heard  
hermit thrushes + whistlers. Seldn! If..

31 July, 1937.

Dear George: -

It is nearly a week since Nola + Raymond were here, - will be quite a week by the time this letter gets mailed, + we've been thinking of you luxuriating with them in a world bounded by Rockport + L Street + focussing on 43 Linnaean. Please tell them we were deeply pleased that they took the time to come + see us. It is always a special kind of inner satisfaction to be in touch with them, + we even envy you your days with them. Give them, in addition, a full measure of our love.

I want to say just a word about Dana. We feel pretty strongly that the next move is decidedly up to him. He must make of his own life what he will, + if he shows what Betty calls 'character' + I call 'gumption', we stand ready to help him in whatever way we can. I have a feeling that he will always need prodding in order to accomplish anything like his potential best. I have no feeling that he ought necessarily to follow our counsel, or Raymond's, or

anyone's, if he is not so inclined. But if he did take steps to investigate, seriously and with enough persistence, the possibilities which we have suggested, that is, if he took our advice, we should feel more responsibility than we are likely to feel if he proves half-hearted or merely complaisant. Our advice was not directed toward a positive decision in accordance with our opinion, - which was, and is, that he should find a suitable position where he would be paid wages while he learns. It was simply that he should make a thorough inquiry into that kind of an alternative to continuance in college. We sent him to Raymond with that idea. Now I am curious to know how thoroughly he acted upon Raymond's suggestion of the Western Electric.

I imagine that you + Raymond will have touched upon this matter, + that you will have seen Dana. Naturally, we shall be interested to hear whatever you may have to tell us, + we know that you like Dana + for that reason will try to give him some kind of a lift. - Raymond said last Sunday that he had not heard from the lad again, + I am curious to know exactly how hard Dana has tried to follow up the lead that Raymond gave him. Oftentimes

the whole course of a young man's life depends upon the zeal he shows in seizing such chances. And that is all the more true when he is dependent upon financial assistance. Well, we shall see.

In my postcard to you after climbing Chocorua, I stated thoughtlessly that I hadn't been on such a trek in 20 years. But, after reflection, I find it is only 14 since Henry Howard + I + a donkey named Modestino walked for a week in the High Sierras of California. And then we attained an altitude of 12,000 ft. or so (Alta Peak), tho, since we started at about 7,000, the actual climbing done hardly equalled the ascent of Mt. Washington.

But it is most certainly not necessary to go to California or to Switzerland to get thrills from mountain scenery, or to get scared to death inching your rheumatic joints over narrow ledges between heaven + the abyss. Luckily for me that I chose, by inexact chance, the Liberty Trail up Chocorua. And, having to get there + back between 2 P.M. + sundown meant that I could not take it easy but must keep plugging along. I must affirm that, if you don't go all the way to the Amber-line, you get no view from Chocorua. Being alone, I might

have been satisfied with half a mountain, could I have seen anything but the trees immediately about me. And when one gets clear of them, one is so near the summit that one might as well continue. Even so, had I not found those two chaps at the "shelter", + had they not assured me the peak was easy + only 15 minutes above, I might have been satisfied with what could be seen from there. They put courage into me, just by being there, for if I slip + broke something, I should have them to succor me + go down for help.

The day was hot, + the elevation helped little, as there was not much breeze. I was lucky again, for I had forgotten my sweater, tho intending to put it through my belt. And the cables over the shelter roof told me something of the force of the winds that can whirl round that peak. Suppose there had been a thunder-storm!

I don't know what sort of weather you had, but I am glad to have been up there when I was, for the heat haze did things to the atmosphere + created effects that must certainly be absent

on a clear day. To the east + south the coastal plain was all spread out beneath, green + habitable, with farms + villages + roads + lakes + ponds + acres of forest + field, like a camera-shot from an airplane. But to the west + north was another world, all jagged + uplifted, forbidding, gigantic, + not green but the most marvelously luminous blue. There was no detail there, no items save the peaks themselves + the valleys that separated them. They were ranged in an amazing series of silhouettes, + they all gleamed with an intense + infinitely variable blue light, as if illumined from within! It was fantastically beautiful, the chance effect of a combination of sunlight + atmosphere that I have never seen before + scarcely expect to see again. Some Promethean scene-designer, with a stage extending a hundred miles or so,

had so arranged his properties + his lights that the solidest stone seemed made of translucent glass, + the mountain-forms stood outlined against each other high + higher, till the most remote shone in quivering azure against a blazing sky. One-half the visible world was green + human + full of homely detail; the other half was blue + remote + grandiose, + only a Valkyrie could by any stretch of the imagination have belonged in it.

I rested by taking a sun-bath, + when I stood naked in all that glory, I felt more appropriate to the landscape!

Taking the advice of the elder boy at the shelter, I went down the Brook Trail. He said it was hard to come up but easy to go down. Well, I was mighty glad I hadn't tried to climb up it! And I was grateful to Ned Anderson for having tipped me off to those rubber soles you buy at Woolworth's + cement on to the original leather of a pair of old shoes. They literally saved my

life in one or two ticklish places where the slag went out from under my feet. Below, in the forest, I found the Brook + felt like drinking it dry. I plodded more miles over roots + stones, - very rough going for tired feet, - + evening began to come on.

Then the most wonderful thing happened. Hermit-Thrushes began singing all about me, with the most entrancing antiphonal effect. I have never heard them in such solitude, not in such numbers. There were also several olive-backs, whose song I heard for the first time. It is a kind of reversal of the very's, a spiral cascade of trills with overtones, but upward instead of downward!

I finally stood directly beneath a hermit-thrush, who was singing in a birch-tree not thirty feet above my head, + was able to get my binoculars out of their case + aim them at his pretty spotted breast without alarming him or causing him to interrupt his singing.

I should like sometime to set down my notion of the hermit's song. I had no pencil or paper, but next time I shall go prepared, - the preparations to include a bottle of citronella, for the mosquitoes were ravenous. But I'm quite certain Mr. F. Schuyler Matthews is "all wet" as to the intervals sung by that thrush. They are by no means so definite as he records them, nor are they pitched within any common diatonic scale, nor do they outline the chords that he says they do. As to rhythm + pattern, he's near enough, but to hear those harmonic vibrations as distinctly as I did is to realize that notation in a 12-note scale is powerless to represent them with any accuracy.

White-throated sparrows were also singing in those woods, - our "Peabody birds" of Highland Park, - remember? - and I saw a pair of juncos just under the peak of Chocoma.

I got back to the Tamworth Inn 6½ hours after I had

left it. I do not suppose that I had walked over seven miles, but the climb must have taken a full three hours. I realized, in those wilds, that I should not have gone alone. If only you might have been along! Fortunately, I had told Betty not to expect me till late, as I wanted to take plenty of time. As a matter of fact, I rested very little till I had achieved my purpose, + ~~loitered~~ ~~on~~ the down-trail only to hear those enthralling birds.

I received a card from the Geodetic Survey office that they had forwarded my request for an index map of N. Y. State to the Geological Survey office, + in due time it arrived. Now I'm embarrassed by the choice of maps for the Adirondack region. Must find out more about the southern area of the Adirondacks before you + I venture there. I hope we can have two days.

Mother + Anne will return this week, + Betty + I will go back to Terrace Place. Jim + Dad

have gone to visit the girls' camp on Cape Cod this week-end, so we have the farm to ourselves.

We have heard from the Shute's cook in Clinton that she will come to us for the winter, + that's a big relief. She knows where everything is in that big house, + she is a good cook. So, with our student chauffeur - furnace-man-snow-shoveler + general factotum also contracted for, we think we can get along.

Let us hear from you soon, + come to us if + when you can. Since you are now without a car, I will meet you at any point necessary to your convenient arrival.

With my love,

Donald

14 Sept., 1937.

Department of Music  
Hamilton College  
Clinton, New York

Dear George :-

Your letter came this morning, stamped "Missent", tho where to, I can't conjecture. I am glad you dwelt upon your "thirty-fourth year", for I had you thirty-four several annuns ago, if I remember aright. I have to repeat to myself, - "He was born on the thirteenth and is thirteen years younger than I." If there is any bad luck in the one, it should be canceled by the other!

We're here, by the grace o' God, + unpacked (except for books + music), + rattling round in this great house like two peas in a Brobdignagian pod. Of all things I will tell thee when I see thee. If we go "scouting", it will probably be on Saturday, if the day is right (I mean the weather), so we expect surely to be here to welcome you. And if by any miracle we should be elsewhere, Allan will let you in. Allan Cantor is our Siegfried The World's Treasure (text motif for full orchestra) - almost as nice a fella as you are.

Now as to that birthday. - I had the best of inten-

hours as to Daniel Hayes, but I never did get to New York again, + so I haven't got the gloves, yet, to my chagrin. But you shall have them if I have to fetch them myself from Gloversville! And do be sure to tell how many copies of Hogben's M. for the M. you received.

We found the route from Catskill to Sharon thru Middleburgh wonderfully quick. It was 207 miles from Danbury, done in five hours less 10 minutes. Your car might not negotiate that road quite so comfortably, so if you know a shorter cut to Route 20, choose for yourself. From Route 20 you turn off at Bridgewater, proceed to Saugus, + turn left at the signal-light there. Then you go up an interminable hill to Paris, N.Y. From the green at Paris, or from the Paris-green, you proceed north (right) till you come (very soon) to the second left-hand road, which you take into Clinton. But if you passed that + took the third, it would still lead you to Clinton. When you reach the "business-district" (ha-ha!) of Clinton, turn sharp right on to College Avenue + prepare your

Department of Music  
Hamilton College  
Clinton, New York

steed for the famous hill which shoots you up (we'll hope) to Hamilton. Our house is the second on the left after you've negotiated the curve, is painted an uncompromising green, & has a good quarter-acre of bare ground in front of it, almost as red as the clay of Devon. It was just rolled & seeded in time for yesterday's rain.

Had I realized that Coxsackie was only 15 minutes from Catskill, I would have urged you to come over & chat with us while we ate lunch. But Betty was so sure we'd not reach Clinton till after dark that I felt hurried in spite of the promptings of common-sense. We were here at 5.15 & she had bet me a dollar it would be eight o'clock! But, — we shall see you on Sunday, & shall be glad to.

I wish you had had better news of Eva to give us, & I'm sorry she'll not listen to your advice. But when the Van Schaacks get obstinate, they get obstinate! My love to you. — Donald

5 Oct. '37

Department of Music  
Hamilton College  
Clinton, New York

Dear George: -

Here is your very much appreciated \$15. + my thanks for that + for all you did for me + us. The moments with you were precious + comforting.

The Cézanne + the Vermeer have been unwrapped + are just as beautiful as I remembered. You are a blessed benefactor to let us have them. The former cannot go over the front-room mantel, but the Vermeer looks well there. We shall wait till we get the Van Gogh from Utica before we hang the Cézanne.

We got away at 3 20 + reached Dr. Skerret shortly after seven, me very tired. Yolanda is apparently none the worse, + full of mischief, with a prodigious appetite. Prof. + Mrs. Patterson called just after we had unwrapped the pictures, so we impressed the Math. department with your taste in painting. He said Shute had spoken of you several times.

you should receive the gloves from Sawyer  
in Boston within the week.

I hope you have a good day at  
Letchworth - that it doesn't bore you  
too much!

With our love + mine —

Donald

College Hill.

16 Oct., 1937.

Dear George: -

I hope you're all right, but, not hearing from you, I've been a bit anxious.

We have decided to go to Danbury for the anniversary. We leave Monday at 3 and return Thursday in time, - I trust - for my 1 o'clock class. Allan will take charge of the tests. - We had them all typed, so there need be no handwriting on the wall.

We hope to bring Mother back with us, but she has not said she will come. She & Annie were out driving with Marguerite a few days ago & the car was sideswiped by some idiot who got out of the line of approaching traffic. They were all shaken up but proceeded (the fool knew enough not to stop) - and went to the Little Gallery for tea. Having gone upstairs to view the displays there, they were called to tea, & Mother started downstairs too rapidly, tripped, & fell head-first the whole flight. No bones broken, but bad bruises, & all upset nervously. I am simply sick over it. I don't dare to praise her to come out here, because I know she should not do, now, anything she doesn't feel like doing.

I can only hope she will want to come. She was nervous enough before this happened. What the state of her nerves will be, now, I don't like to imagine. I'd like to get her away + give her a complete rest. She has never seemed like an "old lady." I'm afraid that now she will have to admit that she is one, + move with caution.

While she is here, - if she comes, - it would be nice if you could spend a week-end. The Fall weather won't last too long, + I wish you could come before winter sets in.

We want you here for Thanksgiving, if you are not planning to go elsewhere. We have asked the Vases, who will come Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> + leave Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Betty joins me in the expectation that of course you will come if you are not otherwise committed. At any rate, you know we'll be glad to see you then as well as before or after.

Will you do something for me, if you can spare the time? I want to find a good traditional setting of the famous Scottish ballad: Edward. It is published + published without music, + I don't know if a well-authenticated ballad-tune exists, but it ought to, + the

After library ought to have it. The words begin like this "Where could that blood on thy sword's blade, Edward", like this, because the versions differ. Will you see if you can find a tune that goes with them? Barbara took a tune for his first Ballade (Op. 10) which he got from Herdier's Albumen des Villes. The Hamilton College library has a fairly good music division, but it has not much on folk-song, nor has it the Herdier work. Barbara calls the Ballade "mélodie schottique Ballade 'Edward'" - but the tune he uses is not clearly enough stated to be detached from his context, + I cannot fit it to the words.

If you find a tune or tunes that you think will do, will you copy them + send them to me, post-haste? I could write to Miss Brown, but she'd send me books + I don't want to put her to any trouble. I'd rather you slipped in these + nosed around quietly.

Betty joins me in love to you, + I add my own special love.

We do hope you're all right. —

P.S. Did you get the gloves?

Ronald

COLLEGE HILL  
CLINTON, NEW YORK

1 Nov., 1937.

Dear George :-

I have written to the Abramows and made the proposal that they stay on through the winter at a rental which they can afford to pay. I have asked them if they will talk this matter over with you. I would rather have the house occupied, even at \$30. a month if it is necessary to go so low, than to have it shut up for the winter. Will you see them, + use your best business judgment + make any decision you think fit. If necessary, call me up at Clinton 302 (after 7 P. M.!) + reverse the charges.

We are so glad you came over on Saturday, + hope your trip back was not too fatiguing.

With our love + mine,

Donald

7 Nov., '37.

Dear George:

I am ever so grateful to you for going to 48 Gorton Place + getting things straightened out, or, at least, unraveling the worst knots. If they feel as you say they feel, I consider that you brought off quite a neat stroke of diplomacy.

That the Abramows do not like me is regrettable, but it cannot be helped. I do not suppose that any tenant would be otherwise than "peevish" with a landlord who patently thought him unfit to take care of a house without some supervision. There is simply this difference in habits of living, and I suppose I am too expressive a person to conceal my disapproval of slatternly people. I know they cannot help being slatterns, - that is, I presume they do not know how to keep the place where they live clean + neat. But I think that they must be preternaturally sensitive to inferences. I have never taken them to task, - never even reproved them. I have stated a few facts + let it go at that. Any woman with any pride in her dwelling-place

would long ago have taken a mop + a pail + a bar of yellow soap + gone out + scrubbed the marks that her children or others' have scrawled on the front of the house. Nor would most tenants need to be told to take off the screen-doors after fly-time, nor to attend to this or that other small detail which makes all the difference between a place which is "kept up" + one down at heel.

If they are peeved with me, it is because I have said something of what I thought, tho by no means all. It is actually getting so that no one in America is expected to speak out in any tone except fatuous approval. I am not lacking in humanity, nor do I think I have failed in ordinary courtesy toward these people. What does Mrs. Abramow expect me to do with her children? Kiss them?

I have actually remarked that the small boy seemed unusually bright, + I really think him a charming youngster, so the lady is rather off the track. I don't approve of allowing children to mess a place up without reproof, but if you suggest to doting parents that they might use a little discipline I suppose you may expect them to resent your "attitude" towards their children. It is pathetic.

I shall treat these people with due courtesy, <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ I see no reason to pay any attention whatever to the fact that they dislike me. If Mr. Abramow is so positive about leaving the house in better condition than when he moved in, I hope I shall be able to say he was right. For the rest, I shall be only too glad to have them refrain from

writing me, tho I fancy that if it comes to a choice between writing + paying for repairs, they may recover from their disinclination. They will receive a bill from me each month, of course, + I am satisfied to receive \$30. a month till April. Naturally, my intention was to withhold the November bill till you had talked with them, + then to bill them for whatever figure was agreed upon. If they don't trouble me, I shall not trouble them. But it is a matter of indifference to me if they choose to leave earlier than that. I don't think they actually will, as they most certainly have a nice house at a merely nominal rent. It is better for the house to be occupied than not: it is that consideration rather than the cash which persuades me to let well enough alone for the time being.

I have been unable to plant the rest of my tulip-bulbs till today, and even after two days of clear weather, the soil in the tulip-bed is cold + clammy. I suppose we may expect the ground to freeze before long, but I believe tulips do not need to make a root-growth before spring. I shall, however, put on a mulch of leaves, to keep the ground "open" for a few weeks, just in case I've been misinformed.

Betty + Allan were driving out from Utica Friday afternoon when some fool in a hurry cut out of line + crossed over directly in front of them. Allan jammed on the brake + saved a collision, but Betty was thrown against the front wind-shield + has a big bruise on her forehead, poor dear.

I think we are likely to have a series of recitals here by "artist-students" of the Curtis Institute. They can provide us with four events which will cost about what we can afford to pay, + I see no other solution of the problem of the budget. — Which reminds me, I must write ~~to~~ Colgate University + secure tickets for their series, which includes Weizel, the Cossacks, + Roland Hayes. Our budget wouldn't pay for a single one of those!

We have had the second meeting of the String Group this evening, — with a Bassoon + a Clarinet thrown in for good measure! We had a nice, sociable time, tho I had to count measures for them, there being no dependable "first" present. Afterward, we raided the ice-box + made coffee. The boys seem to appreciate both the chance to play + the chance to eat.

Margaret left today, to our great relief, + a Mrs. Wentworth comes tomorrow. We are in that well-known state of hoping for a "break".

With our love + mine — Donald.

From George  
to Mr. George  
at College Hill  
Linton, Nov 21st 1931

College Hill  
Linton, Nov 21st 1931

Dear George: I know you had no  
intention of making our Linnæus  
sick for Paris, but that is just what  
you have just done. I  
have looked at George's mistake  
longing for that beautiful  
city, and I know exactly what  
is illustrated in it, as I've been  
in them so often, all except  
les torts de Paris; I know I know

on top of these. But I know  
how they look. I've seen the tops.  
I haven't got much time to read  
it naturally, but in looking at  
through I've read it in spots, &  
I feel that it's little or no apt  
as it surely rather the "Spirit of  
Paris." I know there's a deal of  
work in store for you even if it  
is going to be brought out more  
often and more soon. But  
I shall love it, George, and thank  
you for it with all my heart.  
You are always so kind to me



My dear Gully, so that she makes all  
Reid's mistakes, so I find I'm rather  
be less patient with her & not find  
too much fault, therefore she might  
leave her, & it isn't easy to get  
around to work here on this hill.  
In fact, I hope she was the only per-  
sone I had to my advantage  
to get see how she was doing  
for the job, & that I had no choice.  
It was either take Mrs. Kent's  
or do the work myself to the station.  
And as I like her, I'll be sure  
vice versa, only I can't be sure  
go. Truly, it is true in the

mid air & go at both ends! At  
times it seems as if I couldn't possibly  
stand at another minute, and  
then I try to remember the virtues in  
the hair cream. (She's a young girl  
cook & as clean & neat as a pin, and  
a wonderful cleaner; everything she  
touches just shines. When she's  
finished with it.) So I quit my talk,  
and escape from the kitchen as  
quickly as I can. Perhaps in time  
she may get talked out, but I have  
done all she has said from home.  
She doesn't know at all how to  
set a table or how to serve

it, so I'm trying to teach her that, but it's  
hard & tedious. I know you'll be amused by  
gets. Mrs. Jefferson is coming to help you out at  
Thanks giving, & I'm glad to know her here!  
She will come to take to plant her seeds to  
sorry about, & will do many other things for me.  
The Cassin's stop until the 1st day following  
Thanks giving, so I shall need to see you when  
I'm not here. You know Mrs. Johnson  
just what a treat you had when you heard  
Lise King! I love his playing & he certainly is a  
spell binder. When he's thoroughly into it,  
I know he can't stop. I know as he was!  
He seems to cast a spell upon the piano, and  
then it's like watching in a mechanical world  
of strange & wonderful things! You know Mrs.  
Doz might have heard him with you!  
Do you know the Son Cossack Chorus that they give  
at Calgary. It's really most of our magnificent!  
It's probably the best of what they do and the  
effects they put in their conductor's hands upon  
them especially if they were in a orchestra.  
Oh, it was thrilling! I hope Mrs. George will be happy  
Thanks giving. I'm ever yours, please give my love to  
Annette & don't forget to pull her in for me for

Sunday, 5 Dec. '37.

Dear George: -

Don't pay too much attention to the "report" submitted in yesterday's letter. I think you'd better get the habit of shrugging your shoulders over the maladresse of a certain lady. Just say, like Anna Minnie in the Herald-Tribune "Tt, Tt, Tt, - what next?"

I've been for a walk today in the Foot woods with Helen. She is still amazingly lively for a woman of 65 or so, + how she loves the trees! Well, they were lovely.

I meant to have told you how sorry I was you were in the midst of a cold. Are your rooms warm enough? and are you getting enough good food? How about your tummy? Is it behaving better than it did in New York?

We had a fairly good concert in Utica on Wednesday evening last by the National Symphony Orchestra under Hans Kindler, except that he didn't kindle the Tchaikovsky 4th to any high temperature. I'm afraid this Tchaikovsky was brought up on beer, not vodka, +

sat brooding over his old German mother rather than about Fate with a capital F. But the orchestra has nice strings, a 1st Horn that sounds like a Horn + not like a Tenor Tuba, + while the Piccolo had the jitters + the Clarinets were a sad lot, the 1st Oboe, 1st Flute, + 1st Bassoon were pleasant to listen to.

We had Frescobaldi for a curtain-raiser, dressed up so that his own mother wouldn't have known him. Then the Tchaikovsky. Then the Bed-Room-scene from Hänsel + Gretel, followed by the Theintöchter and Siegfried's Tod from Götterdämmerung, +, finally, the Overture to the Diegende Holländer. A sure-fire program, competently performed.

Professor Anthony died last Monday in New Rochelle + Helen went on to represent the family at the funeral. She saw Charles, + the news of him is rather saddening. Poor fellow, he has certainly made an unholy mess of his life, and he had such brilliant talents!! He has no money, earns practically nothing, + lives largely by sponging on his long-suffering friends.

Tomorrow Kreisler plays in Utica, + I have given our tickets to two of the string group since none of us cares to go. I could with difficulty sit through another recital by Kreisler. Sometimes, when he plays with an

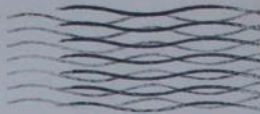
orchestra under a good conductor, he surpasses himself + is then worth listening to, but in recital he plays everything alike, with that glittering, facile, shallow style, so tremble, + so exasperatingly monotonous after the first ten minutes. Naturally I don't say what I think to the people hereabouts. I'm glad the ticket can be used by youngsters eager to hear a famous fiddler. The Musicalists Concerts will sound fresh to them, perhaps. As for us, we have "another engagement."

Betty shows very little improvement today, + while she is not suffering from pain while she is quiet, she hobbles round with difficulty when on her feet.

Helen had now decided to leave on Tuesday, as Betty seems well enough to get on without her.

When does your vacation begin? The 18th? And can you come to us here for several days? We affectionately hope so.

With very much love,  
Ronald



Dr. George B. Van Schaack,

~~824 Canterbury Rd.,~~

Rochester, N.Y.

Strong Memorial Hospital

[7 Dec 1937]

COLLEGE HILL  
CLINTON, NEW YORK

Lat. Evg.

Have your big ears burned tonight, Giorgio mio? They should have, because you've been very much a subject of debate.

It seems that when Sándor was here, he showed Betty + Helen a letter from Elisabeth Dougan, written ostensibly to thank him for permitting her to come with you to listen to his ensemble classes. It was not shown to me, E. having said she considered me an enemy, or something like that. Betty said it was a pathetic letter, and Sándor wondered what he ought to do about it. Betty told him she thought it did not require an answer.

I do not know why Elisabeth should feel called upon to write a letter appealing to Sándor + presenting her side of the story to him. It could only disturb him, - he being a sensitive person, - + it would have been more fitting had she been content with expressing her appreciation of the privilege that had been accorded her + let it go at that.

But she is quite evidently embittered, + that is why I fear you will have difficulty in persuading her to obtain a divorce. You will certainly have to handle her with all the tact of which you are capable. She cannot force you to live with her, but I'm afraid I think her quite capable of preventing you from living with anybody else. She is not a generous person, nor does she love you, but she has a claim upon you.

It may be that you will have to pay for your precipitancy in making an unsuitable marriage, and if I were you, I would face the fact now with what fortitude there is in you. Come what may, you are at least free of her immediate presence, + if you were really adapted to a bachelor existence, you would not repine. A negatively unsatisfied state is at least preferable to a positively intolerable one.

I think you might yourself talk with Sándor, if you felt inclined, though I don't go so far as to say you ought to. I am supposed to be ignorant of Elisabeth's letter, so, if you spoke, it could only be as if from your own desire to do so. I might add that he would never repulse you.

What disturbs me is, why, if she could not reply to my letter after your engagement till you prodded her into doing so, + could not reply to Betty's letter at all, she should suddenly take the trouble to write to Sándor and thank him, and then strive to justify herself in his eyes if not actually to set him against you. Such letters can sometimes cause trouble if written to the wrong people, and I'm asking myself if perchance she has written to others?

Of course, it is a matter about which you can do nothing. All the people with old-fashioned ideas about the sacredness of the marriage-compact will blame you anyway, + many who are not old-fashioned will think you ought to have had sufficient maturity of judgment to have avoided so grave an error. Only those who, like me, realize that two people never can tell beforehand what ~~the~~ conflicts of temperament actual marriage will reveal, will

be fair enough to suspend judgment. I am honestly sorry for both of you, but it is you I love, + because I know you so thoroughly, I could counsel you to break free. Now that the irritation of daily combat with an essentially uncongenial person is removed, I think you must be satisfied for the time being, + be thankful that you do not have to submit to the Ideas of social behavior which would have been demanded of you a generation ago. With tact and long patience, you may be able to manoeuvre Elisabeth into granting you a divorce. Meanwhile, go slow, don't fret, + remember always that there are two or three who love you very much indeed.

I'm wondering whether you received our Thanksgiving Day telegram, - probably not, since you made no mention of it. It was addressed to you in Constance's care at 4312-47th St. Long Island City. We wanted you to have some word from us on the feast-day, + if the address was correct, I must find out why the wire failed to arrive.

Evidently the Vases did not tell you that Betty had a slight accident, - perhaps they thought it of no import, but the floor dear has been hobbling about with a cane since a week ago yesterday when not actually confined to her bed. She had been asleep on the music-room couch + started to get up, when her feet slipped on that varnished floor + down she went, falling in such a way that she bruised her right foot so badly that it is still black-and-blue. It started up a reper- cussion in the sciatic nerve, - Betty once had sciatica badly, - and she has had pretty constant pain ever since. We've kept her in bed as much as she would stay there, and I've rubbed her leg + put on liniment every night. With rest + massage the thing will clear up, I feel sure. I ought to have written you, but I knew you would not expect me in Rochester unless I gave you forewarning, + I've been so constantly on the jump, I had to put off writing. Helen is here, + has been "company" for Betty when I had to be out of the house. She will leave next Saturday, to go to the Kingmans in New Jersey.

Now it seems quite certain I shall not get to Rochester Hill after Christmas, + perhaps some time after! We sent the Abramows their bill for 2 months' rent, - thank you for giving me their message. And there is no reason or excuse (!) for me to come to Rochester except to have a little holiday. You know that Betty never wants a holiday from me + therefore doesn't imagine I might be improved by one from her. Will you, then, come to us for the first few days of your vacation - her wish as well as mine. We shall probably not start for Danbury Hill the 22nd, + you can stop with us en route to wherever you may be going. Do come! Donald

12 Dec., '37

Caro: -

You may be certain that, had I been free to come, this week-end would have found me in Rochester, to satisfy my unease about you if for no other reason. I was glad you went to the hospital, + I hope they set on you good + proper till they got you rested. We are looking forward to resting you still more at the end of this week. I have classes on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> + classes scheduled for Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> tho I am planning to substitute short personal conferences for the latter. But since I already have one semi-invalid in the house, it will not complicate matters unduly to treat you as another. Betty's lameness is still troubling her, + the foot seems not to get well. She has steadily refused to have a doctor. I think we shall wait now till we get to Danbury, meanwhile keeping her off her feet as much as possible. She has great confidence in Dr. Jablon, the orthopedist there, + if it proves necessary, X-rays can be taken at the hospital.

Helen has gone to the Kingmans in New Jersey, + will go from there to Boston + then to Wiscasset for Christmas. Our cook has given notice, but seems to be reconsidering. We hope she will, because she is a good cook, tho a terrible

talker. She turns on her clock every time one of us goes near her, + we leave her still talking. We have learned, in self-defence, to be ruthless about it. I dive through the kitchen + down the cellar stairs, + I can just see her mouth opening, out of the corner of my eye as I disappear.

Betty has asked Morris also for the coming week-end, but we hardly expect he will be able to come so far.

Heifetz plays at Colgate Tuesday evening, + I hope Betty will be able to go. And there will be a performance of an old English Miracle Play next Sunday evening by the local dramatic club + the college choir here, to which we expect to take you.

Shall you risk the drive? If you come by train, let me know the time of its arrival. I may be having conferences on Saturday, but Allan will meet you if I cannot.

The old catalogue said that vacation would begin the 18<sup>th</sup>, but the new one, out last week, says the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is pushing things up pretty close to Christmas. We have just a fortnight, beginning again on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, and midyears begin the 17<sup>th</sup> + last till the 26<sup>th</sup>. Then

There are four free days before classes begin again on the 31<sup>st</sup>. We shall plan to go to your yacht for a spree during the midyear period, probably during the latter part.

The last part of the year seems terribly cut up. The worst just before Thanksgiving seems to have been succeeded by the worst preceding Christmas, + we are no wiser back here after that than exams come along in 12 days! Personally, I think it is idiotic to have a Thanksgiving recess. They might much better have the day a holiday with special feasts + hikes, + resume classes next morning.

Betty sends her love, I mine, + we both hope you are quite restored + even improved by your enforced rest. —

Ronald

14 Dec., '37

Caro : -

It is good news that you're to be out of hospital today, + I can't help being glad your cold was serious enough to send you where you'd be obliged to keep quiet.

I am, however, disappointed about this coming week-end, - more than that, I'm désolé. But, since it can't be helped, you must come on Tuesday + we will remain over an extra day + not go to Danbury till Thursday. As a matter of fact, with both Mother + Betty feeling as they do, I think we'd better come back here just after Christmas + cut the holiday down to a minimum. It goes without saying that we'd like a longer visit from you on your way back to Rochester.

We're living in the midst of a sparkling winter landscape. It is really very beautiful here.

Love from Betty + from

Donald

16 Dec., '37

Listen here, Child of Sin + Destruction, — where I am, there also is one of your homes, if you so choose. Therefore it is impossible for you to be a nuisance, and where did you get the idea, anyway? Just you come along whenever you are free to come, + you'll be as welcome as the flowers in Spring.

We do not plan to stay in New York during the Christmas holidays, tho I may pass through on my way to + from Pittsburgh (if I go — I don't want to — to the Music Educators' National Convention — + it would only be for policy's sake). But of our next meeting we can speak next week.

The Abramows are right. I sent the bill without referring to your earlier letter, and I simply didn't think I could have put the rent any lower than \$35.<sup>00</sup> I am therefore sending them a corrected bill.

I presume you will be driving on Tuesday, but if not, let me know the time of your train. —

Faithfully,

Ronald

Betty much better today.

College Hill  
Clinton N. Y. Dec 17/31

Dear George:

There were few final words,  
so what in my own or your case  
was, and pay my attentions to you,  
as the usual. We were delighted  
that you came over & stayed Wed-  
nesday, as we had long been  
wishing to see you in the  
morning. That is  
settled. I shall write you

train which arrives in Utica at 3.04,  
& I hope to be along, too, as I'm several  
hours & should do. Getting my  
last shipment of specimens of them,  
but that may have to take a back  
seat after all. So you know how  
that I have been housed with  
the chained foot since Thanksgiving,  
so I have been able to do  
no Christmas shopping, - it still  
hunts for me, & although I can get  
about on a level surface fairly

Well, I still have to see my corn going on  
the stems. I certainly the frequent method by  
that fall I would not have chosen to move  
in of produce to me to fall. I did hope to  
get into either Cross or Union. Syracuse is  
too far away - to get a few little things, but  
the roads are so bad now with ice & snow  
that it looks a little dubious. "Now, now  
germs are going down germs" at the cat spirit  
and my daughter put the cat into the bird.  
Fortunately, I purchased my Quilts and  
in a whole two orders from Thanksgiving,  
other wise you can't even find a dress  
had no tools for shipping, so I was  
leaving to be thankful for. To my dear,  
we shall expect you next Tuesday afternoon  
at 3.04, I am sure I'll be there with a few  
arms. With much love from me to the  
Betty.

10 Terrace Place  
Monday Jan 3rd / 38

What a joy that I have it to  
give you that delight and  
interest in book & this outgoing!  
You all the am going and going  
on down down down, I am that  
the time to really read it, but  
I'm looking it all through and  
read para graph by para there  
that caught my eye, so when  
I say it is a delight and interest  
in book I speak the truth, for  
that is what it is going to



in College of Physicians Medical Hall. The mid-year  
seminar course in Formidans - I thought it  
was in February - after the 1<sup>st</sup> of February  
during which time, I had & Mrs. Plummer  
to spend a few days in New York, just after  
collecting during a few days - I would like  
good rain if there is any to-day, I would  
like it would be if you could be there at the  
same time. Wasn't the day? Mr. Tompkins  
is well & Mrs. Tompkins seems a little better, but  
she looks very frail to me & is terribly nervous!  
The poor water is very much hot up with doctors  
at present, doctors of all kinds including those  
for gut & teeth, so that she hasn't much  
time for anything else. I would like to see her  
better and I am not just about that! I can't say to  
think that this house would be without her!  
I think I wouldn't want to cross here.  
I would like to go to New York again for my business  
for the College of Physicians & I see that the  
letter but I think I will give up the whole  
house. Mrs. Tompkins sends her love to you as do  
Alice & I will write to you, I hope you will  
deal it with the same wish that this would be  
well bring you much that you desire most, a happy  
in Philadelphia. D. C. C.

Jan. 9. 1938.

Carissimo: -

You must think I have gone under by this time, but all that has happened is that I am making a wild attempt to catch up on my correspondence & to pay all my bills. I have a student secretary who was here for three hours yesterday morning & will come each Saturday, so that once abreast of the rising flood, I ought to be able to keep my head above water. Please be forgiving & charitable, because to keep you short for a while longer means that I shall really have a clean slate soon.

Apes, Men, & Morons is great fun, & very instructive as well. I presume you've not read it, but you will most certainly enjoy it if ever you have time. You were a dear to give books to us both: that is more than strictly you should. But I'm grateful for mine & thank you most heartily.

I'll write again when I'm in the clear & give you all the news. Exams begin so soon, - the 17<sup>th</sup>. We go to New York for a spree on the 26<sup>th</sup>, & I shall hardly get to Rochester till early in February.

Betty is much better & sends her love, as I do mine.

Donald

Tues. Evg. Jan. 11, '38.

Carissimo: -

I have just had a letter from Mr. Paul Knox of 41 Girton Place. He thinks he might like to rent our house when the Abramows move out. He is a Hamilton College man, & he writes a good letter. I think it might be wise to talk the matter over with him as soon as possible. I can run over for approximately 24 hours next Monday or Tuesday, leaving Utica on the Empire State, which arrives in Rochester at 3.38 P. M.

I forget whether your midyear period coincides with ours, but even if it does not, I should probably see as much of you, as I should be busy during most of the second day. If you have any choice between Monday + Tuesday, will you indicate it by return mail. I want, if possible, to see Hurbi while I am in Rochester. I know he is conducting this week, as a broadcast is announced. If I see him, I shall have to prepare the way with some diplomacy, & therefore shall want to write him a note as soon as I shall have received your reply.

Tell me which day is better for you, & whether you can

meet my train. If you are unable to, I shall take a taxi to Gibbs St. & put in a half-hour with Art see, after which I shall go to the Sibley Library & meet you when you can get free, preferably in the lobby of the Sagamore, where I shall check my bag. I can get a room there or elsewhere if it should be inconvenient for you to put me up.

Minette is lost! She went out this morning & failed to reappear. Betty is just about wild with anxiety. I presume anything can have happened, from theft to murder, but I hope with fervor that she will come back, because Betty loves her so much & takes such comfort in her charming companionship. I don't think Betty could care much more for a human being. She is all upset.

I'll defer further news & views till I see you, except to say that we are trying out a radio & Betty dislikes it with an intensity that is a source of amazement to me. She is most certainly not geared to this age.

I shall be right happy to see you again, my dear, & shall make no engagement for the day of my arrival if you are free. —

With much love,

Donald

NEW YORK POLYCLINIC  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL  
341-353 WEST FIFTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK  
ORGANIZED 1881

1  
[No 726 1432]

OFFICE OF  
A. A. JALLER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear George: -

I can not only read letters but write them, as you see, tho they have to be short. Dear Boy! It was better than good to hear from you today. I am so grateful to you for sending a letter my way. They may let me get up by the 22nd if all the signs + portents are favorable. -

If you come down next week, let me see you alone, please. If you come "to read to me" you can probably stay quite a long while.

Will you see why the Abramows have sent me no checks this month? They owe me \$60. Will you also call Mr. Paul Knox of 41 Ginton Place for me & acquaint him with the facts.

2

NEW YORK POLYCLINIC  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL  
341-353 WEST FIFTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK  
ORGANIZED 1881

OFFICE OF  
A. A. JALLER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I cannot imagine how this item, <sup>of my illness</sup> happened to get on the radio except from Utica (possibly) as a member of the Hamilton College Faculty.

Please thank Mr. Wells for his solicitude about me.

Of course, my dear, I haven't the slightest idea how sick I was. I only know they didn't expect me to get thru the first night. It was a grief to me not to have you here! You know what you are to me. ~~But~~ I didn't intend to die, so I wouldn't have you sent for.

Do not tell the Vases, etc., you have heard from me direct. Make it appear as tho your news came through C or some 3d person.

3

NEW YORK POLYCLINIC  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL  
341-353 WEST FIFTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK  
ORGANIZED 1881

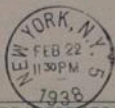
OFFICE OF  
A. A. JALLER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A beautiful white cyclamen came today from you (and Constance). It helps brighten my little room.

Oh, I shall be so glad to see your face next week. Let me know, if you can, exactly which day you will be here, so I may have the added joy of precise anticipation.

With my love,

Donald



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Dr. George B. Van Schaack,  
324 Canterbury, Rd.,  
Rochester, N. Y.

22 Feb. '38.

Dear G. — Every thing  
going fine. Doctor  
very pleased. Will you  
be sure to telephone the  
hospital (Columbus 5-  
8000) before you come up  
on Friday morning.  
The room-number is  
824. — I am looking  
forward eagerly to seeing  
you.  
Yours,  
W. J. ...

10 Terrace Place

Saunders Feb 24<sup>th</sup> /38

George Dear I have just returned  
from New York, where Mrs. Torrey  
& I have been for two days.  
We left Wednesday morning, so  
I missed your letter which must  
have arrived in Sa after your  
mail of that day, & not getting  
back until to-day, I have only  
just read it. With my wife  
to see Rockwell's house, I followed

your suggestion & from the letter  
to Don Toussaint & I read. He said  
right away that he wouldn't buy  
up the house with a three years  
lease, unless the clause was in-  
serted that if a purchaser for  
the house comes along within  
that time, the owner would reserve  
the right to sell it, giving the  
tenant occupant 60 or 90  
days to move out. He says he  
rents all his property in Dubuque

that way. He seems to think, however, that  
it is unnecessary to bother or burden Small  
with that matter yet: that there is plenty  
of time and that he will talk with him  
about it: sure, I feel that to talk about  
it with you - not really to talk Small  
now, he is so much better, so, I hope,  
if he asks you about the same and  
what you in turn think it will be perfectly  
all right to talk with him. But when you see  
him, you can use your own judgment  
about that. We send him good days to day, &  
he has made such a delicious recovery,  
that you see just how well he is now. And  
happy about him. I am anxious to improve  
and has been doing, we hope to be in  
some time in the same way so. And  
will soon be happy. I am too tired to write,  
I hope due to some more, but you know I  
you & that you will understand. We may  
go to Cambridge & all the family have some  
their love. Again with love  
I am affectionately  
Betty

NEW YORK POLYCLINIC  
MEDICAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL  
341-353 WEST FIFTIETH STREET  
NEW YORK  
ORGANIZED 1881

4 Mar. '38

~~OFFICE OF  
A. A. WALLER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER~~

Dear George:-

Your letter has just come + seems more like you than any letter I have received from you in a long time — perhaps because you can write with the surety that no one but me will see it. I am so glad to have the news of Vas's concert, glad you went, even if you didn't enjoy it. I was afraid of the Enesco. You know, I had to be invited to a special rehearsal of that, but much as I love Sandor, I dread to get in too deep with him in a musical discussion. His view of Parnassus + mine are from such different angles that we do not see all the same Gods. It is so with many musicians reared in parts of the world remote from each other. I subordinate my view for his sake — I really do, because he is less catholic than I am. I never trust his opinion on the mastery of a performance, + as for music itself, it is a toss-up whether we shall really agree. But he is a noble person + worth all the sacrifices.

Constance came to see me yesterday afternoon, + was allowed only a short stay because I didn't want the conversation to get round to you. She was very kind, + I think she has no idea that I am not whole-heartedly her partisan.

But really, George, she is a pretty stiff dose for the old folks at Coxsackie, — at least, if ever she went there with those finger-nails and the rest of the war-paint. Not that that is anything but a surface characteristic — still, I don't know. Historically it seems to go back to Ancient Egypt. I suppose if it were the "fashion" to wear nose-rings, all the women would put them on. Shall men ever understand this?

You started things when you said you were getting "pretty deeply involved." Well, I think any sensible friend of yours would agree that you shouldn't. Not that anyone shouldn't, but that you shouldn't. Because you wouldn't ~~know~~ know how to get out of a well-constructed web any more than a fly.

I doubt whether you love Constance, + therefore whether you ought to tell her that you do. Your sympathy +

your friendliness and your need to show + be shown affection, may, I hazard the guess, have misled you a little. But my counsels are these:-

Do not accept too much from a determined woman, for you have not the worldliness which would sustain you in a "break".

Let me pay for the rent of your car this winter (if that ever becomes an important + unfortunate item) out of my "bonus" money - still intact.

In short, I find my whole counsel is, - don't accept so much that you have to sell yourself to pay it back.

I will take the other matter up with Jim as soon as I reach home. I can't promise anything, but I hope very strongly there will be something.

We written all this without the slightest fatigue, so I reckon tomorrow I shall be being shipped to Danbury.

With my deepest love,

Donald

10 Tenau Place

Sautung, C.M. March 7<sup>th</sup> 1938

Dear George: Your letter to Donald  
has just been read by him, and after  
reading it, he asked me to show  
the Purmas part of it, so he said  
it was my present & that the letter  
must go off to-night. First you  
check if my kind has come from  
the Abramoff's or how much I speak  
to you, so instead of \$60; they  
own for the remainder of the

year which makes it \$90. It seems to  
be the most possible way of getting them to  
pay their way, I would have to  
pay for the fuel for the money.

Two concerning Mr. Merchant:  
I would say that if he would be more  
explicit about the insurance policies,  
especially too, as I would have to be  
informed about such things as  
losses & the results. I would suppose  
that Mr. Crowell was Mr. Merchant's  
insurance agent, as I would not  
that he had noticed no of his  
fill, (Mr. Crowell's name is about



hope & pray will cross through  
all right. He sends much much  
love to you, & I would not mind  
talk to him & keep him quiet because  
he should not write letters see  
over. But he is a blessed soul & I  
think he would be very glad  
to see. Write much love to you  
from George, & hope affectionately  
Betty.

24 March, 1935

MRS. ARTHUR E. TWEECY  
10 TERRACE PLACE  
DANBURY, CONN.

Dear George: - I am seizing the opportunity while the nurse is out of the house to write you a word. If you could know how they have sat on me ever since I got home! Every move I make, they take my pulse, + I actually look back at my days at the Polyclinic as the Austrian Jews must now look back at week before last.

But I must tell you, myself, that my recovery is much slower than it started out to be. I am allowed to get up only two hours a day + still have a trained nurse. So, about your Spring Recess, dear George, I don't know. Helen Rider said she would be glad to have you stay there, but she has gone off to Philadelphia without telling me goodbye, so I haven't had a chance to speak to her again about it. But if you want to come, I'm pretty sure you could do that. Aunt Stella + Uncle Charles are in Florida

10 Apr. '38.

Dear George:—

I realize I'm probably not going to get this over the line, but I can try. Perhaps you will receive it before your departure.

We are expecting you "about the 20<sup>th</sup>" & have plans all made. It will be better than medicine for me to see you. I progress, but am held back by rheumatism — probably my teeth. All the family join me in hoping you will have planned a maximum of your time for us, + I send

Ronald,

— love always.  
you my

2 May '38.

Carissimo: -

I am happy to tell you that I begin to feel ever so much stronger, though I continue of course to go very slow + to spare myself whenever I think of it. I think most of Betty's fears are quite groundless, + if only family stresses + strains could be avoided, I should be quite contented. I can ignore my own family, when I live with them, - that is, they encroach less on my work than the combination of Betty + Helen, when the two of them are under one roof.

Therefore, I refuse to make plans. My chief concern at the moment is my mother's state of health, mental + physical. I do not see how she can survive much longer if she continues to let things wear upon her as much as she does now. If only I could teach her how to rest + relax + stop fretting! I feel that, if I cannot do that, I can at least remain close to her + do as much as possible for her. And she + Father have been so kind

to me, + have helped me so looingly through this illness, - and, furthermore, are so obviously counting upon me to stand by + help make the domestic situation a little more bearable, that I feel I owe them a duty.

Betty would of course be expected to remain with me, but, aside from the fact that she is not contented in this environment she has persuaded herself that she appreciates the existing tension. She will therefore probably go early to Maine.

As for me, I am beginning to work a short while each day. It does not tire me any more to work than it does to write letters. - I have really only one plan: to get to work, + to stay where I can work.

During the time necessary for me to get myself mended, I think it would be utterly foolish for me to attempt to make part of a household with Helen Tufts in it. Much as I like her, I know that the tension she creates would be trying for both Betty + me.

Of course Betty + I should be in a place by ourselves, + not try to live with my parents or with her sister, + as soon as I feel able to make all the necessary arrangements, I shall plan with that object

in view. But I am unwilling to consider living in so remote a region as Maine as long as Mother is so unwell + my presence is a comfort to her. If I could take her along too, that would be different.

The summer I take as a hint for thorough recuperation. I can't see that that object would be attained if Betty + I took a house in Wisconsin, entirely apart from the inevitable cost in money of such a project. And since I can mend at the farm + also since all my apparatus for work is there, ready to hand, I think that is where I should stay. And if Betty cannot fit herself in to the family for this much of the year, then she must do as she will. I am absolutely sympathetic, + sorry that she is not more adaptable, because of course she would be happier if she were. Or perhaps it would be truer to say, if she were less sensitive.

Now I must thank you for your birthday wishes, my dear, + for the book. The book is not new, except its exterior. Betty went off with it to Mrs. Sully's. + hasn't yet brought it back. This not at all sure I'll like it, says it contains a lot of philosophical ideas! But I love you just the same + am grateful for all that you give me. - Je t'embrasse.

Ronald

16 May, 1938.

Dear George:-

I am very glad that you will go to Purdue, though not for my own sake, since it means I shall see less of you. But the appointment is in the nature of a fresh start, — a new environment where you have as yet no social relations whatever, — and so you can in a sense make a new-existence for yourself. I need not say that I hope with fervor that it will be a state of being nearer your heart's desire.

With regard to 48 Gorton Place, you will receive a letter shortly from Father. We talked the matter over yesterday. To me, the only sensible thing to do would seem to be to accept the one offer we have received. The situation is so precarious in Rochester that I do not believe it will right itself much within three years. And the house must carry itself.

So, will you see the Knoxes at once + find out when they will sign a lease for three years. I am ready to authorize the painting of the exterior of the house at once: it has got to be done anyway. But the interior should wait till we have a tenant, otherwise you would have to select all the wall-paper yourself!

I do not want to trouble you at the college year's end with my affairs, + if the job is onerous, just

you turn it right over to Mrs. Merchant on whatever terms she will take it. But if the Knoxes will now take the house, I shall hope to leave things to their judgment + do without an agent.

So I've jotted down some notes which I'll copy here for your guidance: -

1. Find out from Mrs. M. or from Mr. Wm. H. Emerson, (Atty. - 8 Exchange St.) how much per annum he has paid rent for garage. If you talk with him, you might ask him also how his account stands with me. I have no record of it that I can find now after all this mix-up.
2. The Emerson item is important, because the Knoxes can count on it. ~~She~~<sup>Emerson</sup> wants to continue using the garage, + at present I believe they have no car. Probably the best bet would be to reserve half the garage in verbal agreement with Knoxes, + when lease is made out, omit all mention of garage. It would be understood that the Knoxes would have the use of one-half the garage, + if they demurr, the house and garage could be leased to them without qualification, but a fair figure representing the garage-rental would have to be added to their rent. (Or perhaps you have a better idea? If you have, I shall be only too glad to have you use your judgment and act for me as you think best.)

3. Explain to Knoxes you leave Rochester next month. If possible, questions of interior decoration should be settled before then. Otherwise I don't see any way of overseeing what goes on without hiring an agent. And of course the only agent I believe I can trust is Mrs. Merchant.

4. If Knoxes will take house, do not have any more done to interior than they specifically ask for. I have a letter from Mr. K. somewhere, telling their suggestions after having seen the house. Their demands were not extravagant, but they were nothing like an estimate as Mr. Quail's estimate. One thing they wanted that he omits: they wanted the cellar retiled. If I find the letter, I'll send it to you.

5. I think my fatherly for expense for wallpaper should be limited to a reasonable average price, say 50¢ a single roll. If the Knoxes want more expensive paper, they should pay the difference.

Please don't let this matter be a worry to you! If you are too busy to give the necessary time + write the necessary letters, please say so at once, + we'll have Ed remain over to Mrs. Merchant, pronto.

Love to G. from B. + D., especially D.

10 Terrace Place,  
Danbury, Conn.

24 May, 1938

Dear George: -

The general conclusion here, in response to your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>, seems to be that we will stand behind the best terms you can make with the Knoxes. Whatever it costs, we can make shift to pay for re-conditioning the house, but we rely on you to save us all you can.

I wish you could save us the \$49. on the Third Floor. And if the side-room must be done over there, then cannot the hall + stairway be left till another year.

In the side room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, the basic wall-covering is "Sanitas", which is supposed to be permanent. The Parkers covered it with nursery wall-paper, + Mr. Quail gave us an estimate long ago of what it would cost to remove that + repaint the "Sanitas". That sum was paid us by the Parkers before they left, ~~and~~ it was less than \$5. as I recall.

Of course, repainting the woodwork has to be added, but the item of \$20. should be reduced. ...

No interior work is to be begun till the lease is signed. ...

Of course the blinds should be included in the exterior paint job. ...

But in the matter of changing screens from inside to outside, can't we ~~put~~<sup>press on</sup> that? If they're put outside, they have to be painted & they don't last nearly as long because the metal has to take the weather. In all modern houses, the screens are inside, I notice. ...

I will write you about Mr. Emerson after I've had one more go at finding his last check. If it can't be located, he had better stop payment on it & send me another. So many things are packed that it is difficult to find anything.

You do not say whether the K's want the whole garage or one-half. If they want the whole, I should say they ought to pay \$48 a year extra.

But, George, it would be an immense help to us if you would use your judgment + do the best you can for us under the circumstances. As long as the total expense does not exceed \$600., we can take care of it, but it would be far easier if it could be cut to nearer \$500.

In any case I want the exterior of the house painted, + you can start Mr. Quail on that at once, after agreeing about the blinds. I want the roof metal + gutters, etc. painted also, if they need to be. Is that item included? (You might tell Mr. Q. that "of course" that is expected.)

As for Abramow, I wish you would see him about the garage, + then fasten the doors on the inside! — We are thinking of putting the bill in the hands of a professional bill-collector. Of course it doesn't "pay" to be easy-going, + I hate being taken advantage of. But I'm not going to get all het up about the matter. Again, use your judgment, + don't trust the man to tell you the truth. What gets me is this running of automobiles when grocery-bills + rent remain unpaid. Of course, we could attach the auto if we get mad enough. — Incidentally, I wish you would give me the number of Gorton Place where Abramow is now living.

Here are the addresses you wanted: —

Plumber: Du Monde Bros. 443 Monroe Ave. Monroe 1211.

(Night, Sun., Holidays:

Furnace: Betlem Heating Co. 1926 East Ave.

Monroe 2072)

(Mr. Geo. Betlem)

Monroe 4601.

Roofwork: Wilson on Clinton Ave. (no details)

I am sorry that I haven't strength for any more, today, but I am better, though at present, progress seems to be very slow indeed. — Betty leaves tomorrow, I'm sorry to say. But all the "family matters" must wait for another time.

— out à toi —

Donald

Wed July 27

## BIG METEOR FLASHES BY

### Danburians View Sky Traveler Which Creates Comment Over Wide Area.

More than one Danburian witnessed the flight of a brilliant meteor across the skies about 10 o'clock last night and several telephoned the News-Times office this morning, asking information as to whether they saw a burning airplane crashing to earth, or if it was a comet. One woman reported that the meteor, although she did not know what to call it, went right over Liberty street. Others spoke of the brilliance of the sky traveler and those who did not see it missed a sight seldom seen.

An Associated Press dispatch from New York city, has the following description of the meteor:

A brilliant meteor, one of the largest ever observed by Hayden planetarium officials, flashed across the sky last night and vanished over the northeast horizon.

The flaming "fireball," Charles Federer, planetarium lecturer, said, was observed near the pole star about 9 p. m. (E. S. T.) and was visible only two or three seconds. The head seemed about half the size of the moon.

(Charles Federer, mentioned in the dispatch, is a son of Charles Federer, well known artist, of Bethel and Danbury.)

Federer estimated the meteor was traveling at a speed of 10 to 30 miles a second. He said he was uncertain whether it crashed to earth or disappeared into space. It appeared to be about 40 miles above the earth.

"It looked like a roman candle or a rocket with a brilliant fiery exhaust," Federer said.

"The head was a brilliant glowing point, not like a bright star with a trail behind it, but a large mass that seemed fairly close to the earth. It left a long streak of white tinged with blue."

The phenomenon was sighted by residents in New York, New Jersey, and Long Island.

Meteors normally take fire 100 miles above the earth because of the friction of the atmosphere and burn to dust before reaching the ground. Fragments weighing several tons, have been found, however, buried deep in the earth by their tremendous impact.

Saturday, June 11, 1938.

Carusimo :-

I sent you a telegram this afternoon rather than trust to the mails. I want to use the same colors because one coat then suffices, + I think with the white trim + the cream colored plaster, that warm medium-gray that we had makes an attractive exterior. Architecturally, of course, the house is nothing to look at, + therefore it ought to be decked with sobriety. Cleanliness, neatness are the desiderata.

You sound as though you were going through the mill of the Finals with a vengeance, + I only hope that this that I have asked you to do for me proves not to be too much. And then you will have your tonsils attended to! Well, you are laying it on rather thick, it seems to me. I have only one suggestion, which is that, if so be your throat condition after the tonsilectomy prevents you from smoking for several days, you

make the break permanent + stop smoking altogether. — For there's no use talking, we smoked too much. And you might like to try the effect on your health of quitting the habit. Of course I, having stopped of necessity, have now reached the point where I think I should be a fool to begin again. I note that all the physicians, without exception, have said, "If you can refrain from taking up the habit again, by all means do so." But I cannot preen myself on a heroic virtue: I really have not had so much desire to smoke again that I can put it in the category of a real temptation. And how much more I can smell now than last year! A field of clover makes me stop still + sniff with delight, whereas last summer I'd not have been aware of all that perfume. And my food tastes better, + so does my drink. I seem to be much less nervous, + I think you might find that to be true of yourself also.

Father left with Dr. Brown on Thursday for a

trip to the Pacific Coast. I only hope he will enjoy it, but so much of the time has to be spent on trains that I wonder at his going. A change he surely needs, but so many nights aboard a sleeping-car are not conducive to the kind of relaxation I wish he might have. Dr. Brown has to attend some Medical Association convention in 'Frisco, + then they visit some of the national parks, including the one I'd like most to see, - the Yellowstone. They will be back on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I telephoned to Betty yesterday, it being our anniversary, + she sounded very philosophical, as if this were far from being the best of all possible worlds + we must simply put up with it. Her letters make me feel that now she is there, she would rather be here; whereas, when she was here, one might have sworn she would have preferred to be almost anywhere else. She inquired recently how to address you, not realizing you were to remain so long in Rochester.

We wish, - Mother + Annie + I, - that you might have come here during Father's absence, - but whenever you can come, you will be most welcome. Thus far, you have said that you could not come much before July 1<sup>st</sup>, but I should say, then, come as much before July 1<sup>st</sup> as possible.

You will have a room to yourself, this summer, as I have had the second bed removed from the Brown room (which has now turned green - and how!) in order to make place for a work-table + more chairs. And you will find many changes, - all the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor done over, the new bathroom + enclosed porch on the ground floor, + the piano ~~where~~ the big couch was + vice-versa.

We have had a week of peonies, + we seem to be having an unusual year for roses. For I've never seen them look better here nor arrive in greater profusion. It has been a good growing Spring, + now if I can keep "George" ahead of the weeds, I'll be doing well. He has put up the most horrendous scare-crow to frighten off the deer, + thus far the creature seems to have fulfilled its destiny. The shrubs all look well, + so do all but a few trees. We have sprayed as never before, but can't seem to check fungous diseases. The ivy looks worse than ever before, so early in the season.

Dr. Brown said "as much sun as your skin will take without burning", but thus far we've been pretty cautious, because the air has not been warm. But I have sat out a great deal, on the terrace or the lawn, & have taken a new joy in being alive, - since I so nearly went over the edge. I am trying to be very conservative. Tho' Dr. B. assured me I might drive my car, I have not yet done so, & tho' I was given permission to go to the movies a couple of weeks ago, I held off till last night, when John drove us to Newtown to see Robin Hood. I seem to be none the worse for it, today, so we shall probably go frequently. What a beautiful film, photographically speaking, that is!

John & Elisabeth are working out very well, & for once this house is being properly serviced. My friend Alice Smart, Mrs. Byron now, is coming for a little visit next week-end. I wish you might be here too, but you must just come as soon as you can. - I hope the tonsils give no trouble! - Much love from us three. - Donald

511 July 1938

Mon. 4 P.M.

Dear George: - I had Marie speed off some sort of a letter to you from the factory after I'd finished with the doctor (or he with me) early this afternoon. Now Marguerite has come up to go bathing with the youngsters, + I will hasten to send this additional screed back to town with them.

You have done enough about my house + I don't want you to take any more time + energy off for that when you have your own packing to accomplish in the midst of such hot weather. So I will write Mr. Porter direct about his clothes-line + the other things. Let me know as soon as possible what I owe you, + I will check all bills with your report before paying them.

I am tremendously grateful to you for your great help. It has been invaluable to have ~~it~~ <sup>all this</sup> done for me & done so well. Thank you, my dear, from my mending heart!

The news about Michigan State is very pleasing to me. I think both you & I can trust our first impressions of the genius of a place. I can see Purdue & that monotonous country as you describe it, & I think you are wise to pass it up. They say a truly philosophical temperament is not attached to anything so unimportant as a country-side, but you & I are differently & not so sagely constituted.

My love to you. - to be continued later.

Donald

(and always)

15 June 1937

Wed. Morn.

Carissimo: I am a little anxious about you, since tonsil operations are not always innocuous. I shall be glad to hear from you that you are quite all right.

I approve entirely of your having advertised the house during the time it was to have its face lifted, & hope the ad. was so compellingly worded that it brought immediate results.

I begin to feel so much better that at times I forget there is anything the matter with me. I start to go upstairs at a normal rate, or I lift a log of wood to put it on the fire. Thus far I've remembered pretty well, & of course there are times when I don't feel top-top. But I'm willing enough to do less than I want to do. We now started driving the car. Dr. Brown said he didn't see any reason why I shouldn't, & he put no limitations on me whatsoever.

Charles has just arrived with a new Olson "two-tone taupe" rug for the Green Room, so I must put an end to this communication. The rug looks fine + Mother is very much pleased with it.

We heard from Father yesterday via Air Mail from Fisco. He had a comfortable trip out + is apparently enjoying himself, - for which I am very thankful.

Louise is married tomorrow in Manchester to another George, whose surname is Schreiber. She didn't want any of us at the wedding. We shall telegraph to wish her happiness.

John + Elisabeth are proving most satisfactory. The only problem is that Annie hardly knows what to do with herself. We all send you love.

Donald

Wiscasset, Maine  
June 17<sup>th</sup> 1938

George, my dear, Why did such a  
thing as this have to befall you?!  
I would write you that you had  
to go to the hospital to have your  
nails taken out, and I am  
so, so sorry you poor dear! How  
they must have bothered you  
for you to come to the point of  
getting rid of them! I hope you  
All my heart, Ann George,

that all has gone well and that  
you are recovering. It is no joy in living  
my's tonsils removed in spite of what  
I would say to the contrary and I  
assure you that I don't feel easy  
about you until I know you are  
well out of the woods. So, if  
possible, just send me a postcard  
telling me how you are. (Don't miss a  
letter) I know you can't stand through  
in that) so I won't worry about  
you. If your mails were not bad  
I hope they may come from post office.

the cause of your feeling so miserable on  
you did all this, and now that the  
of feeling things were out, you will be much  
better. How can you? No hope so!! So you  
ask me George, you could get up to see  
Dad for a visit with Donald? It would  
cheer him no end, to have you home, and  
I think the change, the quiet and the delicious  
fresh air would benefit you a lot.  
So try to get up there, if possible, just  
you, I wish you could go now while Mr  
Tomedy is away, or I think it would be quieter.  
I mean by that, no radio constantly going  
things like that. I wish, too, that you could  
get up soon for a little while! You know  
you are a brave a person in a way and  
so if you could manage it, I think and  
feel that it would be only too happy to  
see you. I wish that I could see you at all,  
as you were to be together in September  
with you, and I shall stay here until  
the end of September, you will be per-  
haps in from your trip. Helen & the kids and  
I will be in from your trip, and I wish you may  
come, but if it is not you, I wish you Betty.

Sunday, June 19, 1938.

Dear George:- you will have heard from Mrs. Merchant about the Porters + that the house is, as the British say, by way of being rented. I hope this cheered you upon your emerging from the hospital. I had your postcard + rejoiced that all went well even if you did have an ether jag. I'd like to have been there: I'll bet it was good!

Now as to the Porters + the house: the rental application was mailed back to Mrs. Merchant this morning from Danbury with my signature, meaning that I agree to whatever arrangements the Porters make with you about interior decoration. That will involve your going over the house again, I am afraid. I have only one caution: where there is paint, new paint should be of as near the same color as possible. I am thinking especially of the kitchen + pantries + of the 3d floor stair + hall. I think it might be a shade lighter, but not so much as to demand 2 coats. One coat of paint over paint is all a landlord ought to pay for at a sacrifice rental of \$50. a month.

With so large a family, I suppose the 3d floor is indispensable. This means that that gas-steam radiator ought to be tested + put back in its original position in the front attic room. Otherwise that room is not habitable except as a sleeping-room. If they can so use it + keep the S.E. room as a dressing-room, they need not instal the radiator ~~there~~ <sup>on that floor</sup>, + I should advise putting it in the kitchen instead. There it would be used but rarely, but when the weather is 0° F. it would be appreciated.

I'll write again, tomorrow. All send love. Donald

21 June, 1935.

Mon cher:-

I don't think I have responded as yet to your explanation with regard to the blinds at 48. I really meant what I wrote originally with regard to your discretion. My personal predilection would be to put the blinds on, because their dark tone really helps in the effect. House looks too pale without them. Certainly I should have retained those that were on, especially on the south side. But if the Porters don't want 'em, it's O.K. by me.

Do you not think things can be arranged so that I need not employ an agent? If you feel that Mr. Porter is a proper tenant (I shall be much interested to have your impression of him) could he not be trusted to arrange

to correspond with me regarding all necessary future repairs to the house?

As a matter of fact, if we spend anything like \$600. to have the place put in condition, that is already a year's rent. I feel that nothing but emergency repairs can be made during the 1<sup>st</sup> year. So I wish in some way you could make Mr. P. realize that what he wants done of a "permanent" nature he should ask for now, - without actually urging him to ask as much as possible! And if you can cut down on that \$600., so much the better.

This is all predicated on the supposition that the Forters do take HS.

Love to you from us three. Donald

Friday, June 24, 1938.

Carissimo: -

It is today you start for Lafayette, + I hope the weather doesn't do you in before you reach there.

I am ready for bed, but there is a dog down at Putnam Lake who has decided to bark in some sort of canine endurance contest. I know from experience there's no use my going between the sheets till he has a change of doctrine.

The paper is simply all there is. There may be something more suitable downstairs, but having come up, I can't go back, + all the rest of the household are likewise disposed of. However, this looks legible thus far, + if I write on but one side....

My room smells a little too vividly of the upholstery department of a furniture-store, thanks to the two-tone-taupe creation of the Olson Rug Co. This former Brown Room has become so verdantly green that you'd scarcely recognize it. I call it the Hall of the Troll King. All I need is a pair of green pyjamas + a tail to simulate the monarch himself. The Cézanne is the only picture I have yet found that I can bear to hang, except one or two photographs in black + white. If you don't know what to do with those engravings, they would fit in well enough. I expect to relinquish the Cézanne the moment you want it back, but you cannot imagine how much I have come to love it. It passes the supreme test: it can be fixed with.

[No. 1 dog has roused up a rival. I can see that this letter is going to be a long + leisurely affair.]

The days pass all too quickly. I read a great deal, stroll about from the barn to the vegetable garden, but have not yet gone down the hill to the studio, — I write many letters, though most are brief. — and practically every evening we go for a drive directly after supper, with me driving as often as not, tho John has gone along every time but once. Driving is a great solace, + extends my "motility" to quite bearable proportions.

[A yellow Breasted Chat has allied himself with the dogs. I can hear Mother growning in her bed.]

The thing that is hardest + most wearisome for me now is to be obliged to talk. Why this should be so, I don't know. Am I so energetic a talker? Certainly I am more of a talker than I had realized. People come to call, + I am all in, in no time at all, from the effort to be sociable. I then become self-conscious, aware of my talkativeness. Then I say to myself, 'Whoa! - why not let someone else make an observation or express an opinion?' Have I tended to usurp conversation, George? Have I been one of those terrible prattling bores? I don't seem to get this way with the family, + that means I shall not write you, whenever I have the luck to see you again.

[The dogs seem to be letting up a bit. Annie is "vibrating" on the other side of her shut door. Maybe, since I'm really tired, I'd better try whether I can manage to sleep.]

Sunday. — I did! And yesterday I put in the biggest day's work yet, with John arriving at nine + me going out to supervise him all the morning. I even dragged the hose around a bit just to try what a little work felt like. "We" got two rows of cosmos, larkspur, + asters weeded (George being useless in the garden after the haying begins); — "we" watered the cut-leaf maples + pines that had been

transplanted this Spring, - likewise the seedling pinks, zinnias, marigolds, + alyssum in the sunken garden, - and finally "we" transplanted a couple of dozen snapdragons + several nice Shasta Daisies I found at a roadside stand, + did a little staking of delphiniums to boot.

Just to be on the safe side, I stretched my siesta to 2 hours from the usual 1, + then the Berlys, Mrs. de Villafranca, + Chester Over came + had supper with us. I made them a nice rum cocktail, + we had Benedictine after a meal of broiled chicken + strawberry shortcake. (Elisabeth is proving a good cook, - a little too Germanic in spots, but we'll do something about that.)

I let my guests do most of the talking, + at 9 we turned on the N. B. C. Orchestra under Mr. Steinberg of Palestine. (Nothing remarkable about him!) At the intermission, - after the Mozart Jupiter, - I turned the radio off, + nobody asked for the rest of the concert. Young Ives is not especially interested in music, but he is an interesting person + is becoming an individual in his own right in this country where even human beings seem stamped with the stigmata of mass-production. We had, all things considered, a very pleasant evening, + I was not especially fatigued.

The Editor-in-chief of the Senior year-  
at Hamilton  
book<sub>1</sub> sent me a copy of that publication,

from which I learn much. The personal comments on my late students are often instructive. For example: "\_\_\_\_\_ got fooled in the Music course like all the rest of the Seniors looking for a rest." That is what I take to be a back-handed tribute.

There was also a brief word about the concert series which showed that the students reacted favorably to my effort (kept a very dark secret) to change the tone of the series from high-brow to something with more general appeal. The previous year, the community had had nothing but chamber-music, + there was a marked falling-off in membership + student attendance (even the student members didn't attend, so I was told). I have run

concerts long enough now to realize that the general public wants a little glamor + much variety. Chamber-music is too serious for a men's college if unrelieved by something lighter. But since the budget was so small, (about \$500. for at least 3 events), it was a happy thought to apply to the Curtis Institute + find them all primed to do just what we wanted done.

Monday morning.

It is 'pouring with rain', as dear Ralph Eaton used to say, à l'Anglaise. Two days of tempestuous weather, - rather unusual for the last week of June. Everything is well soaked, but fortunately all the best hay was cut + in the barn.

Mr. + Mrs. Jar wrote, wanting to stop here on their way to a vacation-spot. Unfortunately they cannot come before Dad gets back from his trip, else they could have his room for overnight at least. They are hard put to decide where to spend the summer, + it is a problem in America. I should think they might go to Wiscasset. With Betty + Helen there, they'd be sure of a stimulating summer.

I am very glad that you will be a few days in Rochester on your way back East. I intend to write to Mr. Porter about July 1 to see if he + I can't manage from that date on, without more ado. If he is a teacher, I expect him to be reasonable. And I wish you would make a point of reminding him, in the most

tactful way you can, that I cannot afford to make any further repairs or go to any further expense with the house unless there is an accident. I wish he would regard the house as his own for the time being, - I hope he is that type, - + will take care of the lawn + the shrubbery. By the way, will you ask Grand about the wrostaria. If ~~it~~ is causing any rotting of the wood, it should be taken down. Now, unless the hot-water boiler springs a leak, or lightning strikes the roof, there ought to be a cessation of repair-bills for a season.

I cannot sufficiently thank you for looking after the place for me. I appreciate what you have done, + I am grateful.

I hope fervently that you found things at Purdue and in Lafayette to your liking. I am going to miss you pretty badly, I fear, but I realize that it is going to be good for you to have so complete a change of *mise-en-scène*.

You have said so little about your plans for the summer that I have suspected you of taking things as they came, which is quite sensible. Only I want you to know that Mother + Anne are eager to have you come here whenever you wish, + that you will find me so much stronger that you won't have to handle me as though I'd break! And, of course, I'm waiting to see you + I love you. — your Donald

Wiscasset Maine  
July 30th 1938

George Van, I have just heard from  
Donald of the important step you are  
going to take, & thought I would  
I know it was heading, I think perhaps  
of George's intelligence? I had no  
idea that it would be quite to you.  
I think you know that George has  
very good of you. I am, how shall say  
that you are to do, and thinking  
this you must realize that what he tells  
you means a great deal to you.  
I had the good instance will be

happy together, that you like to gather will  
be rich in your silent world of the deep  
and things of life to my largest trust!  
To be sure I love your heart and mind  
in a step like that, what matters, and we  
understand that you are quite sure that  
the step is right for you and in nature  
why then it is! May it prove to be your gain  
to my loving wish for you! My blessing on you  
longer than my love to you always! I have  
had to address of instances in New York that  
I had, but if you will send it to come I'd  
like to write to her. I did so hope I was  
going to catch a glimpse of you this summer  
but now it looks as if I shall have to wait  
for that pleasure. This is not a note, but  
I want you to get it by your love I am sure,  
it will go out in the afternoon's mail.  
My love to my dear Donald & to Mrs. Jane Tracy,  
& with my love again, most affectionately  
Helen, Elizabeth, Harry and your true love  
& very good wish.

Thurs., 4 Aug., '38.

I had meant to tell you, before you departed, how deeply I appreciated your remaining for the "full week + a little over". I am afraid I was selfish, + that it is due to my insistence that Eva is robbed of some of her possible time with you. But my apologies will have to be silent ones, since I can't regret that you stayed.

I see no possibility of writing to you again before you leave Cossackie. So I think of you as making a valiant effort to get all straight + right with your father + mother, + I'm sure you will feel much better when that has been done.

We had a hot + sultry night after you left, + when John awakened me this morning the world was shrouded in fog which is only just now "burning off". As soon as it actually does so, I shall descend to the garden for my sunbath. John has taken the cigarettes away, + your chair will go down to the studio as soon as those ants have been attended to.

Your place in all our hearts is very special, + we miss you + speak of you. Even Father said, as I went up to bed, "What are you going to do now without your helpmate", - + it will be

a few days before the family can re-form its ensemble.  
As soon as we can, however, briefly, + explain our peculiarities to Constance + bring her to when the time is right. We shall be glad to see you on the wing, and I only regret I am not in a house of my own + could ask you to perch.  
I have worked a little on the letters this morning + am grateful for your help with them.  
My love + blessings to you. —

Donald

Coxsackie, New York.  
August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1938.

Dear Betty,

I was very happy to receive your letter of good wishes and love. I know, dear Betty, how very fond of me you are, and in taking so important a step as I am about to take it reassures me to have your blessing, born of such fondness. I sincerely believe that this is a right step and I earnestly hope that its fruits will be those you have so lovingly wished me.

his limitations of strength and is resuscitated to them - I feel confident he will not over-do, and that in another year he will almost have regained his former strength.

It was sweet of you to say that you had hoped to get a glimpse of me this summer - I have hoped, and still hope, to get a glimpse of you. It is quite possible that Cautaine & I shall spend a part of the next few weeks in New Hampshire, and if we do I shall make every effort to get over to Miscount to see all of you.

I'm sure that Cautaine would be very much pleased to have a word from you. Her address is 4312-47th Street, Long Island City, N.Y. She will be there through the morning of Tuesday August 9th.

I returned from Ball's Pond last evening, after a delightful week there. It was so good to have Donald again more or less like himself. He looks very well, I think, and seems quite his former self in spirit. But he must, of course, be careful of over-exertion - and I am reassured, now that I have seen him, that he realizes

I apologize for not answering  
your letter of the end of June - I  
received it after my return from  
the Middle West at a very busy  
time for me. I called the Vasee  
as you wished, and when they  
said they had written you the  
information you had asked me  
to get I postponed writing you.

And I apologize for the terrible  
appearance of this letter! It is the  
weather - everything is soaked  
through - I have never seen such  
weather.

With love to Helen, Elizabeth  
& Henry and much love for you,  
Affectionately  
Graye.

Catskill, N. Y.  
August 4, 1938

Dear Donald,

I want you to have just a word from me, such as I am. The past ten days are a beautiful memory - as different as they were physically from other periods, they were even fuller in that understanding which is between us. I am so grateful to you for your spiritual labors with me - I'm pretty difficult at times, am I not - that is, to get sense into and out of!

Wolly, aside from my other joys to

fairly well and says she has im-  
proved much in the week she has  
been here. She sends you her love  
and she thanks for your wishes  
for her.

I shall be thinking of you next  
Tuesday and loving you. And I  
shall be glad to have word from  
you if you wish to send any. The  
ceremony will be at Miss Redden  
Smith's, 557 East Shore Road,  
Great Neck.

Again many thanks for so joyous  
a week and with much very fond  
love,

George.

being with you, I'm glad I  
could be with you long enough  
to see how you really are physically.  
And I am reassured that you are  
getting well and that you are  
determined to be as careful as  
you must be in order to do so.  
It is certain you have to guard  
against, and I sincerely hope you  
will be able to guard against it -  
that you won't have any so up-  
setting experience as last week's.

I reached here shortly after ten  
last evening after an uneventful  
a smooth drive. I found everyone  
in bed trying to recuperate from  
yesterday's heat - but I think  
they had better have sat up for  
it cooled off outside. Eva seems

Sunday

8 Aug 1938

Postmark

Dear George: -

Telegrams have to pass through too many hands. I'd rather have this message reach you on this day in my own handwriting.

You know how I love you in my heart, + how profoundly I hope + trust + pray that Constance + you will meet each other's greatest needs.

You + I have said to each other all the necessary things, and it was a great, a blessed comfort to have you here so brief a time before your marriage.

To Constance you must give my uttermost goodwill. I shall think of you on Tuesday, + bless you both. -

Donald

19 Aug., 1938.

Very happy to hear all's well with you.  
Can't write a major communication now,  
— unfortunately your letter comes at a time  
when my energies are bespoken. But glad  
you did get married on the 9<sup>th</sup> (you see,  
I didn't know) + that the mountaineering  
is so great a satisfaction.

Gorgeous day here, — think of you  
faring north to White Mts. + rejoice you  
have so brilliant a day to fare in. Have had  
two sun baths + driven Mother thru the  
Squantz Pond Park. No cardinal-flowers,  
but saw one elsewhere yestere'en.

Please reassure as to the family telegram:  
did you receive it? Amie perturbed for fear  
you didn't. She + Mother send their love +  
their best wishes to you both. Raise both to n<sup>th</sup> power  
for Donald

Wiscasset Maine  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1938

Dear George:-

Very day now for the first  
week I have been looking for a  
little word from you, & this morning  
I was reminded. We shall be  
delighted to see you & Melvina on Friday,  
& you both for Jay's sake to walk  
out to dinner with you. I assure  
you that my cousin Elizabeth has re-  
sisted it, because, being a woman

like to go home, she doesn't get  
up much before 6-30, so she  
of necessity from consideration. She said  
right now, "that's just the way."  
He's a man so thoughtful of others.  
I won't had any more in my house  
so thoughtful of myself as he.  
And you don't have to tell him to do  
things. He sees what is to be done  
ahead & does it. That from Elizabeth  
Grove is great praise. No more than  
you & Estelle can have a room  
here at Mrs. Gross - it's right  
across the street where you were

once before - & you can leave from breakfast  
here. I was a room with her, too. I  
had it because I've been here, admitted  
didn't have room for one. I have my breakfast  
with her, too. Was Elizabeth's name in  
Cynthia's to stay with her in Leuchem's Sat-  
urday (you see she doesn't have to go to the  
school until afternoon) she says she will  
be just happy if you will, so please count on  
that. You sound as if you had a much  
ful trip so you must tell us all about it.  
I can't write to write at length as I  
must get into the afternoon mail to-day if  
you are to get it before you leave Cape.  
With much love to you & Malvina and  
Auntie & Miss, great pleasure in seeing you both  
& having you with us in a few hours,  
I am always most affectionately  
H Betty.

Henry sends you love & to Elizabeth  
& Henry.

Wed., 24 Aug., '38.

It is easier for me to sit back in my armchair + hold a notebook on my knee than it is to square up to a desk, but I don't suppose it greatly matters to you what manner of paper I use. You yourself have always gone in for extremely proper writing-paper. Well, censure me for slackness if you must.

The reason I am mindful of your epistolary habits is that today I have discovered a cache of your letters, including the very first ones, dating back to the summer of 1925. I have read them all, + it was a salutary experience. I shall refrain from telling you all that I learned, but I am impressed with the pressure that most of your letters evince, - the constant evidence of strain + struggle. What a deal of studying you have had to do, - how much of your intellectual life has been the following of a required, a superimposed program, how little you have been able either to follow your own bent or to loafe when you wanted to! That there is any spontaneity left in you whatever is a simple miracle. I am so glad you have nothing left to work for, - that there is nothing higher in the academic world than the Ph. D. degree! For if there were, I am sure you would still be plodding the treadmill, taking examinations, + writing reports + theses.

I think it sounds like a fairly unhappy life, too full of tasks, too empty of stimulating human contacts. It was the more so, I realize, because you had to make good. With your sense of duty, having called on your father to do for you what he had to make sacrifices for, in order to respond to your need, you could not let him down. Well, you held your nose to the grindstone, + you did it all, - A.B. summa cum laude + the rest of the record. It is all there in these letters. But what is missing is any evidence whatever that this scholastic education was in any sense a rich + rewarding life. I seem to detect a faint enthusiasm for Hocking's course in Philosophy + for your course in English History. There is none for science, + you hadn't yet decided that Mathematics was the body you would elect to clasp to your bosom, - + then wish you hadn't.

It is also clear that your bent was toward the social sciences, certainly not toward an abstract science, be its uses never so practical in a Machine Age. Had I reread these letters at the time you were being persuaded to wed Math for better or worse, + had you asked my counsel, - (which you seldom did, + never in a crisis,) - I think I could have read the evidence correctly. As a matter of personal interest, I should like to know if you were any happier at Syracuse + Rochester than at Harvard? When music

was your subject, do you remember whether life seemed brighter + more full of satisfaction?

At any rate, in all these earlier letters (the last are from 1929) there is not one that has the ring of spiritual well-being that is in your letter of August 16, 1938. Nor do I remember any word from you in absence when you seemed as happy as you do in the first news from you after your marriage to Constance. At last you seem to be doing what you want to do, with someone who heightens all your "values", + the change in tone from your usual somewhat muffled + muted voice is clear to me, + almost startling. And I am deeply glad of it.

If you have had the weather we have had, you have had gorgeous days. I have thought of you so often that it was practically a continuous process, + I have hoped that New Hampshire was just as clear of sky + bright of sun as Connecticut. But you are notorious for your thick as to weather. Whenever you are here, it stops raining, - + what magnificent days we had for Candlewood + Borden! Alas that these are our two sole strenuous expeditions, for it will be many days before I can plan another.

The reason I could not write you last week was that my strength was no more than equal to the things that had to be done, - tho of course I would not let you lack a brief message. And then, I have been much worried about my mother. She is nervously very unwell + we never know what she may take amiss, what will upset her. While you were here, you were a good influence, - but you must have seen how bad she looks. I had a very important letter to write to Betty, because I do not want her to go to France without me, - + I urged her to hurry back here + talk over the possible plans + contingencies. She says she will come, tho she doesn't say just when, + she will undoubtedly be here when you come later, - at least, I hope it isn't doubtful.

I want you to explain to Constance what the situation is, + to tell her how much I regret that I am not in my own house, so that I might invite you both to stay with us + make us a real visit. But I am concerned that you shall come for as much of a day as possible, + I should be much pleased if you could stop overnight nearby. If the Biggess are not at home, you could sleep there. And then we'd have time to talk of the future. If you try to palm off a little rush-in-and-rush-out flag-station stop on us, it won't do at all. Please try to be like Brier Rabbit when he went visitin', - come befo' breakfast + stay till arter supper - + then some. Because it looks as tho I should go abroad as soon as I'm well enough, + there would be

no other likely chance of a visit with you. I most certainly wouldn't ask Constance to spare me a day, - to spare you to me, I mean, - when your time together is already so short till you go to Michigan.

If you had any time, - or shall have had, - to speak with Betty about our plans when you visited Wiscasset, you will perhaps have learned that she has a nice big tag with Concarneau printed upon it ready to fasten round my neck. There is more to that than you will hear. In a sense, I don't care where we are as long as I don't have to worry about a household + can work at my own job. And while I am concerned about my mother + don't like to go so far away from her when she is in so miserable a state, I can't let that consideration weigh too much upon me now. It might be a good plan to get well first, myself, before I try to be a prop to someone else.

One of the things I'd like to have plenty of time for is a discussion of George's Acre. I have given Father the idea + he is quite willing in theory. When it comes to an exact location, perhaps you yourself would wish to take all the practical factors into consideration, - into reconsideration, + most certainly you would want to consult Constance. So I hope you can reach here on a certain day + leave on the day following, + we'll arrange your lodgings when we know the certain day. If you can do so, let me know at once, as it may be expedient. Telegraph if it's imminent. The Western Union will 'phone.

(Because) Berrian called on the 'phone from his parents' home in Norwalk on the arrival of the Normandie last week, + I have had a letter from him from Clinton to say that he is coming down to see me as soon as he can manage it. They found everything all right about the house, - at least, he is good enough to say so. Margaret is almost well again, + they are much relieved. But I don't feel up to dealing with Berrian + with you on the same day. I'd much rather have my joys strung out a bit. Of course, if it has to happen, we'll call out the reserves.

The Vases spoke in July of calling in again on their way back to Rochester, but in Sanders' last letter he says nothing about it though mentioning that they expect to leave York Harbor on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Therefore I suspect I'll not be seeing them.

Aug. 26 - Friday. I have kept this letter till I should have an address to send it to, + hoping to add to it some of the many things I have to say. But it must go now to the North Woodstock cabins. I think of you as in Wiscasset this evening + wish I might be there. - My love to you both.  
Donald

Saturday, Sept. 3, '38.

Mon cher: -

A letter has just arrived from Berrian, + he plans to come here on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> + leave on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Under that circumstance, it would make it a little easier for me perhaps if you + Constance should come up for "Wednesday - Thursday", especially as the Biggses will not be home till Friday + you can sleep there. I should prefer to have you at the earlier date for the additional reason that the Biggses will be all over the place on Sunday, + while it might be gayer, it would hardly be conducive to a satisfactory "visit".

If for any reason Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> should turn out to be the only possible date, of course you must come then. But if you depart on Thursday, that gives me a breathing-spell before Berrian comes, whereas if he departs on the 11<sup>th</sup> + you arrive the same day, with my sister's large family also on the tapis, I am doubtful of being equal to it.

Betty wrote of your visit + of how you looked + seemed as to health + spirits, - and I wish you had thought to be similarly communicative\*. Perhaps you would have been had the report been definitely favorable, - as it is, your silence increases an anxiety which was already grave enough. I am waiting patiently for whatever it is you have to write or to say, + leaving it to you to choose the time for saying it if you find no time to write.

\* about her.

I'm sorry you won't be here for your birthday, but realize that the persons who gave you birth have a better claim to your presence on that day. I'll drink your health in absentia.

Betty has put off sailing at the date originally reserved, so that I may be better able to go with her. Under the circumstances, she will also put off returning to Danbury. But we have been invited to the Chamber Music Festival in Pittsfield, Sept. 21 to 23, + we asked her to meet me there on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

I hope the math. meetings will put you in contact with someone who can offer you a position nearer New England + New York. I shall be wishfully thinking to that end.

It will be a boon to see you, + Constance with you.

To both of you, my love. -

Donald

Friday Morning

[9 Sept 1938?]

Here, mon cher, are my greetings for your birthday, written early to take advantage of the lull before the advent of Berrian. May you have a happy day! I earnestly wish that everything about your visit to your old home will be such that you + Constance may both look back upon it + be glad that you went together at this time.

My gift to you, about which I spoke yesterday morning, will be sent on to 247 Delta St., E. Lansing, + if that is not the right number or name, please correct it speedily + smile at the unreliability of my memory.

Will you let me know when you shall have written to Raymond? I want to answer his letter, but I'd rather you were the

first to inform him of your marriage.

I should like to go to Rockport, but I am not comfortable in Hilda's orbit. I'd love to disappear into a quarry with Raymond + not emerge till we had settled the probable fate of the five-and-a-half continents.

Of other matters I will write you as soon as I may, but now I must get out into this glorious morning sun. I am glad that Berrian has so splendid a day for his trip down by train + bus from Utica.

I am grateful that you + Constance came + gave me some twenty-five hours of this precious six weeks, + that we were able to make a preliminary skirmish in behalf of George's Acre. As soon as you have the time, will you not write to my father about that? (A typed letter, to 23 E. Franklin St. You know he has expressed to me his willingness to cooperate, so that you may say whatever you feel like saying.)

I shall be thinking of you with special intimacy on Tuesday, + loving + blessing you from a full heart, as I do every day.

Will you please give my affectionate good wishes to your father + mother, + to Eva if she shall have returned, my love to Constance, + special, multiple love to the boy who's having a birthday. —

Ronald



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Geo. B. Van Schaack,  
431~~2~~ - 47<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Long Island City, N. Y.

9/13/38.

*Artemisia lactiflora* seems definitely not to be "a golden-rod", as you hazarded.

In Mattheuz it is listed as a composite, but not with *solidago*. And there are 85 species of that, but artemisia is something else. Common names: "Wormwood", "Old Man", "Southern Wood", "Old Woman", - species names: abrotanum, abanthum, dracunculus, frigida, lactiflora, pontica, stellariana, etc. If you had seen the leaf plainly, I don't think you'd have thought it a species of *solidago*.

Ⓐ..

Sept. 13, 1938.

I must begin today a letter to greet you soon after your arrival in East Lansing, because I have much to say and I want to say it at my leisure. There is no urgency about this letter. You had better wait to read it till you are very comfortable and unhurried. What I seem to need more than anything else just now is the opportunity to feel in touch with you, + of course I give myself that opportunity when I write to you, — writing a letter to a beloved person being to me a form of release + self-expression. If the bulk of this missive daunts you, you need feel no compulsion to compete. It is not of comparative importance that I hear from you with like fluency. You will be busy, + there are others with prior claims to your time + energy which I cheerfully acknowledge.

I have changed my mind about our correspondence. I do not want my letters read to any second person as a matter of course.

When the mood takes me, + when things occur that I want to share with you, I want to be able to feel that they can be shared with you alone, because that feeling is profoundly important to me. I want our talk on paper to be as nearly as possible what it is when you + I sit together on a hill-top in Connecticut or in a hotel bedroom in New York + no one is by. This does not mean that you are never to share my letters, or parts of them, as you may choose, but simply - as I have just said, - I'd rather you didn't do so as a matter of course. Essentially, the thing that links us cannot be shared, great as may be our goodwill toward our wives.

Should you achieve a comparable degree of sympathy with Constance, - and I hope indeed you may, - that relationship could not include me, nor can ours include her. And what I am most intimately to Betty cannot include you.

So you can imagine with what deep satisfaction I perceived, last Thursday, that you + I think + feel alike about this. Perhaps, on second thought, we cannot extend this intimacy to our letters, - this feeling of mutuality. - or it would

be hazardous to attempt to do so in the face of the curiosity of women. For certainly if Constance wants to know what is in my letters half as expectantly as Betty demands to know what is in yours, we shall both have to wear manacles.

I am glad, therefore, since we must be so sundered this year, I at least may be free + unfettered when I write to you. And if you desire the same freedom, I can always provide you with a special address. I do not wish to be put in the position of concealing anything from anybody, + yet I am jealous for our mutual understanding + would fight to keep it inviolable. I would rather report on your letters than read them aloud, + rather you did the same with mine. Let's try to do that + see what success we have. Husbands + wives ought not to think that being married gives them rights they would never dream of conceding to their dearest friends. I never ask to hear Betty's letters,

perfectly familiar face. It took me an hour to discover his name, - Samuel Webster, one of the officers of the Town Hall Club.

Heleen wants to have us all club together + buy a farm with outbuildings transformable into summer lodgings. Certainly that ridge is attractive, up above the Horsatic, but there ain't no ole summum hole. And there'd be sure to be "outs" that would not be discovered till one was in residence. We have our trials here, but, take it all in all, the farm is good enough to stick to as long as we can afford to keep it. At this time of year, with cool weather to deter summerers, it's at its old best, as tranquil + pleasant as any place in the world.

I've been thinking of you constantly all day. You are today the age of myself when you first came here. But you are, at 35, a decidedly better fellow than I was. You see, I had +

tho I may inquire, "What does Helen say?" to show that I'm interested.

It is still your birthday. It dawned with rain + mist, but the old Van Schaack luck held, + a patch of blue as large as a Dutchman's breeches about eleven o'clock had become a whole blue sky by noon. I hadn't dressed, + so was able to make the transition to the garden + a state of complete nudity without delay. And the sun struck home. All summer long I have not "transpired" more abundantly.

So beautiful an afternoon, Mother + I invited Helen + Aunt Stella, + we went north hunting new roads. We found two leading in from Sherman toward Candlewood, + tried each in turn. One led through lovely woods to the north shore of the Sherman arm, just in sight of the yellow house where we beached the canoe the second night

of our historic trip, + went swimming naked. All cabins seemed deserted, + there were no boats visible on all of the lake we could see. It is much wilder at that end than anywhere else, + I think we might have swum naked this afternoon had you + I been there alone. The view is lovely, + I must take you there one day.

The other road gave us a wide + charming new westward, but went up a steep hill to a farmhouse + became impracticable for the Packard from there on.

So we returned to the main road + mounted the hill, driving past our sand-which station, + over the crest, + then struck north on a dirt road which led us past old farmhouses that Helen went daft about. En route we passed a tea-party before one of the houses, + a man came out of the group + ran past our car, - a man with a

still to learn from you all the precious things which you have taught me in these thirteen elapsed years!

Yes, my dear, I know the process has been mutual, to some extent. But you have given me more than I feel I can ever have repaid or can yet repay. I am keenly, joyously conscious of how blest I am in your friendship. —

Du meine Seele, Du mein Herz,

Du meine Wonne, o Du mein Schmerz!

— yes, — all of that, even the last, & perhaps that may even prove the highest blessing, in that I'm sure I needed to be deeply hurt, & I could bear it from you better than from anyone else.

(If anyone listening, save only you, had understood what I was saying with that song of Schumann's last Thursday!!!)

have are of psychopathic or "nervous" origin. At any rate, he wants me to forget all the cautionary instructions I had previously received, & he comes near to giving me carte blanche as to what I may do. The main thing is that there is no clinical evidence whatsoever that my heart is weak, - and therefore he directs me to resume my normal life. He actually said "There is no reason why you should not go swimming or even play tennis, - doubles at least, - at the end of another month." Now this may have been an exaggeration, with the purpose of dispelling my neurosis & to set me going. - But Dr. Brown, who is usually conservative, made no comment whatever after we had emerged from Dr. Marvin's office. Perhaps he may telephone tomorrow to tell me to use discretion, but I have already come up the stairs without halting on every step, & felt nothing amiss.

Sept. 14. — To New Haven this afternoon in company with Mother + Dr. Brown. Both Mother + I were to consult Dr. Marwn, the heart specialist.

He most certainly gave each of us a good going-over, + decided there were no bad symptoms about either of us.

He thinks I am very fit indeed, that there is no indication of any condition which should prevent an immediate resumption of bodily activity, — by degrees + in moderation, of course, — but he says there is no reason why I should not walk upstairs at a normal pace + did not even suggest I stop to rest midway. As long as I avoid exercise which could be called strenuous, or, at least, <sup>as long as I</sup> work in- to it by degrees, there is nothing that he forbids. He says I have been too cautious,

+ he blames Dr. Wolk + Dr. Van Ess for putting fear into me (tho he doesn't know their names). He says that if I had been economically dependent on a job, I should have been able to resume it two months ago!!!

Now, you know the state I was in when you came in July, + the state I was in last week Wednesday when you arrived with Constance. I did not exactly describe those occasions to him, because Dr. Brown + Mother were both present. But later, when we were in the comparative privacy of his inner office, I said that I thought my bad days had been due solely to emotional disturbance, + he said "I agree absolutely." He insisted that there is no condition referable to the heart which could so upset me. I gathered that he is of the opinion that such symptoms + pains as I sometimes

Let me add that you are not to worry or to blame yourself unduly for those "bad days". I should have had them anyway, even if I had been, + had thought myself, perfectly well. They were inevitable. You might have mitigated the strain if only you had "taken me with you" from the moment you realized how bad I was going to feel. ~~As it was,~~ <sup>As it was,</sup> I had the misery of feeling that you did not wholly trust me, in addition to my profound disturbance over your marriage.

It is hard for me to say this much, but I think you should know, - it was the lapse of your fidelity to our relationship, - whatever it be called, - that hurt me most of all. I cannot ask you for anything you will not freely give, but I can grieve over your avoidance of me, over the averting of your attention from something that must have cried out for solace.

No, perhaps I should not say these things. But I have to confess they are part of my

bereavement, today, yesterday, + all the days since you were here, will last into many tomorrows. O my dear, love me all you can + let me have word from you as often as will not be a task to you, for I shall miss you sorely every day of my life that you are not with me.

Berrian came a week ago yesterday afternoon. He came by train to Pokipsay, then bus. When he emerged at New Fairfield, I thought a monument was walking across the road with a broad grin of greeting. For that's what a year practically without strenuous exercise has done for him, + "monumental" is the word. He weighs well over 200, + is fat all over, as I perceived when we sunbathed together. He never had a beautiful body, - it used to be thin and gangling, - but now it is definitely unbeautiful. It only shows how a sedentary existence, with car-driving almost the only form of exercise, can sport one's physique. Berrian now looks quite impressive with his clothes on, - he dresses well, + he has the necessary height to "carry off" his weight. But strip, one is a little embarrassed at the redundant wordyphors.

web of thought, + have been weaving back + forth in my consciousness for many days. When you finally came, you were the comfort you always are when you say what is in your heart. But there were awful months when you did not say it, + the marks of them are still on me.

I know how difficult it all is. I know that I cannot have what I desire with every fibre of my being. I know that, in seeking to assuage desire, we have uncovered something else, something immense + transfiguring. I know that we have to control this, - we practically have to put in a subordinate position what should, by sheer right of every awakened sense, physical + spiritual, be the foremost thing in our personal lives.

This means renunciation, as our days have to be planned. I believe each of us is strong enough to make that renunciation with serenity, as long as each can feel that

the other trusts him. I do not mind if you neglect me, so long as you do not neglect me at an important time, - in a crisis.

I am all right now, - the hard days are over, they've been lived through, + my natural reasonableness is reasserting itself. I lay abed an extra hour this morning, listening to the few birdsongs of September. Today, for the first time this season, a chickadee called within hearing of the house. This bird is sacred to you, you know. You are its St. Francis + talk its language.

Saturday, Sept. 17.

I called you this morning to hear your dear voice once more before the separation. Do you know, - yes, of course you must perceive it, - that I have become progressively more + more attached to you in these fourteen years? Time was when I think you minded our parting more than I did. Now our rôles are reversed. It is now I who am shaken, and my sense of

He wants to make a place for me at Hamilton, - which I think is exceedingly generous of him. When he could undoubtedly have a younger man, who would be a real assistant to him, he prefers a colleague. If it could be so managed that the job could be "part-time", - I should welcome it. He has already, since his return, broached the project to President Cowley, & Cowley is not adverse. So we shall see. - Meanwhile, I'm going to call on Dean Mestre of Bard College & see whether there are any improving changes there since Tewkesbury withdrew. And I shall call on Eric Clarke in New York before very long.

I can exist without a teaching job, & I can work, but I doubt if Betty & I can have a home of our own. If only I hadn't bought that house in Rochester! But, of course, no one then foresaw the depression, & the

have a little visit with your father + mother, + I should like that very much. I meant to have told you how happy I was that your father said what he did to you, - of course he did, - he's an understanding kind of man. - Berrian will meet me in Albany + we'll drive the rest of the distance together.

Then I rather want to see Raymond before sailing, + if it can be planned, I want to drive to Boston when Betty is due there, have a visit with "Tweed", + then drive her down here.

If you delay much longer writing to him, I shall have to go ahead + give him your news. Was there any reason why you did not write him, - any feeling of resentment of his frankness? This would be a pity, + I believe you are bigger than that would indicate. You know that he cares for you, so why not go to the mat with him with anything that's troubling you?

house seemed a perfectly sound investment.

I am very fond of Berrian, though he is so exuberant, he wears me out in a brief time. This time he was forewarned, + was most considerate, but I had to smile at the positive stream of talk that issued from him. It beats me how anybody can go on + on like that, - + it is mostly interesting, tho if the same things were said by a person who lacked Berrian's vivid charm, - ???

Honnie came + helped entertain him, - if you can say that <sup>when</sup> of a fellow ~~who~~ does so much of the entertaining himself, - + we journeyed down to the Kreiners' for tea on Saturday. Berrian + Teddy had a grand time talking about conductors, + about the chaos in Europe. Edda + John were both home, - Edda goes back to teach in the Art Department at Wellesley, + John may enter Bard College, where they have

signified their willingness to grant him a scholarship. Edda is a striking-looking girl, but sports the natural charm of her face with too much paint. If only women would be subtle about it! But nowadays nothing will do till they get it laid on as with a trowel.

Teddy + Jean are going up to Pittsfield on Thursday. The festival begins on Wednesday, + I think I shall drive myself up there for the whole of it + stay with my cousin Southworth Nichols, who lives there. I plan to come back on Saturday via Bard College. Shortly after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October I may go out to visit Berrian + Flora, + if I do, I shall try to stop in for what you call "An Nello" (look this up in Fowler: it belongs with "an hotel" + "an history") at Ellumshade. I suppose Eva will already have left, but maybe I can

Betty wrote Marguerite, - I heard the letter yesterday, - that she is suffering from a painful attack of facial neuralgia. She has never, to my knowledge, had this particular ailment. Further, I judge from her letters that she is in a state of exacerbated nerves, - + that may account for the neuralgia.

I don't think, under the circumstances, that she should come here, - not, at least, till the very last possible moment necessary for packing our things for the winter. Nor do I feel, ~~that~~ even though now I may consider myself physically able to go to Wiscasset, that I ought to do so when I ~~remember~~ my own state of nerves. As you know, under the best conditions, Betty has to be handled with a firm rein. And as a result of this trouble of mine + its repercussion upon her, the whole matter of her relationship to my family has assumed exaggerated proportions in her eyes. I cannot help but feel that it will be for the better in most respects if we slip off to Europe + stay there till we

achieve an altered perspective. And this goes, too, for my view of your marriage. I shall just have to trust to time, + to what truth you may tell me, to be healed of that sickness about my heart which is what is really the matter with me, + is far from being "cardiac" in the physical sense.

Now, my blessed George, I swear this is the only letter of this sort that you will receive from me. You must take it, or the unhappier portions of it, as not so much addressed to you or aimed at you as it is written for the exorcising of my personal devil. I feel certain that, in time, + with a complete change of environment, I shall get back to my normal state, which is not one of rebellion at Fate, as you well know.

You must believe that I do not put any blame upon you nor cherish any resentment. I repeat that if anyone was to hurt me deeply, it had better have been you, - but I've a conviction you're the only one who could have done so. I love you.

Donald

Clinton, 25 Sept., '38.

In spite of hurricanes, floods, + attendant disasters, I was able to carry out my plans pretty much as I reported them to you earlier, + behold me in the guest-room at "Morningside", - the sole comforting thing about it being that you have slept here + therefore it cannot feel entirely strange.

We had a WEEK!!! or shall have had one, for it's not over yet. I drove alone to Pittsfield on Wednesday morning through the wettest world I've ever known. It was like being in a storm at sea, + one thought prayerfully of Dutch dykes. Every stream was a raging torrent, + every hitherto dry place was a flowing stream. The very stone walls between pastures seemed to give rise to innumerable brooklets, rocks became rills. Two hours after I reached Pittsfield, Route 7 was closed south + north of Great Barrington, + next day the Kreiners were prevented from getting to the festival. So I'm glad I didn't wait for them, as I had first planned.

My cousin Southworth Nichols + his wife made me very comfortable, + Clyde drove me to the three concerts I attended. I thought one a day would be sufficient, especially as my appetite for new music written by Jews has suffered a certain shrinkage. I'm sending you the programs under separate cover, with brief annotation.

On Friday evening I drove to Albany after the last concert, with the 4th Brandenburg Concerto still sounding its triumphant affirmation in my ears. Now I wish you might have heard the concert alongside of me!

Berrian met me at the Ten Eyck (the only hotel I could remember the name of), - + we stayed there overnight, he driving the Packard on to Clinton yesterday morning with me as passenger.

We had one or two bad moments, due to nervous apprehension, but I think we proved now to my own satisfaction that it is nerves + nerves only. If to them are added indigestion + depressing atmospheric conditions, I'm likely to have a man's quart d'heure. Otherwise, I'm confident, though I try to be reasonably careful. I think Dr. Marwin was right, + that I can progressively reassume my normal way of living without fear of the consequences.

I shall call in to say "An Hello" to your people tomorrow afternoon + be back in Danbury on Tuesday.

With my love,

Donald