

C.C. Willard, prop.

The Ebbitt:

Washington, D.C.. Nov 16 1886

My own Darling Love

I have to tell you tonight of a very great compliment which has been paid me. At a meeting this A.M. of counsel interested in these cases at which I was not present, I was unanimously chosen to make the argument in those cases against the solicitor genl. The men who were at the meeting were judge Wilson, Mr Earle, Judge Shellabarger, Mr. Gray, Gov. Bontwell, Myers and some others. I think it is the greatest responsibility I ever had thrown on me in my life and I feel [proportionally?] anxious to do justice to the subject. I have been

hard at work in Mr Earl's office all the afternoon working up my argument. I had three clerks at my service all of home were searching [annuities?] for me or searching the town for documents. I have been to the secretary of state and got leave from him to take the [original] treaties [with France of 1778] over to the court tomorrow. I expect to speak certainly three hours & perhaps more, so that you see my hands are as full as they well can be. If I can only speak well & clearly tomorrow I believe I have a grand chance to help us along. I shall think of your dear face tomorrow just as I get on my legs and I think it will do great things for me. When Lord Allenborough made his first great speech before Lord Mansfield, he was asked how he dared speak

as he did. His reply was "I thought I heard my little children pull at my gown & say 'Father, now is the time to get [us? illegible]'" I am going to try to imagine the same of Bob and Louise. I got your previous telegram at noon. God bless you, darling and the dear chicks, as well.

Your own loving

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