

N.

Ap. 11.18

Darling dtr,

I'm going out to buy that pen from you. F. Kelly borrowed mine yesterday to draw me a cheque in a drug store in Providence, to reimburse me for cash she took from me, + she must have calmly pocketed my beloved pen, gold band and all, that mother gave me. I've written to her [illegible], but she wont get the letter very

speedily, as she was leaving New York, whiter she was bound yesterday from Providence?, for Wash. this a.m., and my letter will have to be forwarded. So I'm betaking myself down town to buy me a lovely pen from lovely daughter, until ditto comes back from me by lovely [Mother?]- [Don't?] see?

B. came it to lunch , 5 min. bef. 1, just after I'd written you the p.e. He told me he was in the officer of the day stretch +

a large round cold potato immediately dropped into the pit of my stomach, or my abdomen as I believe its turned out to be in these modern days. I know just about [how he] feels when he has to be away. He comes back tonight at 10 p.m. when Mary + I will have panned oysters + cocoa for him. I'm going down town presently to get a little pan + [virgin oliveoil?] to do them in ourselves. I think he would enjoy that. He (I feel as if I ought to say "Himself" now) says he hopes you will wait and come up when I'm not here,

that he wants us all to 'trickle along' so as to lengthen out as much as possible our visitations. We must plan our outing as soon as poss. and maybe you could come to them (H. + B.) at the end of it and I'd linger around in the purlieu (Kent School and Providence perhaps) and find you so we could blow in together to New Britain for our last bit. Write me what you think of this ghost of a plan. I think the Del. Water gap-[Pocono?] idea [illegible]. Maybe Madge would take us up as she suggested, and

[underlined] 2 [/underlined]

mayhap Ship and Esther could scoop her up at the end, and have the last day or two with us, out in the open, lying on our backs under trees, cooking maybe swimming, anyway paddling, and much talking. Let's do it as soon as we can.

I am so glad to be with Bob here. It would have been even worse for him if I hadn't, and it is much to have the chance. He will have Sat. aft. off, when an unexpected op. turns up, and we may run off

for a few hours in the machine. He thinks it will be nice to run down to New London. Of course it is not so very long before Helen comes back, and that is a cheering thought for him. A week or ten days is after all only a little time, altho' [swimming?] it can seem so long. Ocean voyage across the Atlantic! Or these days on the Pacific when B. was sea sick, coming back he was well and all the days were short, tiny.

Its cold, + I'm thankful for nice fur coat. Is there a report on [Adams?] Ex. for coat + muff? Do get Harold to stir them up if they haven't

told you about it yet. Its nice to have H. in the company isn't it? Has my big box arrived ([Adams?] Ex.) from Washington? I'd like it put in my bedroom please. Am waiting for report of hat left in Jacksonville. It was sent off by Ex. but had not appeared in Wash. when I was last there. Our temporal possessions are just like autumn leaves, aren't they? So easily shaken off. Which reminds me I hope the [mother? must?] eat everything up before I come back, bad luck to them!

I'm writing so much my hand is stiff. Have paid B's + Helen's bills, some of them, written to Ship + to Mother (both long letters) + the p.c. + this to you + to Florence Kelly about my pen.

I do want us to spend your b.day together. Maybe will celebrate the octave this year, if we can't do better.

I s'pose you didn't see L.K.B. did you? To tell her the things we talked about, you and I, maybe I can see her on my way down.

Your loving

Mother.

Of course I'm longing to talk over Ship's possible plan with him and you + Esther. Have written [illegible] as he requested and told him how it strikes me  
[some words in this last paragraph wrapped around onto p. 5]