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Dearest Mother

I can't tell you how much gratitude I feel towards you and Mr. Pepper for your thoroughness in thinking and talking about my proposition. Of course it was what was to be looked for from my own mother, but it was none the less sweet; and Mr. Pepper is, certainly great. Of course, with such strong advice from you two, I shall go straight ahead and enter the second-year class next year. I think it was chiefly the thought that I might be keeping up which made the prospect of not doing so seem so disappointing.

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Now that you two have decided- and I agree with you entirely- that it would not be wise, I feel perfectly happy about it. I am so glad that you understood just what I tried to convey, that I was neither homesick nor repentant of my choice. How wonderful it will be to see you in February- and to be at home again next winter- and finally to be in 1432 Land Title Bldg. three years hence. It would mean a lot to me if Arthur could get into the office- it makes me very happy to feel there is a good chance. I think I see somewhat Mr. Pepper's reason for wanting a man of coarser fibre in the office; I suppose

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a man of that kind can deal more effectively with his own life. Still I hope there is room for one of finer texture besides me - - - The telegram has just come telling of Aunt Laura's death- I am so sorry for dear Grandmother; and for you two my dearest mother- but for one who has lived so fine a life as she I suppose it must be a great happiness. I had such a terrible fright, that I feel almost relieved still. Pauline took the message- in Aunt Lulu's absence- and said to me "Shippen, Aunt Laura is dead"- I thought she said Dora, and for two whole seconds, till she repeated her sentence- I was cold. Dear

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Mother, I hope it was not a great shock to you; I can only thank God it wasn't you or Grandmother. I remember six years ago, in Chester, that Aunt Laura told me she didn't believe in the efficacy of prayers for the dead; but we can't follow her ideas now. Pauline says she has always been Aunt Lulu's favorite Aunt- but I think Aunt Lulu is not as much shaken as I feared. I am writing to Grandmother ~~by this mail~~ and to Cousin Sue ~~by this mail~~ by this mail. I suppose Cousin Sue is, after all, the most ~~grieved~~ by Aunt Laura's death.

I am sorry Arthur