Dear Harry:

You can never guess how relieved I was to read your letter this morning, just now. My heart has been full of misgivings as to the wisdom of what I had done. You see it's the kind of thing you can't talk over with anybody. And you know what an impulsive creature I am, meaning pretty well but very often not wise.

I believe I can write better than I can say some things to you. At least, I found I couldn't say what had been in my heart for a long time. It is so good of you to understand me and to let me be free to "talk" to you.

The thing is that I want you to have companionship but I know as well as I know my own name that just now you aren't in a situation that would be easy for anyone. And it has come to me over and over that I must talk to you about it. I found I couldn't, when it came to the point. I think it's a disgrace to my "sect" that there should be any occasion for saying anything!

Are you sure that you can let me talk over these intimate things with you? I wouldn't hurt you for anything. I think it
is because in all my long friendship with you I have absolutely nothing that I cannot admire that I have this deep feeling about your future. If ever any man has better fulfilled all his obligations in every respect I do not know who it is. Now you must have some reward for it or I'm going to make a row, that's all!!

You are just in your prime intellectually and not past it physically. You have made your place, not only in Kansas City but in many other, and more critical, circles. You are an influential man. As Orv was saying, when I told him how you rather envied the men "down East", you have a good deal more influence where you are than any of them have.

Well, here we are. It seems to me there is no end to the possibilities for you. But there is the other side of you. You have been used to a home and one of a very unusual sort. I understand perfectly well that it is because you and Isabel were so much to each other that you are lost now without her. I never forget any of that and anything I ever say has that in the background always. You and Isabel really "grew up" together and while you were still young learned to adapt yourselves to one another. Everything, on both sides, in your life together was a revelation to me of the lovely possibilities of marriage. You still have your memories.

You are my age and I know for myself how very different one's powers of adaptation are.
at twenty and fifty. I want you to have real companionship and I think you may possibly find it some day but there is no chance now.

I am ashamed of my "sect" that some of them should have such dreadful taste as to be out "hunting" already. I came away from Kansas City with the idea that troubled me but I tried to get it out of my mind. I succeeded pretty well until you told me, in letters, several incidents that that seemed to point to my uneasy feeling. (I don't know that you can "point" to a "feeling" but never mind!) Then your telling me of Mrs. Kirkwood's having you over which did not disturb me seriously but only recalled what I had feared to meet friends of hers and of the activities of the "vidders" and later your letters in which you spoke of your loneliness and your not enjoying going around alone, well, the whole combination was too much for me and I felt I must say something.

I am not so afraid of your doing any "foolish" thing if left to yourself. I wouldn't say that being silly was your outstanding weakness!! But a woman's eye is awfully sharp when she gets the least inkling of schemes afoot. I can jump at conclusions fifty feet away. I do hope you mean what I mean when you say that you can at least recognize impossibilities". There is everything ahead for you and you must have it or I'll fuss and I'm a good scrapper.

I nearly did write fifteen minutes
after I mailed your letter to say I was worried half to pieces over what I had written! You guessed exactly right that time. But I was so worried I didn’t know what to say and so did nothing. It was so considerate of you to write so promptly and put my heart at rest. The worst would have been that you did not understand or like my venturing into such an intimate place.

Orv had your telegram when I was at his office yesterday. We have both been rather seedy for a few days but I am much livelier now and Orv seems much less tired since I got some medicine from the doctor and he has had some sleep. We were undecided as to whether it would be best to give out the exact wording of Orv’s agreement with the Science Museum or let the matter drift along. Down deep in his heart Orv expects that the machine will have to stay in England and he does not like to open a possibility of a lot more explanations for he will never let it go to any state or city museum unless there should develop something new. There is talk of a big new museum in New York and the Towne estate has provided $50,000 for a "survey" to see if it is feasible to establish some sort of an industrial museum. There is a further fund of $3,000,000 for the museum. The other museum, the one called "the Museum of Industry and Engineering" is to be under the
Smithsonian, if they get their $10,000,000 as they are about to campaign for. Orv does not expect that the Smithsonian will ever make the wrong right and he will never let them have his machine until they do. So he really expects it to stay in England but he cast an anchor to windward and provided that after a period of five years he could withdraw from the Science Museum. We wish you were here to help us decide on questions of policy such as this. Orv is very tired and feels that he can't stand much more of this commotion. So he doesn't want to be worried explaining why this and that museum won't do. If it comes out that he has made this provision he can publish the correspondence which shows that the sending it over there was not a mere gesture and further shows his provision that if conditions should unexpectedly change he will be glad to bring it back.

Also we are writing a letter to Taft. As Chief Justice he is Chancellor of the Smithsonian. In the past he has been very friendly to Will and Orv. Orv is considering sending him a letter and we are working on it. It may not be sent but I think it will. Orv wants to let him know how the museum came about.

Anne is to have an article in the Sunday Times if the article reached N.Y. in time. It could have been better than it is but she thought the article by Howard Mingos
last Sunday would make hers unwanted for this next week though they had asked for it. But a telegram from the Sunday editor yesterday told her to send it on and she had to rush. We only had time to hear it read before they rushed it to the outgoing mail. A letter from Mr. Stetson yesterday made the good suggestion that something more ought to be brought out about what the boys did and did not owe to Langley. Orv took the suggestion seriously and is trying to do something about it. Yes, it is a great pity that Orv has disliked writing so much and has been so unwilling to hand it over to anyone else but if you could see how hard it is to get anyone to understand and to do anything but bawl things up, when it comes to the technical stuff, you would understand it better. In the end he always has to word the statement himself or it would make him ridiculous before aeronautical men. But that inability to get his work before the world is a limitation. However it makes no excuse for this other misrepresentation. Orv got pretty bitter a few days ago in thinking it all over. But he will make a good fight and will win if it comes to a presentation of the case before people who have any knowledge at all of the matters involved. But Langley's work is all on record and so is Will's and Orv's for that matter. Orv just hasn't advertised theirs,