

Hawthorn Hill
Oakwood
Dayton, Ohio

October 29, 1924

Dear Harry:

I have been suffering from a case of "inhibited will" in the matter of letter-writing, of late. I simply could not make up my mind to begin a letter to anybody. I have the spell broken now, I hope.

And who do you suppose turned up today? The Arntzenii!!¹ I was out watering the lawn when up drove an old Ford and out jumped a boy who walked toward me with a smiling countenance. It finally came to me who it was, but I never saw a better imitation of boys. Well, I was stumped but I managed to recover enough to invite them into the house, all the while registering a vow that they would not have an invitation to stay, even to dinner. And I stuck to it and now feel meaner than anything to think I let them go on so near dark. They are camping, of course, and cooking all their meals. But somehow I just didn't feel equal to having them the rest of the day and over night. They are on their way home to Holland where they are to make still pictures for some "educational" publishers. After that they will move on, perhaps to Siberia, perhaps to Africa!! They certainly are amazing folk.

We got home from Oberlin Sunday afternoon about three. The road is fine all the way. We saw only the Lords. We had asked Mr. Stetson to have a seat with us at the game but he couldn't come, for some reason or other. Frances had arrived only that very morning from England. She and the girls had been in England most of the summer. Sally MacLennan came home with Louis but Priscilla staid and finally got into a college in Oxford. I can't remember the name, of course. It seems to me it is Hughes College. Louis and Frances do everything in the world for Priscilla. I think she is a fine girl and I certainly hope she will not disappoint them.

The game with Denison turned out to be close enough to give us some chills. It was a good game and winning it didn't make us enjoy it any less. We are going to be in Oberlin for the Miami game. The Trustees Meeting is the day before so, of course, I'll be there for the game. It happens that Orv has a dinner at Canton the night before and he will drive over to Oberlin on Saturday morning. We can drive home together on Sunday. It is such a beautiful drive, especially north of Mt. Vernon.

I hope the Wrangell [Wrangel] story is closed now with the "Red October" taking off the last year's party. I get all my news from the STAR so I suppose you have noticed it. Wasn't that a "mess"? It is all so different from what I imagined of Stef when I first knew him. I was reading over again a part of the "Friendly Artic [sic]" the other night and there was all that old charm again. It is curious how different he seems in the book and out of it. I can't understand.

¹Probably a family named Artzenius.

I am awfully glad if you like the Pupin book. It pleased me so much to have it take a Pulitzer prize. I sent on your "Saint Joan" a week or so ago. Of course, I intended to write at the time but I didn't. I had it ready to send back some time before but just then Orv got started on it and did not get it finished before he had to go to Washington. So I waited until he had a chance to finish it. Orv enjoyed it very much. We are both of the opinion that Bernard Shaw has "a lot of sense"! I have Hugh Walpole's new book, "The Old Ladies". If it is good I'll pass it on to you when I am through with it. But maybe you don't like Walpole as well as I do. He "has sense", too!

We had a very nice time during the Races but I got too awfully tired before I was through with it and my indigestion "got gay" again. I ought to be more careful what I eat but I have to go on a strict diet or not at all. I could let things alone all right but it is so embarrassing when one is out and we have been out a lot lately, unavoidably. I do despise to be fussy about what I eat. I really like everything.

Madame Calderara was lovely, so cultivated and so "charming". You know I keep that word for special use. We hadn't met her before and I rather dreaded her coming. But the minute I saw her I knew she would be a lovely guest and she was. I like women awfully well, in spite of my admissions as to some of our shortcomings. But one didn't need to make any allowances for Madame Calderara. She could hold her own with any one when it came to conversation, argument, repartee and she was so simple and unaffected about it. What is it about foreigners that the fine people are always so "simple?" I always find that to be so.

Old Mr. Lahm is like the French in his tastes. He has lived there so long that it is natural for him to be like them. And yet his ideas are as "American" as can be. He is a lovely person. I enjoy him so much. He talks pictures and "such" to me and he brings back so many lovely memories. It pleases me so much because he likes our house. He likes everything at our house! I think he is sort of hypnotized. Our bacon is better than any other, our orange marmalade is the only marmalade he has had in America that isn't too sweet and so on and so on. I don't think our things are so good but it does make me very happy to have him enjoy what we have.

All the people who were here were those who had known Will. Calderara and Col. Lahm had been his pupils and Mme. Calderara had worshipped him from afar, in Rome, before she had ever seen her future husband. So it meant a good deal to me to have them here and they had all met before. It was lovely when they fell to talking French. The Calderaras speak very good English but when the subject got intricate they could express themselves so much better in French. I do envy Europeans their knowledge of languages.

I am glad your sister was better before she went home. It is DREADFUL to be so conscientious, isn't it? But I'll say for the rising generation that they won't disturb their digestions, or anything else, over the Bulgarians, or any one else. Perhaps it is a good thing.

I am reading everything I see in the STAR by Roy Roberts. Isn't the Lit'ry Digest poll driving the Democrats nearly wild? It is funny about Coolidge. People are going to vote for him, regardless. It doesn't make any difference what stand he took on this or that. They are going to vote for him anyhow. Of course, it is mostly because there isn't any

one else to vote for. No one knows Davis. Few have confidence in LaFollette. That's the reason I'm going to vote for Coolidge!! But Orv and I are stumped on what to do about voting for the Governor of Ohio. The present Governor, Donahey, is the smallest person who has EVER sat in the Governor's chair. The Republican candidate, Davis, is from all accounts, the biggest rascal we have ever had. He was Governor just before Donahey. And there you are. It's a fine choice in either case. Now that I'm started, I don't know how to stop.

As always

Katharine

I suppose Henry is enjoying everything.