

Hawthorn Hill
Oakwood
Dayton, Ohio

(original says 1925)

Monday evening – January 11, 1926

I am having the worst time with pens lately, dear. I may go back to a fountain pen which I haven't used for years.

There were two lovely letters in the mail this morning, dear. I had to go down town early—to try on my black satin dress again. I had it home before Christmas but haven't worn it because I didn't like it much. It wasn't pretty at the neck. I haven't a pretty throat and I can't see why Mrs. Mittendorf won't take more care to see that the neck lines are becoming. Then after I got through at the dressmakers I had several errands to do—among other things I got my picture framed for Katharine King. She wrote and asked me if she couldn't have a new photograph. She is a very devoted little namesake. I think her mother rather idealizes me. Well, I thought if she really wanted a picture of me for her room she should have it and have it in a frame. It's not like yours, dear, but a little on that order. I think Orv hit off that picture of me exactly. He looked at it and remarked that it was rather “placid” for me. That is just what's the matter. It's too calm and “sweet”!

I think the Prof's review of your chapter on Kansas City is delightful. It is so good—hits the nail right on the head about most of the other writers and the connection of some of them with the American Mercury which he seems to hold in about as high esteem as I do. I simply love his noting-with-satisfaction your being a contributor to old-fashioned periodicals like the World's Work, the Outlook and the Independent. He says it with such a delicious touch of humor. And he really can't quite conceal his affection for “Harry Haskell”. I love the whole thing and I'm going to tell Mr. Stetson so. You know, dear, you did some good writing on that. I had to smile at Mr. Stetson's adjectives “clever” and “level-headed”. I think level-headed is high praise. I was just thinking, dear, that we (i.e. you!) could make a lot of our expenses when we travel abroad. You can send some letters to your papers, the World's Work etc. etc.!! As a matter of fact, you could do just enough to amuse yourself—not really keep going steadily.

Let's save money just as fast as we can for a few years and get enough ahead to make us independent. You won't want to be tied to such regular work as you have now—not very much longer, though I do think your work is important and not anything to be given up lightly. But the life of the Star is not very certain and you won't need to worry a bit if anything does happen to change the management of the paper. I was just joking about our trip abroad and your writing travel articles and so on, but if we had an income of five or six thousand a year from investments, we could easily enough spend a year abroad, if we wanted to! Or we could do what we pleased anywhere else. I'm sure we can save five thousand a year and more, for there will be more income all the time. I'd be satisfied with a less expensive house but that house is home to you now and there wouldn't be any real reason for any change. You know, dear, I'm not going to “keep up” with anybody. But I'll try not to disgrace you!

Do I make you dizzy with my letters, dear? When I don't think of what being with you means for Orv, I am so happy and full of plans and interest in everything. Your letters today were so sweet, dear. I was thinking, dear, we ought to have a comfortable couch of some sort in the study so you could lie down and be read to when you are tired. I imagine we'll live up there most of the time, won't we?

Oh, yes I was going to ask you why you were afraid to put your extra money on your mortgage? I can't see why you feel you are tying it up there more than in some other place. You can always borrow money on real estate, can't you? It seems to me you pay twice on that mortgage—interest and taxes but maybe I don't quite understand it. I'm not much on understanding taxes. And it isn't likely you will need any large amount unexpectedly, is it? I don't mean that I care a snap what you do with your money but I can't see why getting the house paid for isn't the very first thing to do. I think it is lots of fun to plan and see what you can do with money.

You were saying in your letter, today, dear, that you had always been in trouble with your feelings. That made me think of several things. It scares me, dear, to have you love me so much. I love it but it scares me. It makes me want to beg you not to think so much of me, for fear of—well, for fear of things that do happen sometimes. I'm not young, dear, for one thing. But, dear, you couldn't stand another hard time. I, who am the least philosophical of creatures, am begging you to be philosophical! I'm full of good advice, dear. And then I was thinking how steadily you had gone on all your life—feelings or no feelings. That is so splendid, dear. It is a part of you—that strength of character. Oh, I do hope, dear, that I won't bring you any trouble. I hope your feelings won't put you into any trouble from now on. Oh Harry, dear. I want to be everything to you that you have longed for and I want to be so careful of your sensitive, strong feelings. But I'm in such trouble myself now, dear. It seems to me there is a high wall in front of me that I'm not quite sure I can get over. Of course, I will get over but it seems so hard. I would like to be with you tonight, dear. I want you to hold me close to you and comfort me and let me comfort you. I want you so much, dear. Goodnight. It's half-past eleven and I must go to bed. Goodnight. A very sweet kiss from

Your

Katharine

There's a lot to tell you that I didn't get started on. Well, tomorrow.