

Hawthorn Hill
Oakwood
Dayton Ohio

Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 16, 1926

I am answering the letter that came this morning, dear. It may not get mailed until tomorrow but I wanted to talk about the question your letter brought up. I have felt, dear, that the life of the Star, under the present management, is very uncertain. Of course, the life of any one person is not to counted on. It would be different if Mr. Kirkwood were to be considered, too. Every paper is what the same way, I suppose, only sometimes a family will inherit it and keep it under the same management.

I don't really believe you could do any thing that would be more congenial to you. You have your established place there and your friends among the Star people. I doubt if you could ever find a more congenial group of people to work with. You aren't uneasy about your position and you have such a good salary, dear. I suppose the Kirkwoods apricate you and you have a relation with them that you wouldn't be very apt to have again with the owner of any paper or magazine you might do the same kind of work for. You wouldn't after be thrown with a man like Mr. Nelson. All that is worth a good deal, dear. But I never have had the least idea that you could count on the Star, unchanged, for ten year. I just wondered if Dr. Bohan, Knowing as every body knows that the Star will likely pass into other management if Mrs. Kirkwood should not live, was giving you, intentionally, a little hint as to the situation. I do not think you need to be a bit upset about , dear, but maybe it wouldn't be a bad idea for us to draw in on our plan for doing things for the house and if there is any way of doing it, you might be casting around for some thing else. Would you like to go to Washington or New York as well as to stay in K.C.? If you would, I'd be in for making the change while you are in your prime. If not, you might stay on in K.C. as long as it is pleasant for you there and then look around. You see, I don't care, dear, for myself. You don't need to think about that. I'd like Kansas City as well as the East. It is only what is best for your work, dear, that concerns me. If you wanted to make the change before long, I believe you could do better now than later. But you can always do well enough, dear. I don't want to unsettle you, dear. I hope Mrs. Kirkwood will come through all right but people don't seem to have the sense to stop drinking even when it is so dangerous for them. It was a shame about Mr. Collin.

I had cut out some rug "ads" from the N.Y. Times which I intended to send in my letter last night but forgot them. I'll enclose them just for fun. There is all the difference in the world in the fineness of rugs. There seem [sic] cheap enough but they may not be very good ones. We may decide not to invest in rugs now! It would be a wrench for you to leave Kansas City, dear. You have made your place there and we are too old now, dear, to make many new friends – real friends. You see, dear, I am proud of the place you have made in Kansas City. But I'd be proud of you any where and I think you could do very well in the East.

I have a good idea of the house now, dear. I can see the study and the guest room. The bed in the guest room is facing the north, I suppose – between the closet and the outer west wall.

Wasn't that a funny little valentine, dear? I grabbed it when I saw it. I really wanted to send you something, dear, but I haven't the nerve to send books to you – and I didn't know what to do. I might have such a box of candy but I never know where to buy candy in Dayton. However I did get a box of Hotel Suito candy (Cincinnati) for Or and it turned out to be fine. It was fresh, for one thing. You never can be sure of boxed candies. They are no good when they are stale.

The flowers are still nice. The sweet peas were very fresh. They don't usually keep their color very long – not more than two day usually. Carrie loved the flowers when she got back Monday. She looks awfully tired – poor little thing.

Frank McCormick is coming for dinner again tonight. Maybe we'll go to the lectures at the Engineers' Club afterward. I don't know just what it is. Org spoke of going, at noon. Anne hasn't come back yet from New York.

I didn't tell you, did I, about how funny Lou Namer was about Mr. Mastick. He said that, of course, Seabury was easily the ablest man in the N.Y. Legislature; that he wasn't in politics to get any thing out of it, of course, implying that he was very superior on that account. He went on in that strain for a while and then, in telling about his squabbles with Smith and so, his political activities, he said that he thought Seabury would be getting out of politics pretty soon if he didn't get the Governorship in a year or two! Seabury, you understand, is in politics purely for the public good – not for what he can get out of it. Lou is a good old Root-Hughes Republican - good as gold but sees every thing from the satndpoint of business and things-as-they-have-been. Orv and I could hardly keep our faces straight over "Seabury's" public spirited service in the Legislature.

Goodbye, dear. You do go to church pretty regularly, don't you? Do you have to go to get ammunition to fire back at me? Ha! Ha! Well, "you haven't impressed me a bit" so far. I thought the poor little Unitarian minister here was in a hard row of stumps. He had discarded all the old but had nothing new except some school boyish stuff. Ha! Ha! "Stirring up the animal". Goodbye, dear. A sweet kiss.

Your
Katharine