

R.D. Willow Springs, Mo.

Feb 4th, 1913.

My dear Sister

Just a line to report again, Mama is still with Dorothy (9 wks) but advises she hopes to bring Dorothy to the farm in two more weeks if she continues to improve as at present. are going to break up housekeeping & pack & store their goods for we expect it will take several months of the bracing air of these hills and farm fare to build Dorothy up to normal again. It has been a long siege but we are all thankful that it is terminating as well as it is. if we can manage to land her on the farm without a set back I'll be happy. They will leave Ft Scott at 9. pm and go to bed in a warm sleeping car and arrive at Willow Springs 2.30 a.m. and I will have warm rooms ready for them at the Hotel. and bring them out to the farm in the middle of the next day in a closed carriage with foot warmers & plenty of kags and a team that will bring them over the 10 miles quickly. will write you when I have them safely home. so you can rejoice with me. We have needed a "stiff upper lip" on the

on the Farm but Mama has had the hardest part with little rest and the trying responsibility of such a combination of mental & physical sickness. but I expect her to return without showing a trace of the anxiety & labor she has experienced just as fresh as when she went away. Talk about British stamina & nerve. she is a fit sample. with courage of the highest type and an elasticity of physical endurance that seems to respond to every requirement, all sustained by her placid disposition which meets every emergency without a ruffle. Looking back over the 28 yrs we have been married I seem to see little but Mama and she always the same cheerful helpful wife, she understood me and seemed to supply my deficiencies & has been and is now the model for our children, I weave her into my life & conduct just as I weave her into my letters. she is not demonstrative, about all she'll say when she gets home and we have a quiet minute together will be as she snugs her head on my shoulder, and perhaps says "you have helped me so much". as if I could help her. but she is perfectly unconscious of being anything more than an ordinary little woman who loves her husband & family as all women do.

In place of writing much tonight as it is late. I will enclose a letter from Alice which I have just answered & do not require further. it will perhaps entertain you a few minutes and I want to get you inside our family circle now you are going to be one of us, and in order to do this you have to know us. Know our dispositions, know how we think, and these family letters which I receive about every week are perfectly natural & indicative of the girl who writes them. You saw Wins disposition in the letter I enclosed in my last. now you will see Alice as she is when she looks up to her Dad, she is like you I call her Lois many a time unthinkingly I don't think she would consider it a breach of confidence to let you see her letter for there's nothing of importance to her in it, just a chat. I wish you could join in our "Circuit" letter. we have a letter or rather a bunch of letters continually on the move around the family circle. gets around about every month. no one is allowed to keep it more than 4 days, we each have a letter in it and when it comes to us we take out our old letter and after reading all the others letters we add a new letter on any topic

which may have been introduced and matching
wits just as if we were all sitting together
in a room & having a good family time
roasting each other. We have been doing
this for quite awhile & it seems to keep us
united in the family circle. I wish you could
join for you would see some horse play
once in awhile when we "get after" some
one. The girls husbands join in when they
have time. This is just a family reunion
for each every month & does not take
the place of personal letters. and its a
mighty good institution for a large &
scattered family like ours. I send it to Alice
she to Winifred. she to Jo, Jo to Lib & Frances
they to Dorothy & she to the Farm & so
it keeps traveling month after month.

Good night dear hope you are escaping
colds & grippe this winter. I haven't had
a cold for years. never wear a muffler
either. was down to zero Sunday morning
the 2nd with 4" snow. Lots of love & a
good hug & kiss from your rough old
bear of a brother, Tell Hubert "Hello"
and not to work too hard.

Lovingly Bro' Dave.

Feb 5th of Jan 22

When I received your letter ^{of Jan 22} this morning. I held mine to you, so I could add a little if necessary, you will have rec'd two more reports before this. I tell you its fine to get your dear sisterly chats good for you on C.S. or Eddyism as you aptly term it. you nearly used my words to ~~dot~~ in its dissection. They have been scrapping over Mrs Eddys will ever since she died. she left over two million Dollars and her son testified in Court that C.S. was not a religion but a Money making scheme, and I wrote Harry (Dots husband) to stop paying Dots instructa (a woman demonstrator) and the C.S. outfit would soon quit troubling her as soon as the money stopped. well Dot has quit it all now I hope & while she is home I hope to lead her mind into safer channels, it was the hope of curing her baby that led her to embrace the doctrine. mothers love will adopt any measure they think will benefit their children.

Sure! we get the best kind of feed
you know I used to bake when I
ran that little grocery soon after I was
married. so I make good bread and
can cook anything else, believe I'm
more scientific than mama, the
boys hadn't learned a single thing abt
cooking except Indian fashion camping
in the woods, but I have them trained
now so they bake in their turn or cook
the meals entire, and they have also
made a few fancy chocolate cakes
guess all mothers progeny can develop
into good cooks. — wish you had been here
to dinner last night we had "ground Hog"
the boys keep us in game, so they brought
in two Rabbits & a "Ground Hog" and
we roasted the P. H. last night. good for
two meals. abt 3 times as large as a rabbit
then we have 'Possum & Squirrel, lots
of apple Sauce & preserves of all kinds
sads of Butter eggs & cream, no trouble
to live well, but at the same time would
be mighty pleased to have you here to
keep house for us. — but good bye sure this
time will Mail in a. m. another Kiss
Lovingly Bro Sam.