

Willow Springs, Mo

Feb 16th 1913

My dear Sister,

I have Thew here, all O.K. came thro' in good shape and no ill effects from the trip. not much of Dorothy left but am not afraid of that. am expecting her to build up right along. I am a good companion for the "down & out". poor little Dorothy is what we call "all in". I could pick her up with one hand. she looks like she could crawl thro her wedding ring. but I have her smiling, & laughing once in awhile. she has been here about 48 hours & she showed me today how her arms were filling out. bless her its worth 5 dollars to have her think so. I keep her buoyed up by noticing how she has improved already, and tell her

of the wonderful way in which this
clear bracing air and crystal water
builds people up, and her eyes are brighten-
ing with hope, for like all young things
she wants to live, and bless her she's
going to live. Mamma showed the effects
of her long nursing, looked worn & tired,
but now she is home & can leave it
to me she is all right, and her cheeks
are rosy & firm again. I seem to have
an abundance of Animal Magnetism
or something that helps & strengthens
everyone with whom I come in
contact, I take hold of Mamma's hand
& she says it takes the tired feeling
away, same with Dot she is very
weak & sensitive & she says the world
& life seems to have a bright outlook
when I show it to her, I'll tell you
what it all is, its love, the highest
activity of the soul, which warms
them back to life & health & strength

Hope you & the boy are well & having a good time. I often think of you back there in civilization with all its privileges. how I could improve my mind by attending lectures & enjoy concerts & public gatherings of almost every kind for I'm a social animal and how honored I would be to have you & Hubert with us what good social & intellectual times we would have together. for above all I enjoy a home gathering with those we love. where we can discuss subjects of interest in the cozy home circle. - but I'm about a hundred years behind living among primitive men & women. where brawn is favored more than brain where feats of strength or a quick eye & hand are preferred to wit. I think women are in a measure responsible

for this condition as long as they
set a standard men will try to attain
to it in order to win their favor, &
I must confess that naturally &
constitutionally I line up with these
primitive men rather than with the
intellectual crowd. for to me there has
always been consolation for all the ills
of life in a fight. He! — I was with
a crowd of these men about a week
ago and had on a large pair of expensive
fur gloves. one of them said "I would
like to put you on your back for the
gloves." off they went on the snow
before he was thro' speaking. all right
says I. they are yours when you have
done it. I was 60 & he abt 35 but
he wouldnt undertake it. so I get
along first rate with these men for
I allow myself to revert to my
natural disposition. but I enjoy this

intellectual society best of course
due to the little education I have
acquired. but I've always been subject
to relapses, Ha!. when I was 53 I was
in Ft Scott. a member of the Commercial
Club & having for my associates the best
society in the City and still one night
I fell, & whipped a young luskly fellow
of 25, ^{for offending a lady,} right on the public street, until
he had to be loaded in a buggy & taken
home, & never hit him when he was down
either. I know you'll be shocked, but
I don't want to sail under false
colors, and I may reform yet. Mama
never says it is wrong to act so, but
she reminds me I'm getting too old &
will get whipped some day. Ha! She's
English, & I dare wager that her progeny
will be fighters when necessary but not
quarrelsome. — but this stuff will
sound crude & out of date to refined
ears & it is. so we will forget it. I wish
to write & exclude only its too late

& if I confess at the start (for I feel like you & I are starting on a new era of our lives in its reference to each other) I shall be thro' -

Lillian had appendicitis last week couldn't get her in the hospital for an operation until next day so Dr stayed with her and before she could be moved to hospital began to feel better & stood out against operation until they heard from me. so I blocked the operation & she's O.K. about now, but if it returns soon will consent to operation & try & be there with her. but she may never be troubled again. if the inflammation has left no ulcer to break out again.

The girls are playing off on me just now it seems like. causing me lots of trouble next will be Jo I expect about St Patrick's Day. but good Bye dear old Rio or mine don't worry over me. Ha!.. We had a big strike over. and somebody said to Mama. "I should think you would worry abt Mr Fay? for they were shooting" Mama said "I'm most worried for the poor strikers"