

R. D. #1. Willow Springs, Mo.

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

My own dear Sister,

Here's for a chat as it is too hot for even our seasoned physiques to work in the field this afternoon and for many afternoons past. We work until noon and then hunt the shade until near sunset, it is  $106^{\circ}$  in shade this minute and has been above  $100^{\circ}$  every day for weeks. Can't remember when it rained weeks ago. Fields brown & burnt up, if a spark set fire to the dry grass and herbage I should lose every crop & fence and building on the farm that is if the wind was strong enough to fan it, about 3 weeks ago I was up a tree picking peaches and saw a volume of smoke across the farm (my farm is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  mile across) and I called all hands Mamma & Lillian coming with the rest. Fortunately there was little wind we hurried to the scene and had a hard hot fight before we overcame the flames that had started in the timber and were coming across a field. (we beat out the fire with young pine trees)

Oh! for rain, rain, water, something liquid  
not the least fleecy cloud to be seen. nothing  
but the sun pitilessly burning up every  
vestige of vegetation. Our greatest wealth  
is in our Spring which still gushes out  
from under the rock. cool & plentiful  
most of the neighboring springs are  
dry but ours was never known to fail  
in the memory of white man or Indian  
before him so tradition has it, for which  
we are thankful. The day after I last  
wrote you I went to town with a wagon  
load of peaches and that it was pretty  
hot as we foraged along the road with  
the heavy load. I did all I could to help  
the horses with water wherever available  
and when I returned home found it  
had been  $110^{\circ}$  in shade that day, which  
was the hottest day of the summer here  
altho other places have had it  $115^{\circ}$   
However we are all well and feel no  
ill effects from the heat, we live on fruit  
and light diet, drink lots of fresh Cider  
& water, spend a day at the creek about  
once a week and imitate the fishes &  
feel as vigorous as in cooler weather  
I notice in the papers that England  
is dry too. but you are cooler anyhow

Lillian has returned home to St Joseph  
Dorothy still here, dare not return to  
town until the heat breaks, but will  
go soon as it does.

I forget if I answered Hubert's question  
about "I'm from Missouri" have wondered  
several times but can't recollect, but to  
make sure I'll answer here. - Most of  
the different states have a slogan or  
Catchword to indicate some trait of  
its people's character or peculiarity of  
its soil or climate and Missouri men  
have established a tradition of temperamen-  
tal suspicion, "I'm from Missouri and  
you must show me" is the full Catchword  
adopted to show they take nothing for  
granted, indicating business acumen  
rather than plain stubbornness, for  
instance, if anyone begins to yarn and  
exploit any unreasonable enterprise,  
one says in disbelief "I'm from Missouri"  
They know the rest, so if anyone begins  
to tell Hubert how big a fish he caught  
he may reply "I'm from Missouri". -

The first thing I did after I got thro  
shipping peaches was to order the books

sent to you, it didn't take many minutes when I got at it, but while the rush lasted I didn't seem to have a minute except for business, I hope they have reached you in good shape. I felt tempted to have them sent here so I could go over them and pencil the items which especially appealed to me, but thought that would be hardly fair, as I did not wish to intrude my personality or influence you in any way. The first and third vols interest me most I seemed to understand the second after reading it a time or two. Florence Huntley had a great analytical mind I have never been acquainted with as deep a thinking woman as she was. She died last year but her work will live. I study "The Great Book" most for it teaches how to "live the life" which I have endeavored to live for some time, much to my benefit & peace of mind. If at any time Aunt Cutler evinces any interest in them I should be pleased if you would allow her to read them.

We received a photo of Winifred and her children a few days ago, will forward it to you so you may see how much she

resembles her Mother, she also has her Mothers disposition and ways. her name should have been Kate. she has a big broad minded husband who is devoted to his family and they are happily mated. Am expecting a bunch of Snap shots which the girls took when here this summer and will send all together when we receive them. I send so many that our English Cousins & friends will soon know the crowd. but photos always interest me and I think others too.

The farm work just now consists of cutting Maize for the men and canning fruit & vegetables for Mama. Preserving. making pickles & Ketchup and other good things for winter days. we have quantities of peaches ripening along but we do not ship the later kinds as we use what we can. give away what we can & let the hogs eat the balance as they fall off. Mama dries a great many just halves them and removes the seed and spreads them on long tables in the sun covering with Mosquito netting

to keep off bees & flies. I suppose you can buy dried apples & peaches in bag as they are a commercial product here being dried in large quantities in evaporators but Mama uses the Sun's rays which soon mummifies them.

well Mama is putting our evening meal on the table and that appeals to me most forcibly altho' I have not worked since dinner, you would call it "Tea" we call it supper, for we don't eat again until breakfast. I hung on to my late supper at bedtime for years after I came here but finally got converted to the American custom.

Bye, bye, dearest old sister of mine I do enjoy writing to you, you are such a treasure & comfort to me to know that you love your brother after all these years I wish I could step in as you read this and give you a good hug and tell you how dear you are to me, but it is coming someday. Hello! to Hubert and fond kisses for yourself.

Lovingly  
Bro Dan.