

Six letters

Washington D.C. Feb 4/58

My dear Wife

You would absolutely wonder to see with what determined indifference I have forgotten the past & set down to enjoy the present. I am embosomed in all the comforts that surround Mr Watson's family & with abundant means & his good taste every thing is in complete & appropriate order & as I cannot alter my condition by complaining & have resigned myself to my fate & with a better grace than I could have believed I am quietly biding my time & trusting Providence for the future.

Our suit is to be argued, (I mean our case) next week. To commence on Wednesday Morning at Eleven o'clock & as there are four to speak it will undoubtedly occupy three days & we hope to see it close in time for the result to be in some sense shadowed out by Saturday in which event I shall leave on Monday

for my much loved home.

If it were not for an anxiety that occasionally steals over me I should enjoy myself very well here for the time & especially if I had my dear wife to share it with me. Still I shut out all the anxiety I can & conclude to make my stay as truly one of enjoyment as I can for I may never find myself here again.

Oh how I do wish I could acquiesce in my feelings, & necessities which I feel that I cannot control, & be able to enjoy myself as I pass through these trials. I will endeavor to do it & feel almost as tho it might be, when I look at your calm & peaceful trust in God.

Oh that all you need may be permitted you, in this pilgrim-age world & that the bright & joyous future of our dear children, their Christian courage & fidelity, may ever be to us a richer source of comfort than any, or all earthly blessings.

My long absence gives me some anxiety on William's account as I do want to get sound & see him engaged in a vigorous effort at improvement in his penmanship preparatory to his future.

Still as it will be yet a fortnight before I get back I hope he will let no day pass without such exercises in writing as will show by time of my return a very decided improvement.

If I may only see him setting out in life with high Christian aims & a fair prospect of success it will much relieve me. My daily prayer is I make for God's blessing on this dear Son.

I cannot stop to give you a peep at politics & will only say that Sudd (of Chicago) is here & as we meet in the Senate Chamber he says he don't see as they do any better than we did at Springfield.

Senator Crumple is very courteous as are Lovejoy & Farnsworth. Give my best love to all the children & also to Maria & the other girls Melissa & Elisabeth &

I am truly Yours
Talbot

Washington Friday Feby 12/58

My dear Wife

Last but not least in pleasure comes
up the letter to you.

You will think that I have had rather
a dull time in one sense when I tell you that Adie's
letter of the 8th & Emersons of the 9th reached me this
morning & was the first I had rec'd from Illinois. It is
true I had heard from you twice by Telegraph
but that makes very short letters. My stay has been
pleasant so far as Comfort is concerned, but its anx-
-ieties & the pressure of businip cases at home has
made me wish to find myself on my weary home
often & strongly. I was made quite glad by Adie's
letter but lest I forget it afterwards I will say
in regard to the Sowing Machine, that Mr Watson
spoke of it soon after I came. He said he spoke
to the Manufacturer about it. He is still out of
health & has not got any of them ready. He (Watson)
said if he did not get along soon so as to ^{prepare} let
him have the Machine, he said he would get
one of the best there was of some other make.

So you see I am out in regard to bringing it
with me but I hope it will get along this Spring
& I think it will

* I ought to say in regard to
Our trial that it is dragging "its slow length along"

& will doubtless close about Tuesday night, after which I shall not stop only as necessity compels me, until I look in upon the circle which has all of earth's charms for me. There is nothing in all this glitter & show of the Capital that has half the charms for me of home. It is true if I had time & money I would like to introduce to you its wonders, & sharing them with you they might give me more enjoyment.

However much as there is that is honorable in being called to fill posts of responsibility by our fellow men, no one can be here long & not see that with it comes temptations to remissness in Christian duty that is full of danger.

My dear Wife my hearts fond love is with you & the dear children. I am thankful you are all well. I do hope they make you very happy by their fond attention to your wants & wishes. I hope you all are found enjoying life by Christian love. I hope soon to share with you the joys that surround you in the affections of our dear ones. Give them each & all the assurance of my warmest love. God spare you & protect you & us all from all danger & from all our fears. I have many anxieties but hope to be able to share your quiet trust in him who overrules all things. Pray for me daily my dear dear Wife & may God be with you all always W. Paley

Washington D. C. Saturday Evening
Feb'y 13/58

My Dear Wife

And I use the words of my
choise, first, because the pronoun indi-
cates clearly that you are mine. Not in
any sense shared by others so as to in the
least invalidate my claim. Not that I
want to with draw from you any of the
almost idolatrous love you command,
not only from the dear pledges of our
love, but from all that come within our
Charmed Circle. Far otherwise. It is a
source of unalloyed delight, to know that
you are appreciated not alone by this warm
heart of mine, but by a circle limited only
by the boundary line of the acquaintance.

Whatever they think or may think of me,
they know that in you shines every virtue
that could adorn a Woman, whether
as a Wife or Mother, or in the broader
sphere of Womans holy duties. & I joy
in, & am proud of this appreciation.

And secondly I say Dear to use the adjective which most fully expresses the attachment & emotion that exists & wells up in my heart to one so proper for me to love. I am not going to suppose that you are not loved by others. I know too well there are hearts whose love is second only to mine, & on whom this very tender sentiment is enabling you to write your own loved lineaments, in characters that I pray God may never be effaced. And here let me say if they live to exhibit the virtues of their Mother it will be the fulfilment of my highest Hopes. God grant it, is my daily prayer.

And again I say, "Wife". What a thrilling eloquence the word contains. Nothing in the language can compare with it. Only think of its origin. The deep meaning it contains.

God has not left to man since the fall ought so full of holy loves as the family relation & enthroned within, as its Chief source of joy the "Wife" holds sway, & such a sway. Oh how delightful to contemplate. God hear our prayer, & in spite of all the

all the ills that flesh is heir to, make our mutual love more & more fervent, increasing daily (as has been our past experience) until a union commenced (or I should rather say attachment) when we were almost strangers shall be swallowed up in the ineffable delights of that world "where they neither marry, nor are given in marriage".

I need not say I want to gladly spend to-morrow (Sabbath) with you. Duty detains me. I shall hasten home when its dictates allow.

I have been well, but can only say as the struggle is going on that I look upon all our earthly prospects as deeply connected with the result of this trial & while am yet hopeful, I must say I have great anxiety. God grant us a safe deliverance. I trust in any event we may yet see good days whatever may be our lot in life. I hope to know the dear children have had a strife to see who could do most to make you happy. God be with you all is my daily prayer. Give to them all my love as to the other members of the family Eliza, Lissie & Libby. Your devoted Husband
Wm. H. H. H.

Washington D.C. Monday Feb 15/58

My dear Wife

You will not wonder at my taking the earliest moment after dinner to devote to an object so loved & cherished as your own dear self & especially when I say that the morning brought me your letter of the 12th.

When I say this is the first letter I have had from you & the second one from home since I left, & when you remember with what enjoyment I sometimes pursue you with playful criticisms, you will not be surprised if I should tell you of my laugh at the ideas that spring up in my mind as my eye runs over the "page" again I am seated with pen in hand to write you the daily "message of love". Think, I to myself what kind of days do they have out in Illinois, & how many of them have elapsed since I left home - But I will not pursue the subject for I was soon to far lost in gormandizing on the assurances of your love to waste ^{time} myself pursuing abstracting.

* I write to say that we have just closed the Argument in our case & so far as we are concerned it is in the hands of the Court.

xx Tomorrow the Plaintiffs Counsel occupy two hours more & then we hope to get by Wednesday morning some indication of the result. We may be disappointed but I expect at any rate to leave Wednesday Evening for home unless something new should turn up to detain me which I don't expect.

And now my loving wife, were it not for the assurance I feel that if this decision should be against us & as a result we should find ourselves traveling life's journey & far different circumstances than we have heretofore done, that the loves we cherish would still cheer us & your own calm, quiet trusting heart would help me bear life's burdens, I should feel more anxiety than I could express. As it is I have tried to calmly bide the result feeling assured that whatever else happens, our hearts loves will cheer us together in our pilgrimage.

I have had a great anxiety & still I hope to be able daily to commit it all to God, & to ask only that what is best for us not only in this life but in that which is to come might be the result of this issue.

* I can only say yet that we think we have made out a good case & if it was left to us (I mean myself & our lawyers) we should "affirm the judgment of the Court below, & dismiss the appeal at plaintiffs cost." What this August body will do, is as yet all in the future, & with no prophets ken to discover it.

Mr Watson was taken quite down with cold yesterday. He has attended Court today to hear Stanton's Argument for us but has gone to bed on his return. Say to Ada & Mill that they would have been delighted with the plea made by Stanton. It was full of eloquent passages flashing wit now & then as much as would do in such a body, & of the most overwhelming cogency of Argument & sound Logic. I have never heard a better. Give my love to all the dear ones & remember that my letters & love tokens are not more precious to you, than yours to me. May God bless you always,
Your loving Husband, Talcott

Washington D.C. Tuesday July 16/58

My dear Wife

if I was sure of starting tomorrow I should omit my usual evening letter to you. But the fact is I shall not be able to determine yet as to the future & fearing I may conclude to stay longer I think the labor of writing you would be more than compensated by the enjoyment you would derive from even a short letter.

I have no news to communicate to you & can only say I am nervously waiting to know what the judges say to our case.

It has been a time of much anxiety to me as the result involves very much our future.

Still having done all we can I feel very desirous to feel satisfied in committing the event to God & be still. I hope whatever may await us here that there will be a way opened for us to still enjoy enough of Gods Common mercies to keep us grateful that we may not be "poor & steal & take the name of our God in vain" — I can truly say there is under any cir-

circumstances very little danger from the
other calamity which Auger prayed might
not befall him.

I hope to start for home
tomorrow evening but am so anxious
to know something of the result before I
go that I may stay longer. God be
with all my dear & cherished ones
& keep them safely.

Your affectionate
Husband Talcott

Washington D.C. Wednesday Feb 17/58

My dear Wife

disappointed again I write hoping but fearing for tomorrow & if disappointed & conclude not to start you will get this before I get home. I have no news to write. We are yet in the dark about the issue of the suit on which so much is for us depending. We had hoped to get enough to day to justify me in leaving for home & especially as not going to night.

I can hardly expect to reach home until next morn. I think I shall leave Thursday evening whether we get any information or not. Little Watson insists on my holding on to know the final result. (You will see I am not in mood for any kind of letters & therefore shall close after saying our hope is that all is right. I regret my absence much on Williams account & yet I hope to find he has made good use of his time & while looking after the wants of the family been able to make satisfactory proficiency in his writing. May God be our friend always. Love to all

Your loving Husband Talcott