

March 29, 1943

Dear Sumner:

Good morning!

You can imagine my keen disappointment at not being at home when your call came in and so not having the opportunity of hearing your voice and talking to you; but the disappointment was somewhat assuaged by the fact that Mother was there to receive your call, to talk to you, to encourage you, and to report to me every word. I am glad you went to Richmond and I hope that you have made there a contact which will enlarge your social sphere and will give you an opportunity to meet younger persons to whom you may be attracted. Unquestionably Richmond has some fine people and Mrs. Bowman is obviously anxious to make you feel at home. Of course I shall wait for your reactions on your Richmond trip.

It is too bad that you have a cold but I can understand that the change in climate brought this condition about. We just had a letter from Morrie Cox who is in Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and he, too, is just getting over a cold which hospitalized him. Evidently that is a common experience. By the time this letter reaches you I hope your cold will be definitely out of the way, that your feet will be well healed and that your lonesomeness will have about disappeared. It takes time to make the transition and your feelings are understandable. We sympathize with you but we know that soon you will be looking back upon the first two weeks in your new environment as something that had to be lived through and something that is now behind you. We are glad, too, that you do not keep from us your innermost reactions. We have always maintained that as parents our attitude to the children should be one of confidence and perfect freedom of expression and emotion. We have never made light of any of your reactions, or for that matter any of Helen's, and we have always felt that by so drénging you you would not hesitate at any and at all times to come to us with your problems and your reactions. The free and easy comradery which prevails between us has proved healthy and sound. So don't ever be the least bit hesitant about opening up your heart and your mind to us.

There is no special news right at the moment that Mother has not informed you of. We are well and happy in our work.

Affectionately,

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