

My dearly Beloved:

Since you left we have been progressing with our organization and planting here. The sudan grass field and the acre of alfalfa in front of the house have both been covered with water and organization developed so that future irrigations will not require constant attention. The seed is sprouting and the upper end of the sudan-grass field is already taking on a greenish cast. Mary planted the corn field and I put in an experimental plot of onions. Everything but the upper field has now been under water, and that is the next item. I think the contour furrowing is the solution of the irrigation problem here.

Bloom and foliage continues to develop. There will be some apricots, at least, though probably not as much as last year. None of the other trees had to face serious cold while in bloom. So much for the report of the place. Nothing has gone wrong.

Last week the sheriff came here at five-thirty in the morning to serve notice on John of divorce proceedings initiated by Grace. The charge is mental cruelty. He is given ten days to answer. I suppose that if left to himself he would let it go by default, but the court might give Grace a financial settlement and the charge is unjustly damaging to his character. I feel strongly that the divorce should be on grounds that are not damaging to his character and no financial demand is justified. So I am going with John to Independence to file some answer and, if possible, get Mr. Sutliff, who is Grace's lawyer, to amend a complaint to a form that John will not have to oppose. I shall not mail this letter until I can report what luck we have.

Saw Mr. Sutliff. This is the situation. He thought of annulment but the parties were not minors nor drunk at time of marriage, nor were any of the other requirements of Calif. law relevant. Divorce here can not be had for temperamental incompatibility so when this is the real cause it is called "extreme cruelty". Only other grounds are adultery, non support, desertion, insanity, none of which apply. "Extreme cruelty" is the blanket term covering most divorce cases and is generally a legal fiction. He said they had decided to ask for no monetary demand or father, not even court costs. The specific ground

The Assembly Ranch,
Thursday.

My Darling:

Going to town today in order to get in the order for the tractor gas as the OPA office said ¹ would have my rations in a couple of days. Also other items to attend to.

The condition of things here is about as good as could be expected. Franceska has the house in neat shape and John has been doing as well as he could do working too long hours. There are 15 lambs at present and four more expectant mothers. Others may be on the way; the ~~xxxx~~ flock has to be watched continually for new ones. One lamb in the kitchen whose mother has no milk. A very nice lamb who has adopted Franceska. When Franceska takes her out she follows closer than any dog. She calls F. "Maa". Other stock O.K. Chickens look well; laid 33 eggs yesterday.

The lambs coming earlier than expected is what upset the feed supply. Four mothers take the feed of one cow. Did not expect Red to mature so soon. There is a young female milk-goat with the flock. She is the soul and head of the flock. Definitely boss/. A pet who likes humans.

Yesterday was a beautiful and very comfortable day. To-day windy. We assembled the cultivator yesterday and went over the tractor completely, tightening innumerable bolts, changing oil, cleaning etc., etc.

Vegetation is just beginning to start. Grass is in the willows that the cows can graze. Alfalfa just starting. Willows shooting buds. Apricots blossoming. But still the dominant effect is bareness. We really need some evergreens planted to improve the local effect in winter.

It is not known what Grace is doing. John thinks she is in Lone Pine. He placed an add in the LP paper stating he would not be responsible for any debts she contracted. I believe he has been so disgusted with her laziness and selfishness that his feeling has been worn out with respect to her. At least he does not seem emotional about her. He is solid.

I keep thinking about you and trusting all is as well as may be on the outside, as I know it is well on the inside. I miss having you up here definitely, but I believe it is better to come a little later when the green and blossoms have made more headway. The distant view is very beautiful, but the near view is still like winter. The lowest snow is well up, between 500 and 1000 feet vertically above this place, but the mountains are at their best.

Do take good care of yourself and be sure to let me know if I am needed. Remember me to the others, and for yourself, my heart-felt love.

Franklin

Assembly Ranch
Sept. 24, 1944.

My Dearest:

As one of us will be going to town today I have a chance to send this along. When I arrived I found the house and yard in excellent shape. The color from the Cosmos dominates more than when we left and produces a stronger effect than that we have had heretofore. The grass is very green and the pasture appears in better shape than it was. I suppose the lower temperatures help to make it easier to keep the moisture supply up. The day before there had been a very heavy wind which had knocked down a couple of lugs of apples, but fortunately they were mature enough to be saved and used. The canning program has been carried as far as the sugar extended. There have been added 25 qts. of peaches, ten of tomatoes, ten of plums, apple-sauce and grape jelly. The plums are not successful since they are far too sour, worse cooked than raw and even much sugar does not cure the sourness. They are good only when mushy soft, if eaten raw. With the scarcity of sugar I doubt the wisdom of canning them.

Grace is holding up here and alright, but she has the advantage of a more restricted field than Franceska had. She starts in early and is still working when John and I retire. Partly it is slow action, but she does not seem to mind long hours. The meals have been good and not heavy on starch. John has had to take part of Franceska's work and part of mine in addition to his own regular program and this was, as I expected, too much. He was definitely swamped. The irrigation on the new alfalfa is practically a continuous operation, and requires much attention. When I arrived part of the ground was drying too fast. We turned in an additional stream and now it is all damp. The sheep had cleaned up the little field we had prepared and were breaking in on the alfalfa and clover, despite anything John could do. They are now working on the ground south of the potato patch. The crop of milo maize was largely lost. Small birds came in soon after we left by the hundreds and even ate the maize while it was green. John was picking it, yet they would only leave his immediate vicinity and go on eating a little way from him. I suppose the only cure would be to shoot them. John had to give up trying to milk Lady as she was giving only a pint and that very slowly. He simply could not afford the time. So he has placed the calves and Lady in the south pasture while Dutchess is alone in the good pasture south of the road. With this change her milk has come up. I think this pasture will keep ahead of the one animal. At any rate it looks better than when we left.

In addition to helping on the irrigation of the new alfalfa patch, I have dug the potatoes. There are three sacks of useable sizes and two of small ones for the chickens and possible seed for next year. The sizes were small where there had been insufficient water, but where the moisture was adequate they were satisfactory and, I think, the flavor is superior. It seems to be just a question of enough water. It is all a question of getting the water down there without losing nine-tenths of it, which cannot be afforded in the heart of the irrigation season. Cement ditches is the solution. I am also in process of cutting the milo-maize for fodder. Dutchess is very fond of it.

The weather here is much better than at S.F. Not hot nor cold. The air is cooler, but not cold.

Personally I am getting better from the flu. I have not full strength yet and have been sleeping a little at noon. But I am definitely better today.

When you write let me know how you are coming along. I have been thinking of you each evening and using the Great Mantram. I do miss you. Something is definitely lacking when I come to the house.

I was dumbfounded by those reviews. Some were merely announcements, to be sure, but the few that said something so grossly missed the main point. One said "an amazing book" and the N.Y. Times note said "beautifully written". But they specifically mentioned only the least significant points in the whole book, such as the prospecting for gold, the difficulty in driving in traffic and being at the Hollywood Bowl! Is it because the book is so beyond their depths? Are such objective items like that the only sort of thing they could understand? If book reviews are generally like that, then most of them are really worthless. I gave a ride to a soldier between Inyokern and Lone Pine and he proved to have been in the publishing line at Sacramento. He told me that only about 8% of the sales are due to the average reviews, but favorable reviews from competent men did count a lot. I think I see the point. K

Well, I see that John is getting ready to go and, as I have pretty well covered the ground, I shall close. Do take the best of care of yourself. If you, Kathry and Joe can ~~an~~ come up, I certainly wish you would. I will be looking forward and hoping. Remember me to all of the good folks. And to you personally I send my deepest love.

Frankie

two stones exactly the same size and shape, no mortar used and yet the fitting is so close that a six-thousands feeler blade cannot be slipped between the stones! It compares with our precision work in metal. This was not the work of the Astecs or Incas but of races before the Incas of whom the latter, even, did not appear to have much knowledge. These old pre-Incan cultures appear in a highly developed form without signs of preliminary developing stages. It is as though a people came in from without who already had developed the culture. Of course, it suggests Atlantean colonies to us, which, in turn, implies that the ruins tell us something of Atlantis itself. Structurally, it seems to have been a highly developed culture in rock, with precision comparable to our own in metal. Further, since nearly all the old peoples were sun-worshippers it implies a corresponding Atlantean practice. The Inca ruler was called the "Son of the Sun"! I think we can trace Atlantean influence in some of our own more esoteric literature.

I have been receiving mail you have been sending and, so far as I know, have received all. I hope Gene has come - had half a thought he might make a run up here. I am very glad you are taking part in the classes. John received the documents you sent, but we do not have the ritual forms. However, Franceska and John, to some extent, have the words memorized.

No new lambs for two weeks. Only one of late has been kept in the kitchen and it soon became very well behaved. It has a mother who gives some milk though she refused the lamb at first. One of the older lambs who was brought up in the kitchen has no mother. She did not die but had no milk and was turned out with the herd. These two are completely weaned from their own kind. They seem to think it is an insult to be made to stay with their own kind, mere animals. They insist that they belong with the humans and are disconsolate when separated from Franceska. It is really quite funny.

I do hope you will begin to be stronger as the weather turns warmer. It would not be good if when you are here you felt you had to work more than you could simply because there is always more to do than can be done. You should remember that this will always be the case until we have organization and supply perfected, and in the meantime one must pick out the most important and let the rest go, since there is no wisdom in trying to do more than one can do. It is a matter of being guided by philosophy. You must learn to practice this more.

May the blessing of the Light abide with you always, my darling. Ever I send my love to you.

Franklin

The Assembly Ranch,
Apr. 6, 1945.

My Darling:

In the past week I have discovered that this is not a farm but a maternity hospital. There is young life every here expressing its opinions about life in general. Since last writing four new lambs have come and three of the mothers refused them. So into the kitchen they come, and my how they can talk! Franceska says that Joe did not hear anything, relatively speaking. One lamb born shortly before I came died. Everything was done that we knew, but it was no use.

We have been struggling with the filling of the big ditch in the main field. We have conquered two thirds of it reasonably well, but it is difficult to move dirt with the equipment we can devise. It will now be possible to get water cross-wise on the lower two-thirds of the field and that will reduce the summer labor very much indeed. We will be able to plant in the next few days.

Most of the days since I have been here have been delightful, but there was one north wind Sat. Night and Sunday which resulted in a severe drop in temperature. However, it did not kill the new growth and if it did injure apricot blossoms, there are still others unopened and, altogether, there are four or five times as many blossoms as the trees could bear fruit. The other trees are not that far along.

We are having the meetings both Sunday and Thursday nights. John says they are short on documents as all that are here have been read and studied.

Among John's books there was a life on Nietzsche and an essay on him by Havelock Ellis. I have read both and learned a good deal. The man in his own proper person was just the opposite of that which he wrote. He was a man of sympathy and pity to the point of weakness and his opposition to compassion was really a reaction to an extreme in himself. The man was really an artist with the temperament of a prima donna.

It is almost impossible to get ahead of the work up here, what with the demands of new life and preparation for the coming season. Both John and Franceska work from dawn to eight o'clock, seven days a week. I have been doing tractor work except when making and servicing the operating tools. We are definitely behind.

As for myself, I have definitely improved. The cough is better, particularly when it is warm. There is some aggravation from dust, but on the whole it is better. I cannot and do not maintain the long hours of the others, but I find myself slowly becoming conditioned.

Any now, my darling, I keep thinking about how you are doing. I avoid worry, but I could worry very easily. I do miss you and hope you will come next trip. It will be necessary to come back as soon as possible.

I send my heart-felt love to you, and please remember me to the others.

Franklin.

Apr 21, 1945.

My Dearest:

It is lovely weather now and has been so for several days. The change came suddenly with even the air from the north warming up. Lowest temperatures have been running high in the forties. No longer do we heat the house with the heater. The result of the warmth is that every thing is starting to grow and the work fairly jumps upon us. We could certainly use another man for the next few weeks. The main field (where the corn and wheat were) is planted and approximate contour furrows drawn over the whole field - some 350 or 400 of them. We are in process of filling them with water now. By this method we certainly get the water on the ground well distributed and without washing. Just as in the orchard, there is a lot of hard work the first time over. Two-thirds of the alfalfa in front of the house had to be re-seeded. Mostly the plants were too small to face the winter. I used the same method here and we are going on to the construction of a cement head - ditch for this area this afternoon.

All the fruit trees are shooting leaves, some are in bloom and some approaching bloom. Most of the blossoms will not have had to face any sub-freezing weather. The only doubtful trees are the apricots. One peach was in strong bloom during the cold, but the petals did not darken. The cherries are just turning white. The pasture grass for the cows is growing faster than it is being eaten and likewise the sheep pasture is beginning to catch up on the sheep.

We will have quite a number of strawberry plants this year. They are being placed in the upper part of the flat portion of the beet-field. Irrigation will be a simple problem.

Thirteen of the older lambs have been separated from their mothers and placed in the orchard. It was quite musical here for a couple of days, but they are reconciled much more quickly than the calves were. They seem quite content now and are eating grass, helped out with some alfalfa. They are really quite delightful. Lambs have a more active intelligence than mature sheep. They are learners while sheep live in ruts.

By the way, I am running low on cigarettes and they are scarcer here than in San Fernando. Could you send up such packages as I have?

Well, my Beloved, may every good attend you. May you feel better and better.

Franklin

The Ranch,
Mar. 15, 1947.

My Dearest:

The past seven days has been a very interesting and productive week. First Nancy presented us with two fine kids, a male and a female. This makes four kids altogether - three males and one female. The building has the sheeting on the roof, the foundation wire, paper and most of the stucco-wire on the sides. The work has gone rapidly once the ground was removed and the foundation laid. Thursday evening at six oclock the electric plant arrived and was installed by seven thirty. Yesterday the poles were put in, the lines run and the fixture placed in the living room. So last night we had electric light. The illumination is excellent. One can see to read easily anywhere in the room and there is no glare. The light is reflected on the ceiling and gives a very nice glow. The trees were planted some days ago and watered. The lumber and cement arrived Monday with the five-dollar cartage charge which makes it a little cheaper than a delivery from Lancaster and without the necessity of taking so much at one time. Finally, Princess yesterday presented us with Duke, a nice little bull of her own color and so there will be milk for the household in about three days. Queenie may come in at almost any time now.

Do not hesitate to pay the price of a good set of teeth if the dentist delivers real value. The money is in the bank and I believe it is better to turn it into real usable wealth before one passes in. I still believe that money is not to be trusted too much in the present world set-up.

The weather is remarkably comfortable for this time of year. Morning temperatures for the last four days have been forty or above. March has been a lamb so far. We will see if it will be a lion before it is through. Everything is pushing ahead extra early. Leaves as well as blossoms are starting and the grass, clovers and alfalfa is making the fields green rapidly. We seem to be about a month early. Sixty-five dozen eggs go in this week, though prices have dropped to 45 and 50 cents.

Just as soon as I can get the paper on the roof and a scratch-coat of cement on the walls of the Building - so that the plant will be protected from ~~winter~~ weather - we shall have to get to work on the new field. It will be possible to plant as soon as we are ready.

If Joe and Kathryn could bring you up it would help since the season is placing pressure on us to get the planting done and we are very short on labor force. If this is not practical, let me know and also when you are ready, and I will come down to bring you up. After planting there should be some let up which could be applied to the new addition. By the way, nails are hard to get everywhere and if you down there could secure what you can it would help. We need mostly eight pennies - box or common - and sixteen pennies - common only, not box. We should collect up to 100

pounds of eights and to fifty pounds of sixteens. Other sizes apply to finish work and that comes later.

Now, do take as good care of yourself as you can. I do miss you and am looking forward to your coming.

My love abides with you always.

Franklin

P.S. Letters received. The S.O. bill was paid and I am returning same with that notation. Do not hesitate to spend \$1000.00 on teeth if the work is satisfactory. I have heard of such prices. They are too high, but so is everything, and probably will not become better.

The change in plan I think an improvement. Will study it later. I doubt we can have steps to the south because of road. Floor at S E corner will be seven feet above ground. Will order remaining rough lumber as you suggest. Really important since I learned England is buying heavily in NW lumber - probably making it scarcer. Perhaps Joe should take similar steps.

I love you.

Franklin

Sunday Mar. 23.

My Dearest:

Very much we need a set of printed cards to announce the royal births round here. Yesterday Queenie presented us with another royal highness, a strong and active bull. Franceska says she had a very bad time; -worse than Lady - but she came through alright and both are doing well. This seems to be a masculine year with three billies and two bulls. Princess is milking more heavily than ever. She is giving now about four gallons and three quarts per day, though cream percentage is not quite as high as formerly, but absolutely about the same. Egg-production is around 65 doz. per week beside household use. The yield is running twice feeding costs.

The season is very advanced. Apricots past bloom; the rest of the fruit in bloom, save the eating apples. Leaves also are pushing. Alfalfa is six to eight inches high and growing strongly in both fields. The upper field has a strong volunteer crop of clover and old roots. I gave this a supplementary planting and harrowing yesterday and started water for wetting the surface. Underneath moisture good. Meanwhile John is doing preliminary work for the area which will go into alfalfa.

The new little building is completed save for the finish coat on the stucco. This can be postponed indefinitely. The building looks neat and I am satisfied with it. The light plant works beautifully. The material cost for the building is very close to \$105.00, giving two rooms with partition and an area of 140 square feet. The cost of material was about 75¢ per square foot whereas a full cost of five-room houses now runs \$7.00 to \$8.00 per square foot.

Tomorrow I am ordering the balance of the lumber for the new addition - that is, the lumber for roughing-in. This includes the sheeting for the sub-floor and the roof. We have enough material for prepping the walls of stucco. The paper for the roof I am ordering from Sears Roebuck. There will remain the final flooring, doors, windows, finish, plumbing and building hardware. Most of these items are scarce and one has to get them when he can. I am paying for this order out of our own account as I shall have used the signed checks you gave me. The two checks I have paid are as follows:

1500 feet sheeting @ \$107.50 per M

50 sacks of cement

\$5.00 cartage and tax

Total ----- \$223.97

Two rolls paper, windows, hardware screws etc. \$25.28.

Tomorrow I will have to use a check for gasoline and lub. oil, and that finishes the checks you gave me.

As to Joe's question re amount of lumber etc. needed for roughing-in an addition on the north side, this may be said. Assuming approximately the same size as our addition, dimension lumber and sheeting will run around 3700 board feet. In addition, a roll of

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paper for under stucco, seven rolls roofing paper, part of roll of stove-pipe wire, one roll stucco wire and cement for stucco at the rate of about three sacks for 100 sq. ft. Also foundation bolts. There remains in the plaster and finishing items. This plaster must be added to ours also.

Re. Francesca and John. Francesca handles her end very well. She works very long hours - up to nine and ten at night and up early in the morning. Her spirit is good, and she is conscientious. John has done as well as could be expected of anybody since I have been here. Some of the work he has had to do in preparing the place for the building has been very hard - worse than I expected. He mixed cement and carried sand in buckets from the pile at the water-intake for the house; he planted the trees and about seventy boysen berry plants and is now re-arranging the fence at lower end of pasture preliminary to adding the new alfalfa field. In addition he carries his regular routine of chores, including cutting wood and acting as mid-wife to the animals with Francesca's help. He works early and late. But his winter production, apart from maintenance-work, has been far from satisfactory. In new development he has done since I have been here about as much as he did all winter. There is also some general maintenance that should have been done. I do not believe he idles because muscular activity is a necessity with him, and possibly even a vice, a kind of laziness which replaces thought. Except on established routines, he can work much and do little, if no one acts as a head for him, and only a man can do that. I sense some egoism, a failure to see his limitations. In the beginning I felt some friction, but that passed. I am irritated but believe it is wise not to manifest it. I doubt that his mental failure is really inability, but refusal to inject the will in the mind. He lets it shunt off the easy way into the body, and the body without the mind is not much good. I do not think too highly of the Margarete Marie type of mysticism.

I am indeed sorry to learn that you have not been feeling so well, but glad that you were getting better when you wrote. There seems to be a sort of periodicity in this and this affords the satisfaction that when feeling bad one may know that a better cycle lies ahead. We are all in good health here. I have been pretty tired at times, but now am feeling pretty good. I was largely off the physical job yesterday. I do rest after meals for awhile as I find it necessary.

On the building the only set-back was the amount and hardness of the ground to be moved. For the rest everything went as expected with no unforeseen little things. I was ready for the plant when it came, even though it was a day earlier than I expected. Oh! there was one detail unforeseen. The garage is far from perpendicular! I built correctly and adjusted for this.

I have been reading concerning the Truman announcement of policy re Greece. I see only two possible alternatives. Either take the strong policy of containing communistic Russia or abandon the Eastern Hemisphere to her with the threat of war in the future

when she will be possibly far stronger than we are. She may back down before a strong policy on our part as she is now too badly hurt by the war. I do not see that we have much of a choice since the decision of the Roosevelt government to intervene, and that is now an historic fact. I think that at that time we did have the possibility of choice.

I do hope you get the denture completed soon so that you can come up here. I do not like to have you so far away. There will be more interest when we start on the new addition. After planting is ~~carried~~ completed there will be a chance to get at the work.

Remember me to Joe and Katheryn. For yourself, my love abides with you always, in this world and the world beyond. May Peace and Understanding abide with you.

Franklin

Saturday Morning.

Sherifa My De rest:

I had laid my plans to return today, but sent John to town yesterday mainly to check on any letter from you that might change them. Your two good letters did indicate that it was not imperative to return at once and I have a problem here that should not be neglected. I have been on the bees. I found they had strong brood but had used up nearly all the honey in building up and just at the present there is a slack in blossoms. The orchard bloom is over and the wild flowers are a little slow while the buckwheat is not due for a month yet. I divided the hives and found queen cells in one hive, indicating preparation for swarming. In dividing the brood is mainly given to the new hives while the old queen is left with the old hive with a little brood. This frees the workers for honey gathering, but the bees in the new hives are forced for a time to concentrate on nursing duty and there isn't much honey I could give them. I propose to try a little feeding if I can get sugar. I understand that they will release sugar for this purpose just as they do gasoline for tractors. So I shall try today. Otherwise we might lose some of the new colonies, or they might develop too slowly to help us on the sugar shortage. This is rather imperative and when we return would be rather too late.

Yes, that letter from the woman in San Francisco is very fine. Last time I only mentioned the one you had just enclosed as it was just on my mind. That man in the army seems to have some remarkable intuitions as he saw some implications from the book that were not explicitly stated. That impressed me. Fatigue has kept me from writing yet, but I shall do so.

I rather figured that irrigation was nearly due in the orchard. It will work in before harvest begins here. Alfalfa cutting will begin about the first of June, and there is a good deal more of it. The terraces will have to be cut by scythe, and that will be a time of pressure. The terraces are growing better than the old fields. It is running about 18 inches high now and is in the strong growing period. You see the problem is that irrigation keeps one man going all the time and so harvest brings pressure. I have been driving to keep the moisture high and full on all fields before the real heat begins. We are on top of the game now, but dare not relax. The second round on the Sudan and oats is nearly completed. This follow up was done quickly with water not needed elsewhere as I found that hardening of the surface blocked seed that sprouted a little late and the shoot would curl under the crust. Softening with water has released much of this, and we now have a satisfactory sprouting all over the field. The getting the fields started is the critical problem. After the roots have made depth the task is easier. We have corn and sun-flowers in and both are sprouting now in a well moistened bed. With the new system we can get the water distributed and with less work and this should mean quite different results from last year.

Franceska is on the job with respect to the setting hens. One is on a setting now and sticks to her job. A second one would not stay on the eggs. These developed layers are problems. Only some are good setters.

We have meat resources when it becomes necessary to use them, and I think we will really get ahead on the feed problem this year. The key to the latter is command of water distribution, a problem of organization and system, which we were unable to achieve last year.

I am very glad to learn that you are feeling better on the whole but sorry because of the let-down which caused the delay on the teeth. But keep up your courage. We will win again as we have so many times in the past. I will be back with you soon, would have been before this, but, save in an emergency, I felt it was necessary to save the year here (which John could not possibly do alone) as we well may need a place of refuge not long hence.

You may well believe that the cigarettes were more than welcome and the candy is a delight. But with candy scarce, do not neglect your own supply. I do not begin to crave it as I did in former years. Probably due to a long time adjustment to altitude. I had been out of cigarettes, so I got some pipe tobacco and a pipe and that kept me from missing them. Also the less satisfactory smoke cuts down the inclination.

Franceska is sending some more butter. We get along very well with the help of peanut butter, which is not rationed, and not short in supply. Indeed I think supply is better here than in L.A. or S.F. There is always soap-powder, toilet paper, curyp and nearly always meat, though selection may be restricted. Only once was there no meat at all. The shortage on cigarettes is worse, but on other items, it seems to be less marked than it is nearer the center of population.

I was glad to get Jim's letter. Yes, the army would change him as it tends to suppress the gentler qualities. But the life does not appeal to him and there are good reasons to believe he will throw off much of the effect. It is good, though, for him to build the capacity for power. He may well need it and may serve the cause all the better because of it. I do not believe there is any need to worry about him. With other lacking the spiritual tendency the problem may well be different.

Do not worry about any tendency to fall in love on my part. I have learned wisdom and considerable knowledge of the unconscious forces. Further, there is no temptation. My interest is almost wholly consumed in mastering the problematic in the fields in which I am working.

Now, with the fall of Germany, the really bad problems begin. The false conception that victory was all important made the former situation seem relatively simple. Now the complexity - I think impossible complexity - will begin to be apparent. Conflicting interests that were suppressed while there was a feeling of emergency, will come out with greater force. I do not believe that ordinary human wisdom will be adequate, even if there was a real effort to control passion, which there is not. Talk of justice merely hides vindictiveness, adding to the sin of the latter the greater sin of hypocrisy. The Germans were more frank and called a spade a spade without pretense to Christic righteousness. Our talk of justice merely hides from us that we are really doing. Deep spiritual blindness will be the price exacted.

My love abides with you always, my Dearest.

Franklin

Got 100 lbs. sugar without trouble

Monday.

My Darling:

At last the heavy planting drive is at an end. All fields have been planted and have been under water except the terrace part of the beet field, and John is working on that now. The heavy work lay in the organization of the water application, but this is done and re-irrigation will not entail nearly so much work. It has kept us all going as hard as we could. Yesterday and today I have been preparing the bee-supplies and will look into the bees sometime tomorrow. I will divide if possible, but it may be a little early. After this John and Francesca can carry on, I think, so far as routine is concerned, up to the beginning of harvest, which is around the first of June. So I shall be coming down in the next few days - as soon as I have finished with the bees. It has been quite a drive, but the planting must be done at the right time or there is no use planting at all. The season is earlier this year.

As there is no word from you I assume you are not faring too badly. In that case, I shall plan to leave the latter part of this week. But for the bees it would be earlier. If they can be divided this week I shall do so. Last year it was the last of this month and I just beat swarming. But the season is earlier and they may be strong enough and have adequate supplies for dividing now. I shall bring down the full equipment for your hive so that they may be properly housed.

I found your file, etc. O.K. and place the items in my suit-case to bring down.

We had to get a load of wood and should get another. If I possibly can I shall work up the small field west of the barn and east of the chicken-house, as you suggested.

I do so hope that your toxic condition is better and that progress has been made on the teeth. - My love ever abides with you - I shall be back soon.

Franklin