

Tuesday Nov. 7

Dear Stan.

Your cable was received yesterday (Monday Nov. 6) and although it was appropriate that I should answer it in like form, I found that the conventional phrases of cablegrams would be quite unsatisfactory for expressing my feeling in the situation so I abandoned the brief formula for the more flexible letter form.

The shock naturally was not great. After having opened every telegram for the past four years with the expectation, fear and almost hope that it would announce Mother's end, and having unimaginatively lived thru her death a number of times (ie. her fall on the stairs in '29 etc) there was little left to experience in the reality of the event, except ^{regret} that I ~~could not~~ ^{might} have been there if that could have added to Mother's contentment. The greatest regret of course is that the whole history of the case might have been different, but under the circumstances I am sure no one would have wished it to last longer. My greatest concern is for the younger not the older generation and I am wondering how you and Nannie have weathered the siege. I know that I would have been quite unaffected by it, mine even the Summer of 1929 permanently affected my nervous system. I hope that it will be possible for you both to have a complete change of scene; can't you go on another business trip to Europe?

I do appreciate the continuous responsibility and anxiety that you both have had, and that you should ^{now} experience a freedom of spirits which is long overdue to you together.

Your reactions may not, it is true, be as I construe them, and that you have honestly felt nothing but a satisfying service in your burden. If so, my still greater respect.

As for the inheritance, which I imagine is practically nothing, I do not know how Mother wished it to be divided. However, of investments, of cash on hand after expenses etc, I think no more than one third is my due. There are a few personal objects which I should like to consider as my own, such as a few of Mother's paintings, some of her jewelry (perhaps the garnet necklace and the "Swiss-watch" gold brooch and bracelet). I would like especially, Grammie's (Margaret Sheran) painting of Boyle Abbey, all of her memory books and trinkets of that generation. There are too few of them to divide and should be kept intact. I would like Joseph Fletcher Longheed's letters - I hope that they are safely preserved, also all the mementos of him, (orange ribbon, vest, mandarin fan and calling card photos testimonials etc). You might make a list of the things as I do not remember them all at the moment, ^{but I do not wish these things sent to me as yet} Also will you please send me now, photos of Mother and Dad, early and late, such as you can spare. I have only two early ones of Mother,

Also the few pieces of M. L. S.'s wedding china

the others seem to have vanished into thin air.

I wish that you would write to me concerning the details of Mother's last days. The last letter I had was from Nannie in August and that was very sketchy. ~~Are you going to~~
~~to Tacoma~~

Early in December, in about a month, I leave for Macao via Shanghai. I do not expect to be gone more than three months, probably less. You might write me during that time (at least until further advice) c/o The American Express, Hongkong. In any case I am expecting a letter to follow your cable. So many thanks for sending that so quickly.

Best to you and Nannie.

Scho.