

Paris, April 4, 1913.

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Dear Father,

After a week here I see clearly that I got out of Geneva none too soon. The small-town atmosphere was killing all the initiative in me, and I was steadily sinking into a self-satisfied drifter. Here in a big city I have to fight for my existence. - Not materially, that is the fight too much emphasised these days, but intellectual and moral against all sorts of lazy currents. I have been hearing the American colony talk - and I have not yet heard one man who has not voiced the opinion that the most important thing in life is to make money. And most of them are so busy making money that they have no time to reflect. They grind, they fight all day financially, & then their intellectual opinions follow the line of least resistance. I have seen personified the reasons why I have never wanted to take a teaching position - they work teachers so hard these days that when the day's work is done, there is no brain left for personal development. And physically - or perhaps nervously - I am not able to stand that. And I

Paris, April 11, 1855

Dear Father,

After a week here I feel clearly that I got out of Geneva more than I expected. The usual town atmosphere was killing all the initiative in me, and I was actually sinking into a self-satisfied duffer. There is a big city where I fight for my existence. But what is the fight too much supplied there, but intellectual and moral against all sort of laziness. I have been hearing the American school talk - and I have not yet heard one who has not worried the opinion that the great important thing in life is to make money. And most of them are so busy making money that they have no time to reflect. They fight all day financially, then their intellectual opinions follow the line of least resistance. I have never formalized the reasons why I have never wanted to take a teaching position - they work teachers as hard these days that when the day work is done, there is no brain left for personal development. But perhaps or perhaps - I am not able to stand that. But

(A) enough
need nervous energy for reflection. I have
to know the why of things or I'm not
living. And if other people don't under-
stand that need — well, it's my affair, not
theirs'. Last evening I came into my
room in the dark to think things over
and I was having a beautiful time, but
Mademoiselle heard I was in here, and came
rushing in, scolded me for not coming
into the heated stove-hot salon with the
others, "You poor abandoned thing, sitting
alone in the dark" — and I said to myself
that that is just why she is a faded thing
keeping a second rate boarding-house,
because she has never reflected. She has
just gone on as people expected her to
go. It is a second rate boarding house.
I promised to stay two weeks when I came,
but I'll leave the day they are up. I have
found a sort of Martha Washington hotel
with running water in the rooms, where
pension is cheaper than here.

I do not see what the Beaches liked
in the Latin Quarter. It is just shabby,
shabby, unhealthy. One look at the "foyer"
was enough for me. Why people prefer
crowding together in such dirt & ugliness
I can't see — it is not a question of purse,

young

I can't see - it is not a question of time
 crowding together in small bits & ugliness
 was the only hope for me. Many people prefer
 a happy, unsheltered, one look at the town
 in the better quarters. It is just a shame
 to do not see what the District likes
 formation is cheaper than here.
 with remaining water in the house, where
 found a sack of broken wood for the hotel
 but the same the day they are up. I have
 to provide to stay two weeks when I come
 go. It is a second rate boarding house.
 first gave me as people expected her to
 because she has never reflected. She has
 keeping a record of the boarding house.
 that that is just why she is a faded thing
 above in the dark" - and said herself
 others, "you poor abandoned thing, sitting
 into the barbed wire. But below with the
 reaching in, stretched me for what evening
 breakable heard her in her, and some
 and two having a beautiful time, but
 room in the dark to think things over -
 their. I took evening I came with my
 should that need - well, it was affair, not
 living. And if other people don't under-
 to know the way of things or his not
 need, nervous energy for reflection. I have

(2) for in the heart of the city rents are higher than in the much nicer part at the edge. And with the fine network of subways, you can be at the centre of things in a few minutes from wherever you live.

(5)
I am going to church with the Baldwins today, and to lunch with them afterward. I am giving you the Gibbon address, 120 Boul de Montparnasse, as they can pass me any letters, and I shall not be long here. Mother will be here in a week now. It will do her good. She is not the kind to fit in with the self-righteous crowd at Geneva. I wish she were bringing the children + could stay all spring. The city is quiet, and if the Germans did come we'd have warning long enough beforehand to get out. The Zeppelins are treated as a joke - and probably since they see how little impression they make, they'll not waste fuel by coming. You can tell the men who have been in the trenches, as they are bent over. I hope there will soon be news of whether you are coming over. I want to stay this summer. I always stay a while at Silver Bay.
Love to all Jean,

for in the heart of the city rent are higher
 than in the rural areas part of the
 edge. And with the fine network of
 subways, you can be at the center of things
 in a few minutes from wherever you live.
 I am going to travel with the railroad
 today, and to travel with them afterwards.
 I am giving you the ribbon address
 I should be (M... ..) and keep
 for me any letters, and please not
 be long here. Father will be here in
 a week now. It will be very good. The
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 self-righteous crowd at Geneva. But
 she were bringing the children to school
 at all spring. The city is quiet
 and if the Geneva did come we'd have
 morning long enough beforehand to get out.
 the Zepherin are listed as a joke - and
 probably since they see how little
 they make, they'll not want to
 come. You can tell the men who
 have been in the trenches, or that are
 bent over. Hope there will soon
 be news of whether you are coming over.
 I would to say this summer. I always
 at separate at Silver Bay.
 Love 'em all
 from