

Houghton, Michigan,

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 1891.

My dear Fannie:

Before the arrival of your last letter I had begun to think you could not be feeling very well, and was sorry to have my surmises prove correct. Is it indeed so much worse than ever before, that you have serious doubts as to the cause? I am very sorry you are so miserable, and hope that with the advent of a new year you will feel decidedly better. If it were not that your wishes lay in this direction, you would be paying pretty dearly for an indiscretion. However, all's well that ends well, and this trial will be only temporary, and may bring happiness to us both.

I must tell you of my latest achievement in the way of poetry, or doggerel. One member of the family writes stories, and another, verse. Perhaps it would be better not to repeat it now, but have it published posthumously. At any rate, I hope it won't have a serious effect on any of our descendants. You remember that horrid little jug that Ella used to have. One of the mining captains here that is very fond of jokes has been rather good to me, and lately gave me a very pretty specimen of copper. His mine has of late given him a good deal of trouble, and the last time I saw him he was rather down in the mouth. I have filled that jug with whiskey, tied to it my card with the following lines on the reverse side, wishing him a Merry Christmas:

If 'neath these handsome features you  
 Would fain perceive a grin,  
 Withdraw the cork, as others do  
 Who seek the "smile" within.

And when with him his "smile" you've shared,  
 Nor grief nor woe will tarry,  
 For even a broken heart's repaired  
 By mellow old "Glengarry."

I think this will make the old man chipper — I mean the poetry — for a day or two, and the whiskey may complete the cure.

The Mining School boys began their vacation yesterday. Dr. W. went to Chicago Thursday with Mrs. W. who must undergo a painful operation of some kind. To-morrow Patton leaves, and I hope to depart on Wednesday. I shall not be able to stay more than three days in Cinte, and they will all be disappointed not to see you. On my return I shall stop either at Chicago or Grand Rapids to see about furniture & other things for the club house.

To-day we had a sermon from the new arch-deacon Williams, of Marquette. He preached quite well, and seems to be a man of considerable ability. He studied law before he went into the ministry.

I shall not look for the arrival of my box and package until my return. I think the hymnial will give me a good deal of pleasure, and have no doubt you have tucked in a lot of things that will come in handy. I shall have to wait till next Kmas for curtains for my room. Bought two little turban cloths at a fair the other night. If you are well enough drop me a line to Cinte % Dr. J. L. Kelley #63 W. 8th St. Buy the chicks for me, and with a big love for your aunts, dainty self, and love to Aunt L. & Grandpa, believe me ever your husband Lu.