

My dear Maillard family:

July 30, 1917

A.P.O. 518 France

Two Jolly postals came from Dr. Chy & Alexander - much obliged. Here we are not allowed to send many postals - especially those with pictures of places so I cannot reciprocate at this time. After the war I shall return the favor. Thanks for the books. They are life savers surely. Epictetus is already growing into me and I laugh myself to sleep every night over Van Thoufsem and his woman. Am sure he is a bachelor! Wells' ^{Research} I have not finished partly on account of stress of work, and partly because I am postponing some reading until the weather will not permit outdoor exercise which I need so much. So far the spirit has not moved me to write any articles - magazines etc are glutted with this material just now and I do not wish to fail when I submit anything. Am keeping a diary - not very carefully - and not always putting down little inspired thoughts - which come in busy hours and flit away before I can write them down. However I have enough to philosophize on some day. Just now I would love to have a good small text on psychology. Some way my mental equilibrium is quite uncertain here - so different from last year and I am absolutely unable to find the cause. Some days I am as stupid as an owl - other days I display a bull in a china shop (comparative) which frightens me. Just what is it? Maybe my concentration plug is dirty - don't know.

I have made some outlines for winter work. Am going to pound on the life reading when the text comes and am also

undertaking a correspondence course in "personal efficiency"
I have started an article - of serious intent on gunshots
of the knee joint - based on ¹⁹¹⁶⁻¹⁹¹⁷ personal observation of some 60
cases. It may not be worth printing but I must get it
out of my system. Am also planning some more serious
French study - reviewing old literary gems that I loved
in college. Alfred de Musset's poems, Dostoevsky's novels
and Herman.

All the letters from your family have come. I think
possibly some of the early ones failed to arrive. I still
await the picture - which I suppose is tucked away
somewhere at 5050.

Wednesday night Aug. 1. we are giving a dance entertain-
ment which is ~~the~~ some affair. It is a return of the numerous
teas, dances, and sports we are invited to by other people
around us. I have secured an orchestra - we are arranging
a feed - chinese lanterns - a dancing & refreshment tent
and trying our best to give a real blow out. Personally I
am not crazy about it except as a means of returning obli-
gations. The weather is rainy every day in spite of the
season and we may get in bad. Some day when you feel
affluent - send me a small box of cut domino sugar - it
is like her's teeth. I think I told you that boxes sent
to the care Depot Quartermaster U. S. Army New York City
with my rank name & P.O. address will be forwarded to me
at request on package. The books came through intact and
I am deeply grateful - they are beside my bed and are used
daily. Work is heavy again - these legs will get tired. Thanks
from all the soldiers - Peter is smiling - Kelley & Speed