

Hampstead Dec. 14th / 62

Dear So.

I should feel just like writing to night - if I were alone, but Annie sits at one elbow and they are talking on all manner of subjects.

However I ~~have~~ wish to tell you of some ~~things~~ things I have heard the week past, which I think will interest you, and so I will try and write a little. Father was up to the village last week and Mr. Smith told him he asked Eastman about you and he said - he didn't know anything of you, and that you wasn't the man he thought you was. Father was mad, but I told him if he didn't say anything worse than that, didn't make up any lies, I wouldn't find any fault. Smith says, from the Drs own talk he concluded

Transcription:

[raised imprint reads: "LEE"]

Hampstead Dec. 14th/62

Dear L.

I should feel just like writing to night if I were alone, but Annie sits at one elbow and they are talking on all manner of subjects.

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he ~~you~~ didn't - get - an honorable discharge,
and asked father if it was so, ^{by} Father
didn't - know of course but he pretended
to know a good deal of you know
as usual. I can't help this you
know, but - think all he said will
do you no harm. Mr. J. says all the
Dr. will say about you will do
you no harm, ^{where you are kept} and it is my opinion
that - the people of Hc will think
more of you if he dislikes you
I Beluck

Well darling, I am alone
now, and can talk to you a great
deal better when we are alone.

I dreamed of you last night
and ^{the} night - before. I heard your
voice just as plain as I ever heard
it in my life, and thought you were
here talking to the children. Oh will
my dream ever be realized? But I
am very hopeful now - since I see

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your last letter (which I have already answered) it has seemed as though a great weight were lifted from my mind, and I can hope again, and trust in "Him" who doeth all things well." And we will be so happy once more. I don't ^{believe} we shall either of us be so very happy or so very unhappy as we have been. But we shall be more even, calmer and wiser. Was it not so in those last days we spent together: You recollect how easily I shed tears once? Now I don't doubt but I am thought-hard hearted. It ^{is} so seldom I shed a tear. And when I they do flow it is from very different causes, from what I once thought ~~a~~ sufficient causes. I can shed tears for others as well as myself now. A person must pass through a great many trials to cure them of selfishness. Not that I consider myself entirely cured.

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How I pitied Mary Kent when Charles Woodman was buried, and yet I thought, as Mrs. L. Hoyt and I stood by the coffin, we shall be thankful for such a privilege as this, if our loved ones can but be with us in their last moments.

But I will not write about it, you know what I fear, and why not? when so many have died out there far away from those that love them. But enough of this.

I'll tell you how it is I have been thinking of consulting Eastman about my throat (which by the way don't get any better) ever since I heard he was coming home, and now I don't like to do it. And I don't know how to have any other Dr. and what shall I do? "Grip and bear it?"

I believe you can get along without.

I believe you can get along without Eastman better than I can, now.

He has got Ben Smith for a tool now. He tells his stories, and Ben backs them.

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