Bethel, Dec. 7/97.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I venture to trouble you once more with what may very naturally have become a little wearisome to you, but which I believe will end with this time. I thank you exceedingly for your prompt and very explicit aid, an herewith submit the result to you, asking that you will kindly look it over again and tell me if I am guilty of any vital errors. Of course I ~~will~~ shall have made some mistakes, but if the general story is correct, not telling any out and out untruths, and the vital points are properly taken into account, the purpose of the recital of your very interesting case will have been served.

It has been my intention to present the essential features to a ready comprehension of your case-, and I am sure you will recognize this to be so despite some probable errors. Please feel free to criticise freely since this is my motive in sending it. I am just returned from a few days treatment of my friend in Portland, who is doing beautifully and who is now appreciating the good he is deriving. Should you ever have occasion to refer to his case, I would beg of you to omit his name and the nature of his affection, since doctors are a little sensitive ~~to~~ as being recognized as having any special thing the matter with them and this rightly so, for reasons that you will readily recognize. I go down to treat him again next Saturday, which will be the last time, he being now ready to start for Florida. Will you kindly remail this inclosure to me, care of Dr. L. W. Pendleton, Cor. State & Congress Sts., Portland, Me. I am very happy ~~in~~ over the beautiful progress my friend is making: he is doing a great deal of work, is suffering scarcely at all,

and is vastly improved and I have no doubt permanently so.

I am particularly pleased over your happy report concerning yourself, of which you will see that I have made good use. But what a pity that you should have had to immolate that leg again: It is too bad, yet from your letter I gather that the results of the fall are rapidly disappearing, and will not affect you as it would have done in the past. Indeed I doubt if you will ever again be as vulnerable on that much abused side as you formerly were. Recovery also will be much more prompt. I was especially amused over your ventures in the running and jumping line: think how risky this would have seemed in the past! Perhaps you will be interested in a case I am now treating here in the person of Ed.Mc Gill, the ex stage driver whom you doubtless remember. He has been down with chronic articular rheumatism for ten weeks, having started in with rheumatic fever. I saw him first a week ago, he having run the gamut of the local talent. He could scarcely walk and that only with much stiffness & pain: One knee, one ankle and one wrist were swollen and painful & every joint in his spine was sore. To get up from a chair he had to lunge forward half a dozen times, and to lie down upon the lounge in his cabin was an undertaking of much time & creaky joints. He had heard of my curing some patient in his neighborhood by some new method-and to use his own words -, "I dont know what it is, but if its like Spiritualism-I believe in that!"

I did undertake his case, though with some misgivings. Yet he is such a poor devil and was in such bad shape that I decided to try .

One treatment by suggestion took away all his pain, he got up off the lounge with ease, walked about the floor without his cane, sat down in his chair and got up again immediately the first time in the usual

way without making any forward lunges but straight from his feet. He was immensely tickled. The next day when I called the swelling of the knee had entirely disappeared-,absorption had evidently been greatly stimulated. He had been out in the street and at the neighbors and had evidently been showing off. At the close of his fourth treatment he is immensely better, and I think will be wholly out of the woods by the end of this week. Young Douglass, (whom you also know) was in to see him & Mc Gill was trying to explain how I was treating him. He told Douglas that he dindn't know its name but thought it was called "hypocrite" : I am getting the common folk interested and I think some of them begin to think I could practice the black art were I so disposed .

I am very glad Mrs. Brewster is improving, even though slowly. Likewise I shall expect you to stay improved since you are one of my banner cases. I must apologize for this lengthy effusion, though the machine is in part to blame it being an easier method of writing. In due time I shall send you a copy of my paper, to which I consider you a valued contributor. I trust you wont feel immolated upon the shrine of Esculapius, for I do feel a little shaky about serving up my friends as cases. Yet inasmuch as I am serving Mrs. Gehting the same turn, you will concede my impartiality. With most cordial well-wishes and regards, I am always your sincere,

J. S. Schanz

Gehring – J. G.
Dec. 7, 1897.

Bethel,Me.,July 29/98.

My dear Mr.Brewster:

It is,lo,these many days that I have had any news from you and your recent letter was as welcome as a fresh breeze would be these sultry dog-days. I knew you were somewhere and that we should surely know of your whereabouts in good time,and now we know that you are over in N.H.somewhere ,for just where Petersboro is I dont know. I am exceedingly sorry that you are in the clutches of the enemy again, who,like Satan,always seems to be lurking near. But we have a sort of a cinch on the old fellow ,anyway,and you know I shall always be happy in lending a hand at a rout. I felt homesick at what you wrote about the abundance of the tulip trees in the region you have been visiting; that is one of my oldest friends of the Ohio woods,where it grows to great perfection,and is one of the first trees I learned to know when taking some early lessons in botany. I often sigh for some of the fine nut trees of my old home,-the hickory,chestnut walnut & buckeye,-but for that matter I have good reason to believe that they would grow here-were it not for the life-time it would require to get them.
I have been and am very busy with sick people,two of whom,ladies,I have in the house now. They have been here since the middle of May and will stay until about the first of October. One is from Cleveland and the other from Belfast,Me..Then I have at present some interesting cases in the village-and one of them a very sick man at the hotel,-suffering with a localized peritonitis. I shall be so glad to see you again when you come through this way to go to the camp,as you are of course going to do via Bethel,and we are all looking forward to your visit en passant(thats "Frinch" I suppose)with the most pleasant anti-

cipation.We want you to come earlier than you proposed in order to stay with us a bit-you need not be assured how glad we shall be to have you with us-I trust we may have left no uncertain impression in your mind on that score.Now about that visit with you that you have so hospitably proposed: it really seems to be for me an impossibility. I have delayed answering your letter-which I should otherwise have done earlier-in order that I might find out definitely just what the possibility would be,since we all wish so very much to go,but now I am obliged to say that even if all other cases now on hand permitted, there is one that declares definitely that she cannot let me go away even for a total of five days as I proposed on a compromise. This is one of the patients in the house-so what is there for me to do but to realize that since I am the doctor and this lady is the above minded patient,I can do nothing else but fulfil the obligations that I assume when I take a patient in charge. I haven't yet broken this disappointing news to George -and he is still all primed up as to what he is going to do up at your camp-,and as to Mrs.Gehring she feels very disappointed,-but thats one of the things one brings upon himself when he leaves the ranks of a private gentleman and goes into the glare of the scintillating public life of a physician who is treating functional nervous disorders!!!Being then obliged to bury this disappointment under our vests,we trust you will let us make it up by arranging to stay with us the longer on your way up and on your way down: There are many things I would like to talk over with you-its a long time since I've had a satisfactory one. Our piazza life is pleasant this summer since we have solved the shade problem with an awning that seems to fill the bill as well as anything can that is not a tree.

Gehring – Dr. J. G.
July 29-98.

29Jul/98 (3

Write us soon when you are coming -I haven't enjoyed a real good social smoke-talk for a long time.

I hope Mrs.Brewster is enjoying and thriving upon the country air and that she is wholly comfortable.Please remember me to her most cordially Mrs.Gehring sends her warmest regards,in which George joins,and she wishes me to say to Mr.Brewster that he is to be sure to arrange thus early to give us a number of days before he goes up to camp.

With kindest regards,I am always ,

Most sincerely yours,

J.B.Gehring

P.S.

Mrs. Gehring & I have been sleeping out on the lawn in your tent since the first of this month. We enjoy it hugely & it's like a young vacation! Should you want to use the tent up at camp Pinery let me know & I'll have it all ready for you

J.B.G.

Bethel, Me., January 9 99.

My dear Mr. Brewster -

I am sure we are good enough friends so that if I confess to negligence in answering your kind letter, and assure you of a sufficient consciousness of guilt, you will forgive me! Indeed I have been hoping to have the necessary leisure and to get into the right mood to be able to sit down here at home & write you at length - in much the same manner as I should like to sit down with you on our piazza or before the library fire. Your charming letter was sent on to Cleveland where I got it a week or so before I came away, I being delayed there nearly seven weeks when I intended staying but two. I found myself plumped into such a mass of professional business that I was soon at work from nine in the morning until ten at night and I could have kept at it indefinitely. As it was necessary however for me to return east and look after various patients whom I had left, and others whom I had agreed to take, I had to wind up the Cleveland work by refusing to take new patients and turning over others into other hands. Then, as you may imagine very much to my consternation and no less to that of Mrs. Behring, what did my wife do but develop a brand new Appendicitis shortly after we had arrived in Cleveland! But, unlike as would have been the case in Bethel, I had doctors there to my

hearts content and the way in which I brought medicals and surgical luminaries in to consult on the poor patient's case was enough to make any ordinary appendicitis turn pale. And this it did, too, for after about a week in bed and twice that time confined to the house, poor Mrs. Behring got better without an operation. As you may imagine however our Cleveland visit proved more of a pleasure expedition than an excursion, what with my practice and the anxiety over Mrs. Behring, we both felt that we would be glad to get back to the peace & quiet of our home.

But I never got home, even after we left Cleveland, until some days after, being detained in Portland with some patients who had long been awaiting my coming. I have been down there nearly a week, since having but returned a few days ago, and now go off again tomorrow to be gone almost another week. I am likewise due down South, way down below Belfast, as soon as I can get to it. So you see I have been all of the time comfortably busy and part of the time more than that, and I find the way to do business opening out for me more and more widely. In this I am so sure of your generous interest and sympathy that it is a great pleasure to me to write it to you. How about yourself? You must feel assured that we should be very glad indeed to have you come to us — whenever that may be and I know of no nicer

time than force. Professionally and socially - any way you please or both combined - your welcome awaits you. Later on we will talk about this again and try to make definite dates if we can. In the mean time I wish you were here now - and had enough of your work with you to keep you busy - because we think the quiet seclusion of our winter life is in itself delightful and inspiring to work of any kind. Today it seems awfully (no pun intended) and since it's a roar-coaster it will be a long one I think. Our winters are crisp all day long being hauled into the yard & being packed in the end of the building you "helped me" build last fall. George is busy again with plans for a new boat house - his annual epidemic - he is liberally quoting Mr. Brewster on the theory of construction. To keep himself interested the lad developed an active cross between Chickens pox & measles which we were away! We are now, too, having an occasional scrunge in the village wherein the wrath of the unmarried falls around upon a few deserted heads and for an extra liberal share of which my poor wife comes in! She has at divers times and seasons been guilty of giving some little dancing parties in our home - in the library or on the piazza, the last of these affairs being a Christmas party on the Friday evening preceding. It seems, however, that a Methodist revival meeting (& mighty mean

properly call it an epidemic, had been in progress at the time & is still raging, and from this storm centre there have come sufficient denunciations to shatter the foundations of our Christian superstructure if it were not, as we hope, better grounded. Indeed Mrs Gehring has been accused by the local resident "methody" minister as "leading young souls to hell" !! Now if you have pumpkin enough to still feel like keeping up friendly relations with us, well & good - but you can't say I haven't warned you. Almost once in a lifetime my devoted wife has this sort of thing to encounter - and all of it is due, as George very properly observes, to her "vicious propensities for doing good" ! Mrs. Gehring and I are very pleased indeed over the great change in health that Mrs. Brewster has experienced. How comforted and gratified you must be feel ! And now, you, too, ought to be able to say as much for yourself. And this you will, I feel very sure, if only you will now give yourself a fair chance. So here's hoping to have you under the "influence" long enough to do you permanent good, and no less to having you with us long enough to do us all good - as you always do. I would modestly suggest that you could heap coals of fire upon my head if you didn't let me wait so long as I did you !!

With most cordial New Year greetings for us all, I am

always your sincere friend

J. H. Gehring.

P.S. Do read Cable's new story "The Entomologist", in January Scribner. It promises to be delicious.

Gehring – J. G.
January 6. 99.

Bethel, Mch 25th 99

My dear Mr. Brewster:

I have read with much interest the squabble over the Sparrow agitation in the paper you kindly sent me. There seems to be a good deal of a tempest and I'm almost afraid that you poor benighted ornithologists and scientific men will "get licked"! When it comes to a contest between the facts of trained observation and the asinine stupidity of the masses, particularly when the latter bestride sentiment, mere reason stands no chance. I'm amused at the letter to Mayor Quincy by George T. Angell. This gentleman blandly says, "In my (Chambers) encyclopedia I find that sparrows eat 'vast numbers of insects and their larvae', and also "that they did in the past give great assistance in clearing our city of caterpillars and cankerworms" – ! He calmly ignores the testimony of modern trained observers and takes such a fossilized authority as Chambers encyclopedia. But he seems an ass, anyway.

We have just such experiences in meeting the arguments of the anti-insecticidists – and its a constant fight between actual fact & blind sentiment.

You ought to see the splendid snow-effects we have this morning. It snowed heavily yesterday – a very soft snow – and we have more snow now than at all during the winter. In the driveway near the front of the house

we drive over six feet of snow - where it always drifts heavily. My carriage-house & barn (The old hen-house) is only visible in places - mostly out of sight.

I have just taken into the house a new patient and nurse, the wife of Mr. Bath, cashier of the National Security Bank of Boston. An interesting case of cerebral neurasthenia. I am exceedingly busy with my work and ought to be in several places at once. Am afraid I'll never get a chance to play in my garden in the Spring. Mrs. Behring is taking the greatest pleasure in the book you sent her - she raves & raves.

Shall have to be in Boston again next week on a flying professional trip but shall not have the pleasure of saying "howdy" to you because of lack of time.

George is trimming over with plans - and carries as much said in plans as he aspires to do in reality on his course.

Drop me a line about yourself when the spirit moves.

Mrs. Behring and George joined with to be most cordially remembered. I hope you will change your minds and pass through our town in the Spring and look in upon us - it's always a treat to us all to have you —

Always sincerely your friend

J. H. Behring.

Geharing — J G
March 25. 99.

Bethel, Me., June 28th 99.

My dear Mr. Brewster:

Your very welcome letter of the 16th came into "Camp Sehring" on one of the loveliest of June days when I was fairly "aching" to have some sympathizing friend share all the beauties of the day and of my garden with me – and the assurance that your letter gave that you would if you could went a great way towards comforting me! Why in the world do you ~~have to~~ live where you do, and I where I do – and why can't we all be more neighborly than we are! I really feel that Mrs. Sehring and I are wasting some of our sweetness at times and at such times we both feel a longing to go somewhere "among folks"! So you see it is really rather a duty for you to come up here once in a while and visit us and if as you say you would feel better and easier to become a partner in the item of running expenses, why you can do so if you really prefer. In other words you want to help "chip in" as I understand it! If this plan would make you feel free to come to visit us when you would not do so otherwise – why, we are perfectly willing you should. But I want you feel how welcome you always are and that we are at all

times most happy to have you under our roof whenever we have a place to put you and that I trust we shall always have. Likewise it is all right what you say about any professional services I may render you — you shall have your own way — any way in fact to preserve peace in the family!!

We shall therefore certainly look for you about the middle of September and you are to do just as you like about staying or going. Only, do come!

Having now discussed these matters I want to tell you how much pleasure the expressions of the kindly sentiments of your letters gave us both! We feel deeply assured of your friendly feeling for us and nothing gives us greater pleasure. There is nobody upon our list of friends whom we welcome more sincerely and whose friendship we value more truly than we do yours for I am sure we have all in common a real and a kindred appreciation of the things best worth appreciating and striving for, or as a recent writer has put it, "the keeping sight of the larger issues of life"!

When you are with us it is as though you were one of us, it is not as an outsider or a mere guest — but as one before whom we can live our real, everyday life and we do not treat you as company any further than it

is a pleasure to make sure of the comfort of a valued friend when in our hands. So my dear Mr. Brewster, our house is yours — come and be one of us whenever it is your pleasure — be sure it will always be ours.

Today it rains for the first time in weeks. It has been very dry. Hay is said to be a failure. And yet, outside of some brown spots on the lawn, my garden is more beautiful than ever and the things are spreading more & more. I have put out many shrubs around the house after arrangement of which I hope you will approve when you see them. The house is full of patients and a few besides whose members of the family of one of the patients. Mrs. Bott (of Boston) & her nurse occupy your tent upon the lawn & both enjoy it hugely. Mrs. Behring — I have a mother as has been our custom for two years past.

George has been spending two weeks in Boston & has had a great time, and has passed a good entrance examination for college. His tutor, Mr. Spear, is at home in Portland, unhappily threatened with a lung complication. My three Cleveland nephews are here, staying with Miss True. The eldest has a year more at Cornell, the second has just graduated in the Bowdoin Medical with honor being the third in rank in a class of 40. I frequently go away on professional work and in the interim have my hands full having more applications from patients by far than I can take in just now. You later in the summer I should

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have some vacancies. So it is a busy and I hope a useful time with us. I could wish for you that your health were a more stable quantity - I know all about the sense of physical insecurity from which I have no doubt you often suffer - I have enjoyed (?) that for many years - but I am anticipating myself for that more and more and am doing better and more work constantly. I believe there is possible for you a <u>much better</u> degree of health than you have had for years.

George Cabot has just gotten to the front - an unprecedented thing since in previous years he could get it out early enough. But his examinations have weighed pretty heavily upon his mind & it was evident that they had to be cleared out of the way first.

It is true that he worries as usual about his boat house but evidently a change has taken place and the lad is getting a wider horizon.

I fear this may hardly reach you before leaving Cambridge but I send it there nevertheless. May you have a pleasant summer over on the other side of the mountains.

With my kindest regards to yourself Mrs. Brewster in which Mrs. Schurman & George cordially join, I remain always sincerely yours

J. G. Schurman

Gehring – Dr. J. G.
June 28, 99.

Bethel, Me., May 19/02.

My dear Mr. Brewster;

Verily it seemeth as though this spring season were too much for us, we neither see each other or find time to write — and yet since your last letter I have been twice in Boston and fairly ached to get at you. Once before that I got as far as the Union station of an afternoon with the intention of running out to see you and taking the next train back, but when I got there I found I couldn't go & come in the brief time I had and so gave it up with reluctance. Had you been in Cambridge I could have managed it but my time was too short for anything more. Last week I went again, going on Thursday & returning on Friday, but then had no time at all. You, doubtless, are in the thick of all sorts of nice things in the way of bricks & planting and I hope you are having a splendid time. I should be delighted to see you here in August. We'll surely make room for you and there are so many things I shall want to do with you. Possibly the summer will be on by then — Spring, at least, has barely arrived and it has been the worst season I have yet met here.

Everything is inordinately backward and a week ago last Saturday the cold was so great and the wind so fierce as to freeze the young maple leaves and blow off the blossoms, so that many trees will have to start all over again. Quantities of other things were frozen - all the ferns that were up in the woods for instance; and the soil in my flower beds so hard that it could not be hoed a week ago Today. The minimum thermometer here that Friday night was 26 - but the effect of the cold was greatly increased by the gale. 9 in 3/4 of an inch in thickness was common. Up in the Rangely lakes, somewhere, ice was frozen to hold a horse. (this probably in some shallow water). I have done absolutely no transplanting in the grounds this spring but have enlarged the nursery beds after shock with a quantity of tiny hemlocks & yellow birch that I got down at a nurseryman's junction, between trains, one day last week. Help is so scarce in the village that I could get no one to help my mean into the spring planting which needed to be rushed, and I have had to do it myself with him. Today found me planting potatoes in the rain all day & brought I'm dead tired,

3 but feeling virtuous in the consciousness of the jobs being done. I have not yet touched the tent, or the awning, or the screens, or any flower seeds, and this month must see all these things done for with the first of June the home fields of mine & patients open my play time is over. The pines & firs I planted last October are all alive and growing & this encourages me much since I can do a lot of such work in the afternoons. I met Dr. Brosdale, of Boston, recently who belongs to some club to which you belong and who knows you. He is planting trees upon an extensive scale at his sea-side place somewhere in Mass., and is establishing a pinetum with everything that will grow in it. Our town is witnessing the revamping of the hotel which is now dubbed the "Mountain-Gate Home" and there bids fair to be a marked improvement in the cuisine and management. We are "mending" there these last two weeks, pending the return of our cook from her vacation. Yesterday I walked down through Uncle Moses' field & when within a rod from the stone wall, I saw a skunk meandering around. He paid no attention to me & which I was

watching him at a respectful distance, a woodchuck appeared from the other side of the wall. He paid no attention to the skunk & foraded around for half an hour until the wind blew my hat off, whereupon he decamped. I felt a little sore like writing a book upon "Some wild animals I have known". How I should have liked being with you at Seton-Thompson's! I dunno whether I want you to winter in Washington or not. How'll I get a glimpse of you in that case?

I want to know about the L. C. B works!

I send you a reprint with this mail. Please criticize it for me. George's nose seems cured, & I suppose nobody knows as well as he how nice that must be. Prof. Staubel, Prof. of International Law at Harvard, comes up here next month. He's been in the diplomatic service for some years. I hope you and Mrs. Brewster are well and happy out there in the woods. Mrs. Schurz joins me in warmest remembrances and greetings and I am, as you know, always cordially your friend

Carl Schurz.

Ehering, Dr J G.
May 19, 1902.

Bethel, Aug 5/06.

My dear friend.

A great many thanks for the Cambridge Birds which is surely a thing of beauty. I'm much interested in the reading matter apart from the mere birds which reads most charmingly and is in excellent style. I particularly like the unassumingness of the author, who, unlike some, does not assume the responsibility of the creation of the birds! The article on the English Sparrow is excellent. You don't need me, of course, to descant upon the merits of the book but I am taking the privilege of a friend in saying that I like it. You must have a feeling of profound satisfaction in seeing this book launched. Very I venture the hope that you are already mulling over another one? You are doubtless sweltering in Cambridge, as we are here. 25 very hot. I'm very busy with some trying cases, but I think I have never had a lot of patients with whom I have done better work & had better results, Stanbel is mending and Wenberg, who has been one of the most trying cases I have ever had, is getting well. We are both quite well. George was up over Sunday, the boy is doing good work. Our love to you and yours. Brewster. Always your friend

Fitzhugh

Bethel, Me., Jan 17, 1914.

Mr. William Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Billy B:-

Many thanks for yours of the 11th inst. No, I have not become mad nor grouchy because you didn't write, because I didn't think you were, and if you were I knew you would get over it, and if I were, I knew that you believed I'd get over it, -- where were we anyway? So let's kiss and make up.

Now then, here we are with fifteen inches of snow, any amount of tobogganing down at the Inn, and skating to boot, and very few people here to enjoy it all.

I am plugging away for all I am worth upon my opus magnum, or magnum opus, whatever is the proper thing to call it. I don't quite know what a magnum opus is myself, but I have heard of a magnum of champagne, which certain people who do not belong to our set are said to consume.

What will you give me if I don't put you into my book? I am desirous of raising money some way or other, and dont see why a little blackmail between friends isn't allowable.

It pleases me muchly that Mrs. Brewster seems so well and happy, and I am glad she is planning to go abroad, since it will do her good. I myself am cogitating some about the same thing. I haven't had a vacation proper for about three years, and must keep Mrs. Gehring and myself as young and fresh as possible. It is true that I don't feel that I can afford it this year, but think I owe it to ourselves that we do this sane thing, else I should not think of it.

I am writhing in the throes of the income tax problem. A simple solution at once suggests itself. It would be to deliberately cut down my income and thus flout Uncle Sam to his face, but upon second thought, maybe it would be "penny wise and pound foolish."

There are plenty of birds this winter of the usual kinds and they are parti-

cularly tame, the extreme cold weather of early in the week brought them very closely about the house, with many grosbeaks among them.

I have not been in the woods at all myself.

Don't trouble about writing me excepting when the spirit moves, and you are to believe always that we have a warm place up here for you in our hearts.

Always-faithfully yours, and with some affection

still, yes

Bethel,Me.,Dec 31,'17.

Dear Friends;

I know that if you knew that it is my own dainty though aching fingers that are jabbing away at this letter, which is a real labor though one of love, you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and will forgive me, realizing how much worse it might be. We are at home just three weeks today and can consider ourselves fairly settled down. It seems much longer [illegible] because I suppose we are all living so much more intensely these days. I had hardly (we had been,) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that we had gotten [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but now are settling [illegible] to [illegible] conditions of life and find them more [illegible]. Only Mrs. [illegible] and I [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], Mrs. [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] in the cellar and [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] every [illegible] and every [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] the family at the [illegible], a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

My patients and their [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fill the [illegible] [illegible] of the time. I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in the afternoon [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and attending to my [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],- I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the job [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible], I sometimes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]s [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]! [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

aroused your suspicion when you try to read it!

We are eager for news of you both. I had so delightful a visit with you and I yearned, as the Yankees say, to stay with you for luncheon that day, but found that my return to the city was justified when I got back.

Now I do wish that our back yards joined: Why, oh why, can't we have play together when we have so many things in common and never, never quarrel? I wrote a note to Dr. Stevens some time ago, commenting upon the little matter I spoke about, and I am wondering whether he mentioned the fact. I should greatly appreciate some little word from you. I wish so much you could look in upon us in our relative seclusion, and give us the opportunity of enjoying our friends without the presence of so many other people. Do you remember, Willy, that you were the first guest we had when the new house was yet uncompleted? At that time we had George and Lillian and mother Tane with us, but now we are all alone. For the first time since we have married do we. Gurney and I sit opposite each other at our little round table. I feel that we may hit it off together, you know! George has my own returned to Hillsdale, feeling, as he reports, eager to get to work. He believes he has made a good recovery, though not yet having the Cleveland doctors report. Little Dwayne is said to have had tonsilitis in the interim of their private absence. Tonight comes a report of an epidemic-tong upon my sisters premises by in Cleveland, does showing that the influenza strikes impartially. We have spoke over 50 inches of snow for the past two weeks and never since I have lived here has the earth been so cold. Owing to an incomplete supply of coal we are closing the big room of the house most of the time and running but one furnace, only twice a week opening them up and having the people in. You should see the single coals we sit down to; but isn't so much better to be able to have only what you want. Having half a barrel of coal in the cellar from last spring, we can feel a bit like the cat that had twice the

stamp: And then we have bushels of potatoes that are the best,ever:
For a week two mother squirrels came and visiting the nest on the elm tree,but no other birds have as yet found it. Did I tell you that Upsom had insisted upon giving me a brown horse? I had no very things to talk about that I likely forgot it. It is to be of double gloves each,about 15 by 17 or twenty, hooked by hook eyes. It is to come along sometime this winter from Kansas City, and I'm going to be set up and down on it some,just behind the gas wood layout the chestnut tree towards the ice house. I debated the matter with myself from time time,feeling that I couldnt afford to own it,but Upsom insists upon paying for the running of it,i.e. the coal,so I decided it would be unwise to refuse. I am now considering the probable variety which to disguise it my mind!

Tuesday I have Wyve good of paper white in bloom. All other things will be at least a week or more later. Mrs. Gehring and I are invited to MC, quite well. All this goodness tale,dear friendship that is always with you. The life is too little and too long to feel that we could come to love,which is by but so little moment and of trivial values.

Equally would we like to know if it is still possible for Thanksgiving dwell always affectionately with you. We will fix our hearts friendly, peaceful, cheerful,season Christmas time. I know that you are always there and thought for the happiness of many other people at this time,and so I'm [illegible] well where we may. We want you to know how much we include you in the life of our thoughts and our affections, of which latter we send you very warmest and best.

Always faithfully and affectionately,

J.B.Gehring.

Bethel, Jany 5/19.

Dear Billy B.;

At last I believe we have settled upon a definite plan regarding our movements and I am hastening to tell you all about it and to answer your letter of the 26th. I am so very sorry that you should have been given the idea by anything I may have written that we were likely to change our habitat. Perish the thought! Did I give you that to infer? If so it must have been a sort of fanciful imagery-, because we just couldnt give up our home and all that that means

You dear people! To know that you love us enough to feel badly because we are going away for a time makes things seem worth while. But the only worst part about this trip is that I really cant see you both before we go because I am really shy about going to Boston because of the Flu and particularly because we have cut out all stops on the way and are going via Montreal directly to Chicago.

But in truth all this change of plans regarding our journey, of which you havent known anything but from which our friends and relatives in Cleveland have suffered much, and which has made them feel "Mad" at us, is really due to my patient and friend, Mr. Bingham. He is morbidly shy of the Flu, for himself especially and also for us because were either of us to get it, all our plans would be knocked into a cocked hat.

We first had intended to leave here the 1st of this month, stop a day in Boston, (when I expected to see yous,) several days in Cleveland and several in Chicago, leaving there on Jany 8th. Then because of the universal Flu, it seemed very risky to get out in Cleveland & Chicago and my friends in California wired me it was very bad there, we got scared and called off all our reservations. In the mean time Mr. Bingham bethought himself that he might get a private car to take us through without change or exposure en route, but enjoined upon us a complete silence. It took time to get the negotiations going and actually established and it is only now that the matter seems assured and the date fixed.

It is also only now that he has consented to our speaking of it to our distant friends, but we may not speak of the private car here! Mr. Bingham is morbidly sensitive to appearing in the light of making a splurge and almost leans over backward in the matter of reticence. He is exceedingly generous in every way, as everybody here and many others know, and as he asked us to be our guests in the car going out, we could do nothing else but respect his wishes.

Well when we had still thought that we should go through Boston, and I hoped that we yet might get a glimpse of you at the station, word came that the railroad people would not guarantee any connections and that between here and Chicago we would be delayed for about 24 hours, lying around on sidings etc., we were given the alternative of very sure connections at Montreal, via the G.T., he accepted that plan. So here we are, ticketed through to Chicago without seeing a blessed face that we love, even in Cleveland!

Thus it is, dear friends, that we shall not be able to see you at all before we get back, but then we surely shall. Our Cleveland families are being informed to this same effect today and as they had been getting up pleasant things for us they will su rely feel their feathers ruffled.

When then, the matter of a private car was assured, with only four passengers and the price paid for thirty, (!), I asked Mr. B. would he invite Mrs. Gehrings brother John to ride out with us, I to pay his way for a week of sightseeing in California and his journey back, he joyously jumped at the idea and invited him forthwith. Poor, patient, hard-working John, these three weeks will give him a great treat for he has had so little in life and made so wonderfully much out of it. He has never been anywhere. So we anticipate the

greatest pleasure in his pleasure.

But the idea of inviting John at once gave Mr.B. another idea and he forthwith invited our pastor and his wife to also take a three weeks trip, as his guest all around,they to come back with John,-at which those dear people were so flabbergasted that they were speechless.

Imagine the consternation that was theirs for ,(as Mrs Gehring immediately suspected) they had no clothes to wear! This defect Mrs.Gehring immediately made good in part out of a modest fund she had at her disposal for such purposes,so that they are now comforted and can at least go about without notice.

So you see there are great doings in this modest village when seven of its denizens betake themselves at one fell swoop away on a trans-continental journey. Were it not for the Flu we should have been modestly peaging away at th this time ,cheek by jowl with other modest people,and probably getting more out of it in some ways since there would have been more contact with humanity. But since it is just this contact we wish to avoid ,we consider ourselves very fortunate indeed in having Providence in the person of our friend,step in at the psychological moment.

I think I did have the notion that if we found the experience in California attractive over this winter,it mightnt be a bad scheme to try it again and stay to hum over summer and do my professional work at that time. I do think it too bad were we to acquire the habit of Christmas Cove for every summer and havent an idea of going back on this home during the best time of all here,the summer. You see the C.Cove idea is but a novelty and may wear off. There are some little strenuosities connected with that life that may grow a bit arduous.

The only consideration that would ever take us away from Bethel would be that either of us might have life made more easy and prolonged by such an absence in which case it would,of course,be the right thing to do.

But I must confess to feeling a bit queer at not doing so much professional work as usual. At the beginning of the autumn I shooed most of my applicants off by saying I should be away after the middle of December. It is true I am still carrying three or four who refuse to leave,with whom I have done pretty good work,and it is equally true that I dont hanker after more work,so there I am.

But I think I could have a mighty good time had I the greenhouse to play with. Would you believe that a few fall chrysanthemums which I put in there in the late summer have still a few measly blossoms? It has frozen a little in side,at times,but yet I love to go in when the sun shines as it rises to twenty or more degrees higher than ouside. My sister writes from Cleveland that they too have no bulbs and no greenhouse fire,and they are also lost. I think your venture with a few bulbs is most pathetic; why didnt I think and be as clever? One might have had some Paper Whites anyway.

But never mind,dear Billy,we'll all gather together in June and make plans for a better winter. It cant be that next winter will prove so circumscribed as as this one. I'm meaning to take up my work here for next winter and earn some money,as well as take care of some shell-shock patients. Did I write you that I have just treated one here and relieved him altogether of his night-terrors and his sleeplessness? He used to jump up out of bed and cry! Thats all gone!

I've just reread your letter. I must have given you the "wrong Steer",as we say in the sporting world. I've just been reading the most hair-raising criminal-detective story; "The adventures of Jimmie Dale" by Frank L.Packard. Get it by all means and read it aloud to Mrs.Brewster. But not before going to sleep. After reading it in bed one night lately,I had occasion to get up again and go down stairs,(the family having retired) and found myself imitating the hero by "stealing downstairs softly,treading on each floor-board so it wouldnt creak,feeling of the wall,rising carefully upon the toes of each foot before putting down the other,and with my long,delicate,sinewy fingers delicately

Return to W. B.

Santa Barbara, Cal. Feb. 11/19.

Dear Billy B:

You may indeed think me a heartless cuss to refrain so long from sending a message to you. [illegible] I did [illegible] write it, only because I've been upon the [illegible] [illegible] my [illegible] of you [illegible] the [illegible] in [illegible] to you) [illegible] I [illegible] think. [illegible] day trip, [illegible] two days at the Grand Canyon. [illegible] every day I've been [illegible], [illegible]. [illegible] the Canyon [illegible] by some of the old [illegible] of Dr. [illegible] those [illegible] grounds [illegible] to the Canyon itself I [illegible] in my [illegible] there [illegible] tell [illegible]. [illegible] I'll have some slides for the subject. [illegible] upon the Canyon than I [illegible] writing of [illegible], [illegible] by a [illegible] foot [illegible] picture [illegible] that [illegible] looking [illegible] "That's [illegible], [illegible] it [illegible]." [illegible] by a young female [illegible] by a [illegible] "[illegible]" !! [illegible] let it go at that for fear [illegible] as well. At the Canyon I came [illegible] the [illegible] grounds of [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] 200 [illegible] on the [illegible] side of the Canyon [illegible]! The opposite side of the Canyon [illegible] 15 miles [illegible], [illegible]! [illegible] – I wish he could have [illegible]. [illegible] One of the first men who called upon me here after my arrival was Major (Dr.) [illegible] of Boston, his cards said he was a friend of [illegible] [illegible] we dine with them next Sunday. His mother is here, an old friend of Mrs. [illegible],

It has been a great pleasure to meet some fresh people. Mrs. Bellamy will write Mrs. Brewster about them. We found some relations of Somerville's, old friends who have given us [illegible] receptions. We have not [illegible] the planting of sub-tropical things here with enthusiasm. Mrs. Charles M. Cushing, aged 76, who has done some wonderful planting, I have met this afternoon. Her rock gardens drive me frantic. This is no real botanical garden. There are few native trees in this part of California, but plenty of shrubs of European character. But there would be a fascinating effort in getting acclimated some of the thousand things of Pasadena! This climate in this particular region, owing to the peculiar influence of the Coast and the mountain range behind it, is said to be the best on the coast. This region is said to be the gem of the Coast. They have had few trees from other parts of the state. They were crazy to bring in things from the world at large & there could still be introduced many things from the middle & eastern portions of the United States. The trees, though, are not nearly so plentiful as they might be — they will need more trees & shrubs. Snow does not fall here, but a sprinkling often the mountain behind us. We are getting some rain which efforts are from in fact. The [illegible] — a [illegible] 48 [illegible] lot & lot [illegible]. [illegible] Tomorrow we try to ride — this may be the last you will ever hear from us!! I dare say! Been informing my learning in all ways. The other day we were driven about by an Irishman. He took us through the grounds of the frequented cottage hotels here, namely San Gabriel. In order to show off to him his [illegible] language, I asked "Mr Kirby, what is the meaning of San Gabriel?" "Well Sor" said he, [illegible] "San, you know, means Saint. Gabriel, that means

[illegible] Birds [illegible] English [illegible]! [illegible] I forgot [illegible] "[illegible]". [illegible] "[illegible]!" [illegible] enlightened we rode on, rejoicing!

Of course this place is "Beauty" [illegible] Beaumont [illegible] in the [illegible]. [illegible] Wonderful effects, [illegible] live in. It's [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] Only a few [illegible] like [illegible] Britain [illegible] spoiled. There are some very good [illegible] Britain [illegible] the Italian style [illegible] where they [illegible] the water. If I had a place like it I'd put the [illegible] all of my [illegible] plants in jardiniers. They would look [illegible] the [illegible] I should like them so much. Begonias are in great variety — one [illegible] golden [illegible] the leaves — heavily fragrant. Roses [illegible] such [illegible] the red [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] to say, [illegible] the hedges, [illegible] of [illegible] ~~Beaumont~~ Bonge [illegible] are gorgeous. The place [illegible] is with new-comers [illegible] [illegible]. I am [illegible] learning to know myself better. Birds [illegible] upon the hard-[illegible] [illegible] refuges for them. I can't [illegible] birds, to be sure, but I never saw any [illegible] before

I mean those [illegible] birds. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
the walking bird is here. [illegible] [illegible] to get my eyes off [illegible]
[illegible] I may be able to [illegible] more birds. This is a [illegible],
[illegible], a [illegible] country. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].
I've eaten the [illegible] oranges here I've been [illegible]
[illegible] baked apple [illegible] every day, [illegible] in the [illegible]
of [illegible], Mrs. Sebring [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible]
[illegible] about [illegible] here. The film has been [illegible] here
& the Pasadena people [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] ago. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Bud [illegible] little old [illegible] at Berkeley. I was [illegible] [illegible]
a [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] !!! I [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] at the [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] — & I may [illegible]
[illegible] again, but think I'm too [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] & the [illegible]. [illegible] boom & inflation.
The only business here, other than the legitimate [illegible] [illegible]
& [illegible], is selling real-estate. [illegible] for [illegible]
[illegible], four miles from the city, up in the mountains, sells for
$3500,00 per acre. But it will get city water & light. For 15,000.00 one
could get 3, 4 or 5 acres of jungles. A home (concrete or brick) from
5,000 to 250,000.00, as you please. [illegible] [illegible] words of [illegible]
a Xmas Card! Maybe, "bye-bye", I may get stuck, but don't you
believe it. If only you could see these things with me!!!
I'm eager to hear how you both are. Write me here, general
delivery. I do like my friends back home, I'll come
back to you a good little boy, I promise.
With much love to you both, from us both,
Affectionately
J. Sebring.

P. S. —

DR. J. G. GEHRING,
Bethel, Maine.

Dear Billy B.

I'm slipping this in for you —
One robin here seen for several days
around Xmas. Hundreds Boreal
chickadees, new two species, all
the time around the suet.
Not one woodpecker or nuthatch has appeared
around the suet since it is onto.
A three-toed woodpecker — was seen by
Mr Pollard, recently, in woods.
The Pileated W.P. is working good body
in ~~the~~ search for bugs on the Elmwood.
Pine Grosbeaks are abundant.
The porcupine tree is deserted it's
to let!

Affectionately
G

January 23/11

Dear Billy B:

I have your recent letter and send you my commiseration over the complexities of the Webb-family state are foisted upon you poor people. Truly they are in a web-b! A simple expedient and one which wholly answers ones first instinctive impulses is to hit him on the head with a club! I have tried this and found it effective. You may be squeamish about it at first but you'll get used to it, as I do. Did I ever tell you my method with the barbers of various nationalities abroad who murder my hair? I used to kill him my self but now I merely hire, at a small price, an assassin. It saves the wear & tear of a fellows feelings! Don't worry or hurry about the negatives – you've troubles enough of your own just now its a matter of small consequence any way. I'm awfully sorry about the woodland strength. Your nine people have apparently crawled & I suppose in such case there is little to do where no money has changed hands. I sincerely trust you'll get em yet.

I have been buying 112 acres of woodland between our place & Peter's Green hill. One goes along the road back of Miss Jones, through the Harris land, where mine begins. It's fifteen minutes walk from here, on snow shoes. It's mostly 10 to 15 years second growth, embraces the head of the brook & takes in the eastern part of the deeper ravine, though not the deepest – that's on the Harris.

23 Jan [ ]

It goes up to the edge of the Goodwin cutting.
It goes east nearly to the Burke road. It's a goodly lot & will give me much pleasure. I'll get my gang to getting out my winter wood, build a shack where they can rest & get warm & cook — it's only a short haul for the wood.
I made a cruise through the north west corner yesterday & I scared up three partridges, saw the tracks & droppings of deer in the snow, a number of porcupine runways, and finally came to a hundred year old yellow birch around which were many porcupine droppings & upon looking up which I saw mr. porcupine in his hole! He was an untidy cuss & his front door was badly messed. But as Dr. Prudden suggests he at least didn't soil the interior of his house!. Dr. P. has a report of his Great S.W. Plateau slides here & gave us a fine show & talk last night upon the cliff dwellers whom he has been exploring for a number of years!
As to Mrs. Brewster - I'm mighty glad she is so well but I do believe it would be very nice for her to go abroad as nearly according to her old plan as may be since I believe the balance of the year would find her general average much better. She may feel she could do it but I am impressed with the wisdom of the policy of urging it upon her.
The instability of her nervous system is always an uncertain

23 Jan [ ]

factor and must bear much stretching. Why don't you wrap her to go alone and then you go over later & bring her back?

Her behaving is much better now though not yet herself.

I think the whole thing was a constitutional metabolic disorder to which she is always prone. She is beginning to shake little nerves out.

It is amazing how little snow we have. It hasn't snowed for over a month. In the woods there is about a foot — a half.

I hope you're coming along soon. It would be jolly if you could come which Prudden is sure.

With my very kindest & most affectionate greetings to you both & which Mrs. Behring would effectively join,

I always Yours, Percy!