

postmarked 13 November 12, 1925

My dear George:

I am grieved beyond words that my boys have asked financial assistance of you and Alfred.

Ambrose told me he had borrowed of his Uncle Alfred and I have not had it off my mind - The truth is the boys have been in the country all summer & then later in the university and I haven't had chances for satisfactory talks with them.

I have only time to write them the briefest letters - I have though repeatedly talked to them on the horrors of debt. You know what mental suffering it has caused me & so do they.

XX

I began this letter over a week ago, was interrupted, then had to go to the Western part of the state- & not till now have I found a moment to ~~XXXXXX~~ resume-

George was over night before last - I had a heart to heart talk with him. I feel very sorry for the dear boy, and at the same time feel very much tired with him. The truth is George can not go on with his education without financial help & undoubtedly, while I am earning a salary, I am the one to give it to him.

Now George takes the position that it would be unmanly of him to take money from his widowed mother & holds to that position like a rock. He insists he wanted to borrow from you on a strictly business basis paying you interest etc. Of course you and I both know it would probably be long years before he could pay either you or me. But I am his mother & its not only my duty but my responsibility to help him & its absurd for him to feel as he does.

I told him the other night that I would not endorse this check you were kind enough to send - And he went away with the understanding that he would borrow from a bank giving his note & paying 10%. He says he did it last year & paid it too. I am writing him today enclosing my check for \$200 & telling him I shall expect him to pay me 6% interest. I don't know whether he will take it or not.

George is a fine boy & a smart one & he has the respect of the entire University. As you know though he is none too strong - That spasmodic jerking of the head is no better and is such a source of distress to me, I can't tell you. I feel that if there is any scientific assistance possible for him I should provide that if possible. Its no doubt a serious handicap to him now & will be for all time to come, if it can't be cured. I used to think he could overcome it by will power but he assures me its an involuntary muscular motion that he can't control. We all have our troubles, haven't we? I doubt if any woman who ever lived has received as much acclaim & adulation as I have & yet sometimes I feel almost overcome with burdens on my heart. George says he hasn't been able to find work over there this fall & he was able to save only \$125 from his summers work. His salary was \$110 a mo- Board & traveling expenses high & he was in the Park less than three months. He says he has not the physical strength to work the necessary hours & do good work, to pay his way, & I ~~xxxx~~ know that is true. He proposes that he stay out of school a year & work for money to go the next year.

Of course that would be very foolish.

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I've gone much into detail but I know you want to know the situation. Now as far as Ambrose, he is working & taking some agricultural work in the University. He has a lot of plans & whether he is going to develop any of them I don't know. I hope & pray he will. The truth is my own time & my vitality is so taxed with every day of my life that I can not bear the burden in detail, of my boys' problems, as would like to. I just trust that they have enough ability & enough character to work them out for themselves. Now I didn't know Ambrose had borrowed money from you - I suppose he thought it would worry me. Please tell me how much. I did know he had borrowed from Alfred & have intended writing Alfred about it but just haven't found time. It was a letter I didn't want to dictate. George has the most unbounded confidence that ~~George~~ is going to work out his difficulties.
Ambrose

In closing let me tell you my dear George that I appreciate more than I can say all that you & Nellie have done for my boys (not to mention their mother) during the years they were in the south at school and since - & your willingness to help George now. I'm returning the check because as I've said, I can give George the help he needs. I know too from the kindness you showed him when you were there that you would do it for him if I couldn't.

Your devoted sister
Nellie

I want you to know that I think your frank expressions concerning my boys were just right. And that Ambrose has merited all you said about him. I hope that they both yet will so acquit themselves that we will all be proud of them.