

Camp Columbia, Quemados, Cuba.

August 27th 1900.

My dear Jennie: This is mail day and I received your letter on the 23rd enclosing one from Hattie. You can tell her that I am not in a position to help either of them; and that if I were able I should hesitate a long while on account of the impertinence, vulgarity and sentiments shown. I am however not yet able to support my wife and children who do not treat me in that way. I think you had better drop that correspondence.

It was very kind of you to think of sending me these peaches, I fear they will cost a great deal when they arrive because when express charges are paid to Havana they always add a dollar or two more here. I wish you had not gone to the expense of sending them because they are very apt to be spoiled when they reach here.

Yes I heard or saw in the paper that Roberto was ordered to San Francisco. Of course he is an acting Asst. Surgeon but the papers often get things missed. If he goes abroad he will probably go to the Philippines and not to China and remain there two years. But I thought the taking of women on transports for the Philippines was forbidden. Perhaps he will be kept at San Francisco and be not sent any farther.

I think probably your headache is caused by eye strain at night. About the house and coal and wood I can hardly advise you Jennie because you know the situation just as well as I do. Increased expense and diminished income, all brought about by my friend. Do not you remember a few weeks before I left I told you he remarked when I told him about the new baby, that I ought to have my salary increased. I said then that I suspected something was coming to reduce my income and so it did. This thing puts me out about \$60.00 a month and if he can help it I will never get as much again. So you know what to expect \$100.00 a month and no more for I will take the rest to keep me going.

And now about Jamie and myself you must not expect a man or a boy to be like a girl but I know Jamie likes to be petted and when he pushes you away it is not because he does not like it but because he does like it and does not know what else to say. For myself I must say that I have missed the kisses and hugs of late, ~~and~~ except on certain occasions and I have often wondered about it. You say you have never felt so free with me since I turned you from me. When was that? I do not remember. I know that while I have been using tobacco I have purposely refrained from kissing because I did not want to disgust you but you should not have cause to complain now. There is no reason Jennie dear why you should be so backward in taking your kiss whenever you want it. It is a pleasure to me to see you take it even though I only grunt and if you were not so shy about it I should be more often reminded of it.

Good night dear Jennie. God bless you. Kiss dear Mabel and the other children and pray for all you are with.

Your affect husband
James