

(Charles DeWitt Hayden)

42, EAST 75 ST.

Nov. 7, 1917

Dear Ida:

I am distressed beyond  
expression to hear of your  
mother's death. I have known  
you as long and as well  
that a sorrow that comes to you  
comes to me in a real and  
intimate sense. I can understand  
only too well the crushing

Feeling of loneliness that is  
yours now that the wonderful  
support is gone, the sense of  
vacancy all about, the spirit of  
selflessness now that you cannot  
see & turn to and to care for.

But I also understand the  
glory and the pride and the  
comfort and the gratitude that  
you experience and cherish  
in the unforgettable memories

that will keep her ever present  
in your life and thoughts, sweetening  
and strengthening and following  
every day. I can only send you  
my sympathy but it is a  
sympathy born of understanding.

I only hope you are feeling  
better after so sad and hard  
a summer and that you will  
soon feel yourself again.

Faithfully  
Down.