

1917

Andover, Kentucky

1115 Amsterdam Ave
New York City
Oct 5th

My dear, dear Ida:

On reaching New York
my sister Eva told me of your recent
severe loss in the death of your husband,
and Bridget & Ned told me of your
illness following that heavy trouble.

As to the first, the loss of one so
identified with everything life has meant
to you, I can only say Mr. and Mrs.
Sophie & my father & so know how
keen the sense of emptiness is. I feel
as I imagine a mother must when
her arms are left empty, such dear

dependants had they better become at the
last. But after troublous times began
to come, Astwood's health gave way &c,
now thankful we were they were safely
cradled away, removed from any worry,
as in the wonderful sitting of the Jewish
Church & age, they were "bedded to rest."

I am not so every nature draws
you to the Hospital, for I know you
must have been in need of rest
over & beyond any medical or surgical
requirements. I gather from Bert that
your Dr. Kelly is the Dr. Kelly who
was the camp at Lake Abnatis, Canada,
where one of the Linnville Colony have
gone so many years - a great man in
many senses every man who knows
him says of him up there.

I hope your sister has gone through
all this trouble fairly well, - & that

the little Harbelle, Clara & Estlin are well.

You may be interested in Arthur's military career(!), since you were good enough to help him try for a Commission. In line with Dec. Baker's idea, he studied & passed a first examination & made his Captain's Commission & he is splendidly well again, passed his physical examination & is at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, charmed with everything in the new life. He was quite wild to go, & with my hearty approval, turned down two big salaried things offering him, & for once in his life went off buoyant & joyful to do the thing he wanted to do.

I came out to be near my sister for a while, - until I can join my Captain. I am looking for a tiny apartment that I can get by the

months, & bleed probably strong two or three months -

This is a terrible lot - about the months, when my letter was to you in trouble & illness - but I thought you would like to know what cause of the effort you concerned yourself so kindly in.

This requires no acknowledgment - I will bear of you & your frequent thoughtful acts, - you are ^{to} aid Nature by thinking only of conserving ^{in a time} all the strength & love & kindness you give out on others, -

Wrote my sister, Juliet & Eva, join me in sympathy & in best wishes for your speedy recovery & your present comfort. Write a heart full of love, dear Eda -

Yours truly

George W. Martin