March 4, 1936

My dearest Ada:

I have been neglecting you sadly. I am ashamed, too, when I have had such pleasant reminders. It has been rather a hectic month - February is always difficult. The P & B must be started on its way for a new year and Lincoln's birthday must not be entirely neglected, and so many busy people wanting things and of course so many people with ghastly problems on their hands - none of which I can solve which makes it all the harder. And then I have been trying to keep up my work.

I have done the second fifteen thousand words of the Recollections which V R has read and seems to think worthwhile. I feel a little doubtful about it. I am sending it on to you. Please do not think for a moment that your suggestions and criticisms and general impression are not valuable. They are and they are what I want. I should like a reaction quite outside of any personal feeling, the kind of scrutiny you ask to be allowed to give to Mrs. Cabot.

And I am returning the check. I shall be happier to have things straightened up if I can. Why not put it into your savings fund as you say you did the other and then I promise you if I get into a tight place and must borrow I'll come back for it. It is dear of you, of course, to want me to take it for gay things, you knowing how I really sigh for them. But there are other things I love better. I never if I had five times the check would have had the courage to buy this entrancing negligee which you have sent. It is nothing else but entrancing. My first impulse was to say, "No, no, I must not keep it. I'll send it back and tell them to credit you." But I couldn't let it go. And now do you know what I think I am going to do with it? It is much too fine to wear here in this work shop of mine and of course it is entirely out of place in the "Little House." But it would make a charming old-fashioned dinner gown - full skirt, just reaching to the

That means that you are not to spend it in pampering me. Please don't. Then I'd feel not like borrowing. Keep it for my evil day.

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floor, something that I could if I wanted to wear in the afternoon, the same full waist and puffy sleeves that the negligee has. It is so lovely at night. What do you say to this? I think I could have something made that I could use very often, something not too good to wear for an evening dinner at the Pen & Brush and fine enough and charming if I have to introduce a speaker somewhere or make a little after dinner speech. Of course if I had not given up all lecturing it would make an irresistible platform dress. When I think of the gloomy affairs that I always wore on the platform and then think what I might have done if I had such a gown as this would make, but I simply did not know that I needed that. I was always so ambitious over my material that I never presented myself properly I am afraid, never looked as well as I might have looked. I never did really know how to dress.

I am off tomorrow for the Little House again hoping to get two full weeks for working on the next lap of Recollections, also straightening up material for a little book on "What Price Security." I am making it out of a grist of long and short articles on which I have been living for the last three or four years, that is when I wasn't living on you. I am really hoping to get something out of them.

And now to be very frank about this Part II of myself that I am sending you - first, a general impression of interest and reality. Rosie said to me the other day when we had a confab here in town - not much on the manuscript for we had so many other interesting things to talk about - that she felt she wanted to know more. If anything of that kind comes to you when you are reading tell me. Perhaps I should not have put this idea into your head for you are a devastatingly curious person.

You spoke of James' manuscript on Davidson. That is yours. I have made a note that it is to go to you both in the book and in a note of directions I am leaving behind. I have a little work

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I want to do on it myself and as soon as that is done I think I shall send it on ahead to you so you will be sure you have it.

But I must run on

Love to you

Mrs. Fred McCormick
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Tucson, Arizona

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