

Warsaw 19/II 25

Wiejska 11.

Dear Ida - I found your
dear sad letter on my return
from Rome, where I ~~staid~~ ^{stayed} a
couple of weeks. - I heard about
our great loss by a telegram
from Will and I felt so crushed,
so heart broken, as if I had
lost my dearest brother. - I
cannot think about Bert
otherwise than as ~~the~~ a bright
sunshine which irradiated
all around him and made
everyone feel happy and
~~contended~~ ^{contented} in the intercourse
with him. - I live over in my
heart's memory my two arrivals
to New York, where he was the
first to greet me with his
bright smile and made me
feel at once happy, and so
very much at home, making

I've forgot altogether that
I am alone and so far away
from my own home and from
my own people, and I am so
thankful to God that I had
the great joy of having him
in Warsaw, in my own home
just a year ago, — one short
year and such a world's differ-
ence in my joy then and my
grief now. — Dear Tola, I understand
so well what a dreadful
void Bert's going has left in
your life, — he loved you so
tenderly and was full of interest
and eagerness in all that con-
cerned you, — you were his real
compassion during so many
years and it was his great
appreciation and affection
for you that made me love
you yet before I knew you
and when I met you I un-
derstood why I loved you

and how he loved you. — If you
 can, write me all what you can
 about his illness, his last days —
 did he realize that he was
 going? you were surely near
 him those last days, between
 your letter written on the
 27th of April and the 3^d of May?
 The last letter I had from
 him was in December, sending
 me his Christmas greetings,
 telling me how happy he had
 been in Warsaw, remembering
 the first Christmas passed
 here in my home and how
 his ardent wish was to pass
 one Christmas more in
 Warsaw before his death! —
 God's decrees are unfathomable,
 we must submit to them
 without revolting against them,
 but it is very hard and very
 difficult. — I will probably

go to United States in
 September, - the thing is deci-
 ded in principle. I have
 several months and I enjoyed
 so much the idea of writing
 it to Bert and will the moment
 the dates would be settled and
 now the joy of the arrival to
 New York is changed to sadness.
 I feel the necessity of seeing
 you, dear friend, - as you say
 so well in your letter, - his
 loss makes a link more between
 us his friends and our
 friendship must be deeper
 even than before. - I hope
 to see you dear Ida and
 then I will tell you all what
 I would have told to Bert
 about my work. - I kiss
 you very affectionately and
 am more than ever
 Truly yours Helen Kipping