but it does make
one feel mentally
idle, & disinclined
for real work. Of
course there is a lot
work of a sort — but
only with feelings &
words. It makes
things & facts seem
tiresome, & the work
of learning & seeing

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creatures. Let their product means be much in the way of food for other creatures. It is queer, but as it seems to me. Perhaps it is the great law of sacrifice. If we make the blossom of paramount importance, other parts of the plant must be subordinated. At all events, I feel myself a much saner, healthier & more satisfied person as long as I am keeping away at work, & although the work-making has moments of singular delight, it leaves me at times with a curious feeling of unreal sickness that I cannot describe. However, the mood has gone from me now.

"Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

& finding out a dreadfully. To read poetry is tonic — to write it seems to me alarmingly relaxing! It makes me understand why so many poets have been rather poor specimens of manhood, why so many more musicians (whose work is still more "in the air") have been & are detestable

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I am really getting back my appetite for the work I am pledged to do.

I hope that you have found your Ma & Sister in better health & are enjoying your stay with them. But do not stay as long that

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that you will be
unable to dine here
with Miss Sedgwick
on Monday, the 14th,
at eight o'clock.
With much affection
Faithfully yours
M. G. Van Rensselaer
9 West Tenth St
Oct 31—

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library