

Chicago, Feb. 13, 1954

Sweet Daughter:

I have just gotten your letter, giving me some of the details about your lessons and your examinations. I am writing Mrs. Houghton but am not letting on that you told me anything more than that you failed in two of your subjects. We shall see what comes of it. I love you better than my life, and no matter what happens I shall always love you. We shall see how things turn out. I think it is stupid to spend so much time on Latin, but since it seems a requisite to entrance to some of the College courses, and indeed for entrance to College at all, it seems we must put up with it and study Latin for four years. I spent four years at it and feel that it really did benefit me in helping me with other languages, such as Spanish and French.

I am writing that I want done whatever is necessary to get you through school so you can graduate. I believe it is a reproach on a school to let a pupil fail. We do not pay out our money to send you to school to find out if you can pass a subject; it is up to the school to make sure by frequent tests that a student is "getting" a subject. It is their job to teach the student, and if they cannot accomplish it in one way, they should try another. I am a professor in a university, and I have taught there for twentyone years. If a student of mine does not get good marks, I feel it is a personal reflection on me, a personal failure of mine, not of the student's. If you need tutoring, then by all means take it, dear; you must get through so you can graduate. If it means giving up the riding, I think I know another way to make it up to you. I have

*From the Margaret Francis Case Cook Special Collections, University of California Santa Barbara. Daughter of James T Case, M.D.*

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in mind a nice surprise for you if you manage to get through the school work without conditions. Naturally you cannot graduate with a condition. I don't know if mother will agree to it, but I have in mind sending you and her to Mexico this summer to the summer school of the University of Mexico. Dr. Madrazo will help about it and make it very nice. I think mother will rebel about leaving me again for any length of time, for she will not be home here until just about the time you are due home.

Do you think you should come home this spring vacation? Perhaps it would be better to use the time to study in your make-up work to pass off the subjects you are low in? I will find it hard to get the money, of course, but after all I know of no better cause to spend it in than in helping you out of your difficulties. If you are not coming home for the spring vacation, I think it is likely that mother will stay a little longer with Aunt Hat in Florida. Poor thing, she needs mother awfully bad, for she is having a sad time of it. If you are coming home, please let me know the date right away so I can plan with her to be here when you come; and if you are not coming, then she can plan to stay longer down there. I shall miss you terribly if you do not get home this spring, but perhaps the money saved on the trip will pay for some of the tutoring you need. I am leaving this entirely to you.

I have been thinking also about your next year's school. It will be very hard at Northwestern, for they maintain such high grade standards there, it might be difficult to get good enough grades. In a smaller college, where more personal relations exist between the professors and other teachers and the students, it is likely to be easier to get satisfactory grades. I want you to use your own judgment about this, and I shall do whatever you wish. I thought I would write letters right away to half a dozen colleges in this vicinity and have them send you their catalogs, so you could look them over and perhaps find one which would appeal to you. I would like it near enough to home so we could drive you back and forth and have you home frequently.

The trip to Mexico I had in mind as a sort of prize for your hard work, and also to enable you to get a real start in Spanish. Mother would enter the school and take the Spanish and anything else you studied with you. It does not require all summer at all, just about six or seven weeks, and with the Madrazos to help, it would be very pleasant indeed. I only wish I could plan to take you there with me, but I shall have to work.

Now there is another important matter concerning which I want you to do something on my recommendation. Mother and I have been spending three to five every Sunday afternoon at the Sadlers in a Forum, a group of people very much interested in reading certain literature concerning the life of Christ, the deity, the origin of things, and indeed a number of questions very interesting indeed. I cannot go into the details about this with you. Enough to say that Herb and Bettie are both applying for admission to the Forum, and I want you to do so too. You can stop at any time you wish if you find that it is not to your liking. There is an opportunity now to make application, and then there will be no further opportunity until after more than a year. IF YOU WISH TO DO THIS, YOU MUST WRITE YOUR APPLICATION IMMEDIATELY ON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER AND MAIL IT TO DR. W.S.SADLER, 533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS. Please write a letter at once to Dr. Sadler, saying you have been told about the Forum by your father and that you would like to make application for membership, and sign your name. I enclose an addressed, stamped envelope herewith, with a special delivery stamp on it. Just write the letter and put it inside and mail it at once. It must be here by Saturday if possible. I have noticed a serious trend to your thoughts about religious matters, and I feel confident that you will find this a very satisfying thing to get into. You probably will not be able to attend any of the meetings until June, unless you come home



for the spring vacation. But you will be given the papers to read and I know you will not want to put them down until you have finished them. Mother and I have not missed a single Sunday since we started until she left for Florida. And we shall read the papers we missed. So, on my recommendation, I wish you would make application as I suggested.

I did not say anything about the Gorgas matter, for I knew you were too miserable with your tooth to be doing anything outside of the absolute essentials. I suppose it is too late now to do anything about it, and anyhow you should put the effort on your other lessons, should you not?

Dearest daughter, never fear that I shall stand by you in any possible difficulty. Like the slogan about our nation--"My daughter. Right or wrong, still my daughter." I hope you get your difficulties ironed out. Don't be rebellious about the tutoring if your teachers think that is the necessary thing. If I were the teacher, I would feel that it was up to me to tutor you myself, as your failure would otherwise be mine too. But let them do the best they can with the matter, and fall in with whatever plan they wish, and do your part by studying diligently.

Herb is getting along better. I feel encouraged about him.

Let me hear from you quickly, and tell me if you write the letter to Dr. Sadler. I know you will be very glad that you did. Even if it is all wrong, it is wonderfully interesting and worth the time. You are not asked to believe anything, but just to listen and not talk about it with anyone who is not a member of the Forum. So please keep this confidential.

Your devoted dad, who loves you greatly.