

754 Franklin St.  
Oakland. Cal

Dear Helen and Arny.

Sunday last I wrote to Arny. I had a troublesome cold and did not go down stairs, we decided that as I kept taking more cold I'd stay in bed Monday - Emma left at 9 o'clock on Monday as usual - at 1/2 past the door bell rang violently and the old woman who takes care of Mrs Selfridge said, she was dying, for me to come in - I told Pa to go in and stay in the kitchen - dressed as quick as I could, but she was dead when I got in - Pa asked them to telephone (at the Yarnhams) to Clarence & Grace, and went for Mrs Rocks and her family. I met Grace Dyer when she came and told her of Mrs Selfridge having told me what she wished to have put on her and the note for Mr Penn and that if the children wanted to take charge of everything all night - if not - she wished me to - They took charge at once, and did everything as first class as possible, she particularly wished to be buried in Centerville but the doctor had told them lot many years ago - and the cemetery is now in the town so they thought best to buy a grave in a nice location in Mountain View - they wanted to have her cremated but I said she did not want to be, and Mrs Rocks held out to have her buried so Mrs Rocks and Clarence drove out and selected the grave - she had written she wanted Père Melchior to read the Episcopal Service - he came and read it - and went out to the grave - Pa, Mr Reed, Capt Williams

and Mr Brier were Paulbearers. Doctor Selfridge came  
to the funeral - if he'd only gone Sunday night and  
just looked at her - she'd have died satisfied  
she waited and hoped until the last that he'd  
come - she was reconciled to them all and Grace  
was there Sunday evening and wanted to stay - but  
her husband's mother Mrs Dyer had died suddenly  
in Chicago and Minnie Dyer was bringing the body  
home - and it was telegraphed that <sup>it</sup> he here Sunday  
night - they waited all night and they did not get  
here until five in the morning and at quarter to  
nine I sent her word her mother was dead, hard  
on them was not it - her funeral was Tuesday morning  
and Mrs Selfridge's Wednesday morning - I never saw  
so many flowers in a house - just piled up - beautiful  
ones - she had on her black satin dress & a lot of  
white chiffon in the wrist and covering the front. She  
looked very nice indeed - Grace seems to be a  
pleasant lady and loving in her disposition - but  
from what she told me - it must have been a case  
of a daughter not having understood her mother  
and of a mother who's disposition was not in active  
sympathy (demonstrative) with that particular child -  
seems to me if Mrs Selfridge had hugged & kissed them  
and let charlies alone - they'd have been a  
natural family - but she was not demonstratively  
affectionate when they were little and although she  
loved them and was affectionate they never knew it  
until too late - they'd grown apart - when I think of all  
the lonely stormy in heart years she's lived there  
I hope she will find something where she has gone

to make up for all she's suffered here - she trusted  
the Lord and Divine Healing until the last - but  
it was cruel to see how she feared he might  
not let her get <sup>well</sup> ~~when~~ ~~she~~ she grew too weak to  
talk or get her breath - she was raised away  
to nothing - she never complained and was  
very good - There were a good many at the funeral  
only the minister - the bearers and the family went out  
to the cemetery - Pa said it was all done as nicely  
as possible at the cemetery - after the Barneiges  
left - lots of old women made trips through the  
house - and gathered in groups in the garden and  
outside and talked things over - Since then Clarence  
has been real active going in and out - for the present  
the old woman will stay in the house - Mrs Seafidge left  
written directions what she wished done with the  
household effects - The property she gave a deed to the  
children - There was some mining stock she sold to  
me - she wished <sup>me</sup> to carry out wishes for the benefit of  
different people & institutions - for years she'd hoped  
the stock would be worth something so she could have  
some money - It never did go up and I doubt if it ever  
does - Mrs Williams was to help me - but to make it  
legal - it has to be only mine - I told Mrs Seafidge  
she could trust me - Well - Clarence asked her, what  
she'd done with that stock and she told him, she'd  
disposed of it - He asked me if I knew where his mother's  
money was? I did not - he also asked our older friends  
of his mother's and she told him his mother had  
no money - not enough to keep herself in food -

he told me he wanted to know where that and other  
letters of his ma's were (she'd told me he'd tried  
to find out) she'd told him - she had disposed of them -  
The old woman is a foolish person - she was told by  
Mrs Selfridge to bring me a little top as soon as  
she was dead - she did - but - she told the children  
and the boys that I had "the Will - and Mrs Self-  
ridges private papers" - for a day it was not pleasant for  
me - as I had neither - she insisted they were all  
in the top I had - she <sup>to</sup> given it in here - I told her she'd  
better not say it - and she said she'd tell no lies  
for anyone - so sent for Clarence and told him what I  
did have in the top - he was pleasant - That night the  
old one came in - here - and when I went into the  
parlor she smiled and said "Esness I got some  
light for you" - I've found that will - just where I  
put it - "I witnessed it" - and she folded it and gave  
it to me to put in a pigeonhole in the desk - then  
it went clean out of my head - never thought of  
it afterwards" - well said I, do you believe now  
that I have not got it in that little top - she said  
Yes - but she thought I had - she had higher things  
to think of - Mrs Dyer told me, she opened the desk  
to look for some tea spoons her mother had said she  
was to take and the old woman was reading the  
other side of the room - she jumped up - rushed  
to the desk - seized some papers & said here's  
the will just where I put it go - I was pleased -

I was pleased because no amount of talk would  
have convinced that old woman - That Alcock  
Clarence wants to get badly - he says he knows a  
man who'll give fifteen cents a share - and  
that I can't hold it because it was not  
delivered until after she was dead - well  
don't either of you ever mention it to anyone -  
Alcock in the Safe Deposit Box - he is going to see  
his lawyer - I'll do the same - if it's not mine  
I'll have to give it to him - I paid her my  
gold money for it - she hoped so much from it  
that she wanted to keep it by her while  
she lived - I hope he won't get it - she so  
particularly did not want him to have it -  
I shall miss her very often - but she lived as long  
as there was any comfort in life - we are all  
well - I have to write this jointly as there is so  
little to write - I hope Dad is through her  
long drawn out agony and has had a fine  
Banquet - I went to see Sissy a minute she is  
no better and had to leave - we all send you  
lots of love and thanks giving wishes and hope  
you had lots to eat -

Yours loving

Ma

November 19. . 1898.