



Prof. Arthur R. Gledhill,
Fort Plain,
N. Y.

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FOR
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REC'D

Oxford, Wt., Oct 29 '93

My dear Gledhill,

Your letter came some time ago and I would have answered it before this if I had not lost it in some way. You see I was not sure of your address. As I remember about that part of it is that the envelope was postmarked Fort Plain. What you may have said about your address is what you would have slipped my memory. I was chiefly interested in the letter itself.

You and Ed are making me feel old with your worrying and looking out for yourself - excuse me, - yourself. I do not see any immediate chance of my amounting to any -

thing though I have by no means given the
thing up. This itch for authorship is worse
than the devil, and I would spend a year for
anything else. Perhaps I had never seen you
to understand that this is what ails me,
but such is the case. I will make a
clean confession and say that writing has been
my dream ever since I was old enough to lay
a plan for an air castle. Now for the
first time I seem to have something like
a favorable opportunity and this winter I
shall make a beginning. If I make a fair
use of it, and am chosen an about ten
to one that I shall, my life will be
a disappointment and a failure. I do not
know much about the ways of success
just now and the thing called "business"
was always a mystery and a mystery to
me. Business men are mysterious I suppose

you, and all I ask of you is to keep
himself as such. of my way. If I had
a little of your general intellect, and faculty
of making yourself popular wherever you go, life
would be a different thing for me. I have
lived nearly twenty four years, and am thankful
chiefly that I had it time to live over again.
So far as my life has it been such a
pleasant affair as your mine seem to be. Per-
haps it is partly my own fault, but I hardly
understand how it can be so to any great
extent. Well I will not grow on in this way.
You are beginning the second period of your
life now, and I hope that you are a help
to your letter indicates. So I do not
wonder that you are rich, but do not let
that bother you. My money has all gone to
the devil in a bad investment and I am
as poor as usual. But that is all right.

The loss of money is a small thing after all,
compared with other things.

Business I almost fancy I see you coming
into the yard as you used to, with your hands
in your trousers pockets and your mouth half
full of tobacco. Those were good days. I sup-
pose they have pretty much disappeared from
your thoughts by this time, but it is dif-
ficult to tell. Some little incident that
gave me pleasure ten or six years ago
will come back to me in all its foolish sim-
plicity and cheer me up to an extent that
seems incredible. When I was so much a fool,
perhaps it would be otherwise, but then, what
all I find in Gardner to interest me
is what I compare up from my own fancy
and memory. So perhaps I am not so much
an ass as I am inclined to think some-
times. Gardner and the people have no

Charles for me, and I long to get back
to Cambridge with a drum of my own to do
and think as I please in. Any to many
things of a domestic nature my life here
was about as quiet as Heaven as it would
have been otherwise, but for all that I am
thankful for the time I was able to spend
there. It seems now like a dream now too
any day else, but I can find that change it
has made in me. I am a better man
with better ideals than I was before I went,
but I am afraid they are not the aids to
help me in the extra walk of life, unless
they may be.

So far as a professor of mathematics, Mr
Loomis? You would not have surprised me
much more if you had told me that you
were the Dean of Officers. I am glad for you

at the same and hope that the Falls
has many years in store for you and Mrs.
G. and as many little G's as they see fit
to send you. Your marriage did not
surprise me any. I was expecting it at any
time. Ed's did surprise me, as he is rather
differently situated. I may be wrong, but I
cannot get over the feeling that his entry
into Wiley's tin shop was a bad thing
for him. But it is the thing that was to
be, so there is no use a conjecturing on
what might have been the result if he
had done differently. More than that, I am
hardly in a position to criticize anyone's actions.

I will ask you to be generous enough not
to get me up altogether for a time
at least. I may do something to make
myself respectable and eventually soon enough

to pay for what I eat and wear. I do not
care to look farther than that, at present.
Write whenever the spirit moves and be sure
that your letters will always be received. It
would be too bad to let our correspondence drop
off now. — I do not know just when you
are so well please Prof. to get mail on
to outside address. It may assist Albrecht
a little — if it is not asking too much I
should like a photograph of you wife. If you
have one too many. Do not judge my chances
in London by this letter, as it would be cruelty
to me. I am inclined to be a little too
colloquial in my correspondence — a fault which
I shall ask you to overlook.

Sincerely
E. A. C.