

Union College

Schenectady, NY  
March 2nd, '02

My dear Mama,

The cold wave has at last abated up here and we are having very heavy rains; in consequence of which the Mohawk river overflowed its banks and we nearly had a deluge. You can't imagine how bad it was. An ordinary freshet wasn't a circumstance to it, for you see all the winter's snow was carried into the river, besides the rain.

Your beautiful violets reached me yesterday morning; very fresh and almost perfectly preserved. I took two or three little bunches 'round to some of the good people up here who have been friends to me and they were delighted with them--such a contrast to the general outlook of things up here; not a leaf or bud stirring yet.

Yes, I am glad to say that I have received a suit of Cotesworth's sent by Uncle Tom. You know I was thankful for it, for we have always been too poor not to receive "the castoff garments of the rich," so to speak.

I don't believe I have said anything to you about my studies this term. I have only one that I have any trouble with and that is mechanics, but I am trying hard to get through it and if I do, all the rest of my college course will be plain sailing, for that is the last branch of mathematics that I shall take up. The new college catalogues are out and I will send you one as soon as I get a chance.

You asked about my chances of making enough money next summer to help me through next year. My idea is to clear enough to pay Uncle Tom and another debt I owe and to save enough to start me next fall, that is, in clothes, books, etc. I only wish that I was able to clear enough to be of some little help to you at home, but I am afraid I will have to wait until I graduate to do that.

Aunt Mame has been very good to me, sends me a paper every week and so I am pretty well up on the exposition.

You all know, of course, of the Sillman - McLaurin fight in the Senate; the papers up here are full of it and of all the disgraces to South Carolina this is the worst.

Prince Henry is to pass through in a day or so on his western trip and I hope to catch a glimpse of him as the "Empire State Express" goes tearing by.

Tell Harrie that her letter was enjoyed very much and will be answered this week sure. Also tell Papa that I have been intending to write him for some time past and will certainly do so very soon.

I often wonder when I will see you all again. I trust the time will be short; for life is so short.

With very much love to you all,  
Ever your affectionate son,  
Arch

**Original copies of the letter are with the family.**