

U. S Navy Yard,  
Mare Island, Cal.  
Jan 27, 1907

Dear Papa,

You see that as usual I'm a belated letter writer – when your letter came and suggested writing on regular dates it seemed so easy to at least write a few lines that my mind was completely made up to write at least on the first of each month but the first of January has slipped by already and with the exception of a note to May not a thing in the letter line has started out from here and to tell the truth very few have come which I suppose is the natural thing to expect – the last couple of months have slipped along here in the usual way with very little to mark the different weeks – since the fair in San Francisco I go down there even less than before which means only about once a month and then I'm always glad to get back – not that there is any thing [sic] very exciting here but whatever happens to be your home is always better than some hotel unless there's something especial to do – I guess you were pretty lucky to have decided to spend the winter abroad for I think between Italy and California, at least the weather part is would be very easy for me to make a choice.

As usual now at this time of year the general topic of conversation is “what is Congress going to do” the appropriation bill has just passed the house carrying ninety six [sic] millions which allows for the battle ship that was half way authorized last year and one more just like it. So if they dont [sic] change it in the Senate the construction par will have been pretty well looked out for – there isn't any new personnel legislation carried along with it but there are several bills introduced, none, of which will probably pass this year but perhaps may [?], that would help a great deal. The House voted to raise their own salaries from five to seven and a half thousand and after they finish that they may look more kindly on a raise for the services – the cost of labor and in fact everything is going up by jumps all over the country and especially out here. We are all kept pretty busy now and are getting ready to start work on the Collise to be built here, the material is on the way out but its [sic] pretty slow work when you have to get every thing [sic] from the East which with our routine requires about six months.

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None of us have had much news from the various members of the family. I had quite a long letter from May the other day – which was the first news I had had from them since the wedding, they are apparently planning a trip out to Yellowstone Park next summer but thats [sic] too far away to do us any good. Columbus is a big improvement on the other places Will has been in so I guess they are pretty well satisfied just where they are. Rob and Jean I believe are already planning for next summer at the Lake but Rob Jr [sic] occupies most of the space in any stray letters any of us get from Mary. Rob of course is out of the letter writing business. It will seem good to see Mary again and I believe she is due to arrive here in May which isnt [sic] so very far away although Jim will be here several months after that. They dont [sic] know yet just where they are to be stationed but the whole regiment is to be scattered around in the middle west so we cant [sic] count on them for any possible reunions in the East for a good while yet. Elizabeth ought to be quite a kid when she gets back—over two years old which is just getting into the attractive age.

Reg and Frank are both closed books as far as our hearing any thing [sic] of them is concerned so cant [sic] give you any gossip on how they are getting along so now you have all the latest news from the various members of the family.

Eleanor has gone to school in Oakland and can only come home on the last Friday of each month and we all miss her very much as she is certainly as attractive and nice as she can be. Dorothy is giving out quite a good deal in San Francisco although its [sic] so far that it isn't worth while [?] the stop down for several days – socially every thing [sic] is unusually dull here now – the days are too short to have any tennis or riding in the afternoon after office hours and any way it rains off and on most of the time – when the Charleston was in, things improved a good deal as there were a pretty nice crowd on board and everyone was in for a good time but since she left the simple life by contrast has been very much more simple. The Milwaukee which is her sister ship has been up for a good while but the crowd is just the opposite and you would hardly know that she was here.

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When this years [sic] class at Boston finish we will get another assistant as the yard has gradually grown in importance till it is easily one of the three largest yards but there are no rumors yet of any one going East from here but you never can tell where you are going to land, it would look pretty good to me to get back again but its [sic] hard to tell now just where it will be – Uncle Frank is due for nearly two years yet but then they have pretty definite lengths of duty in one place where with us it may be five weeks and it may be five years.

I would like to be able to get six weeks leave and join you next December abroad but as far as I can see ahead now there is no leave at all in sight so that expedition will have to be indefinitely postponed. Well Papa guess Ive [sic] given you most of the local gossip up to date so will say good bye for the present – lots of love to you and to Margaret.

Affectionately,

Sid.

