

San Francisco
February 16/98

My darling little Girl

We have received 3 letters from you since your darling brother left us. The third one came yesterday dated Jan 31st and it was a very beautiful letter[.] I am very sorry that Frau is making it so very uncomfortable for you all[.] I hope that you can or have made arrangements with Mrs. Ried to stay with her until I can come to you. No doubt but it is the of loose[sic – loss] of her breath at her time of life that has affected her and one has to make alowen[ce] for that yet you must think of yourself first as far as your health is concerned[.] you must not worsen[.] when there is such unhappyness[sic][,] it will tell upon you[.] of course I would not like you to live and go among strangers for that would leave room for her to say you did that so as to leave[.]

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Mr. Buck call on you so do the very best you can for your own good. Carrie has taken a room in the Donahue Building & in tends[sic] to leave it[.] her studio she dresses well very well & has a beautiful Piano in her room which[,] by the way[,] is not completed as to furnishing yet[.] Dr Gharshu[?] & family live there and will[,] to a certain extent[,] look after Carrie. I saw her last eve as I had to go and see Dr Gharshu[?] about your dear brother's book I have given him to Edit[.] so she[sic – he] told me that Carrie had come to live there[.] I went up to see her[.] she is not very happy for some reason as a matter [of] always feeling ill with a pain of some thing[.] I told her this much of what you said in your letter about the Dr[:] I received a letter from Maudie today and she tells me that through a friend she heard that [x] had broken off her engagement with the Dr and that you felt so sorry for him[.] so when I told her that she said [“]Oh dear I hope I have done right at least I think I have done what is for

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the best for us both[”] and said she must go and write to him right away[.] Carrie seems to like the Dr but she thinks that it is not right for her to marry a man that will interfere with her profession[.] she is very honest about it don't you think so? She[,] like Alice[,] thinks that an Artist ought never to marry but fall in love if possible[.] I think the way I see things are going with half of the girls[,] single life is preferable[,] don't you? Now you want to know just what our plans are[.] well it is very hard to tell you just yet[.] I have been picking up & separating all of the things that we want to save & what we want to sell & I kept out Piano Cabinet, [X][,] that sliding chair in dining room[,] table[,] cane[,] and drop light[,] tar[-heeled?] rocking chairs & lots of nick naks, & had an Auctionir[sic – auctioneer] come in & for all of the rest he offered us \$15.0 one hundred dollars[.] what do you think of that[?] I suppose I will have to take it and take a room in the Donahue Building. So you want all of your dear brother's things do you[?] it will be very hard for us to keep all of our darling's yet I shall do very best we can. Papa does not want to be stuck[.] we ought to get rid of them[.]

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I tell him that they are mine so he cannot dispose of them unless I say so but he is very headstrong when he takes it into his head. Alice has gone to N.Y. & is it not odd she left Monday on the San Sett & just three years to the day that you left[,] 14 of Feb[.] well she has you to start out on an independent life[,] she went to a Hotell[sic] for she said if she started to go to her friends it would not do[,] she must be independent to go & come just when she pleased, she will meet me when I start to go over to you[,] Oh my how different it will be from what we expected[,] Oh my God why was it allowed[?] I will never be reconciled to my heart[,] darling[,] having to suffer as he did [-] no never. The Crosset family had their sorrow in the month of Jan of 98 while we were laying our dear one to rest[,] Jan lost his wife & baby within too[sic – two] days of each other[,] a just judgment if they take it home for put[t]ing the last nail in the coffin of our innocent darling boy[,] don't you think so? How very kind of the parents of Mr. Buck to offer their home to us to rest in. It was also very noble in their son to stand by you in your sorrow[,] yet it is right[,] for what have you done even if your brother had[,] which he did not [x] [,] darling now I want to mail this so will not say any more this time[,] with love & kisses from Mamma & Papa [x] to all friends