

Jimmie (n.b., poppa always spells it Jimmy {¹ }
there's a courier today, so this must be fin{ished.

No news other than that we have been {forced
to cash a check at 43, which breaks our heart{, but
it was very necessary because people insist o{n being paid in
US bills.

Unfortunately it has turned cold. I {heat our
apartment by means of the oven, which is {crude
but effective. With that and warm woolen {undies
one is reasonably thawed out by the afternoon. {Now
I fervently hope that the world is not ente{ring
into the seventh (or is it the 8th?) glacial period{, so
primitive we are becoming! We are pionee{ring
uncharted lands, deprived of all the comfort{s of civil-
ization except red tape. Only it is much {worse than in
books, of course. I wonder if we will b{e good
and grateful if ever we recover the thi{ngs the people
there take for granted – warmth and foo{d, or if
we will only be more exigent. In one of{ the scenes
of *Men of Good Will*² there is a discu{s{sion
along these lines: the soldier coming back {from the
trenches is dissatisfied because things are not {as bounti-
ful as he had dreamed – his caviar is a trif{le off;
the }hollandaise sauce hasn't enough butter in
it, e}tc. Still, this sort of life does encourage
the en}joyment of small pleasures. Only it makes
people }stupid and avaricious over small things.

We went to the Shérers house last
night a}nd I borrowed a fine Stendhal³ novel,
nice} and long, into which I am about to
dive} happily. I had been forced to resort to

¹ One edge of the page on which this letter was written has been raggedly torn. Since Philinda wrote on both sides of the page, this affects the ends of lines on the first side, and the beginnings of lines on the second. The symbols { and } indicate the location of the tear. Text beyond the tear is our best guess of what is missing.

² *Men of Goodwill* (*Les Hommes de bonne volonté*) 1932-1946; 27 volumes. Author Jules Romains, born **Louis Henri Jean Farigoule** (26 August 1885 – 14 August 1972). *Men of Good Will* is “a remarkable literary fresco depicting the odyssey over a quarter century of two friends, the writer Jallez and politician Jerphanion”. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Romains. Accessed 2018-01-14.]

³ Marie-Henri Beyle (23 January 1783 – 23 March 1842), better known by his pen name **Stendhal**, ... was a 19th-century French writer. Best known for the novels *Le Rouge et le Noir* (*The Red and the Black*, 1830) and *La Chartreuse de Parme* (*The Charterhouse of Parma*, 1839), he is highly regarded for the acute analysis of his characters' psychology and considered one of the earliest and foremost practitioners of realism. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stendhal>, accessed 2018-01-28]

a) Ferber opus entitled *American Beauty*⁴,
that} was sort of Sat. Eve. Post & Womans Home
comp}anion.

Gallant gentlemen who seek to win
over }ladies are now tempting them with gifts of –
soa}p. We have seven big bars of it hidden under
the mattress}. “Shoot, if you must, this old grey head,
but s}pare our hoarded soap, she said!”⁵ The
silk s}tocking situation is even worse. There are
sad s}tories, and transporting food is more import-
ant }than bringing silk stockings to Paris.

Every day we are more fearful of the
US }entering the war. That would be horribly funny
and }stupid.

I have to make lunch.

Love to everyone,

Me

P.S. I} have to

leave }these letters open, now.

⁴ *American Beauty* is a 1931 novel by American author Edna Ferber first published by Doubleday Doran. Set in the Housatonic region of Connecticut, the story, spanning the years 1700 to 1930, relates the steady decline of the Oakes family and their property, as well as their tense relations with Polish immigrants. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Beauty_(Ferber_novel), accessed 2018-01-28]

⁵ Deliberate misquote of the 1863 poem *Barbara Frietchie* by John Greenleaf Whittier, in which she pleads with an occupying Confederate general to “**Shoot if you must** this old gray head, but spare your country's flag.” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Frietchie, accessed 2018-01-14]