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Billings Mont.
U. S. A.

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Mr. J. P. Crosby
Bartle,
Cuba

Billings Mont. Feb. 25

Dear Brothers:-

I am writing you rather hastily because my time is so taken up now that it seems rather hard to find time even to write, and I am letting some of the work before me go over till to-morrow in order to get this off to-day. So if I do not make myself quite clear or get it all in will try and make a better out at it next time. Am addressing this to you tho the matters I have in mind and about which I am writing are of common

concern so to save time and
get it all done promptly this
is intended for Walter and
Howard as well. As you
know we have been having
a hard time of it since
Christmas and the great trial
which has come upon me in
the loss of a beloved wife and
mother. together with all that
has followed has so grieved
me and the weight of it bears
upon me so heavily that it
has seemed most impossible
for me to collect my mind
long enough to write anything
aside from my sorrow.

Olivia was such a good wife and
mother that it makes her place
with us so vacant now and
it is so hard to be without
her ~~now~~ When she knew
she would not be with us

long and realized that these little ones would soon be with out mama. Her thought was immediately of them and I feel so sad over it for them for we cant even imagine how much they will miss the affection and loving care of mamma as the years go by. It most broke their little hearts every one when I explained to them that they could not see mama any more here.

The Physician that I had attending to is a very fine man and an enthusiastic Christian as well as the best physician in this

part of the country and while
I was with her in her
room at the Hospital, a few
hours before her spirit slipped
away, he came in and asked
her as to whether she was
reconciled to go. Her large
eyes looked up at him with
a gleam of satisfaction and she
replied: "Yes Doctor there is
nothing between myself and
God and I am ready to meet
Him any time". By this
to-gether with the testimony of
a life lived in companionship
with Him we know that she
is now safe and happy in
His Presence - and here we
expect some day to greet her
again, and we do not grieve
for her condition and
welfare but rather for

ourselves because we are
 so lonely and sad with out
 her. Thro it all we are trying to
 be brave and do the best we
 can. ~~and~~ Lois had Pneumonia
 following the "Flu" also, and
 has not fully recovered from
 it yet and it will be some
 time yet before she is well
 entirely. Abcess followed the ~~###~~
 Pneumonia for which she had
 to have an operation. She re-
 covered from that much faster
 than the average. Following the
 Abcess, curvature ⁱⁿ of the Spine
 set in and, short while. There
 was an ugly curve there
 but by vigorous work with

the muscles and spine and
lots of bending exercises we have
that straightened out now and
the tendency to curvature largely
overcome. Her lung has not
gotten back to normal yet but
with lots of long breathing exer-
cises it is developing nicely, tho
it will be quite a while yet
before she is over the effects of
all she has suffered. Herbert
has been sick again since Sat.
and last night the Dr. said
he was beginning Pneumonia
tho he seems much improved
to-day and we are in hopes
now that we have the attack
warded off. Will not worry you
further with my personal affairs
but now about something which
is of direct concern to all of us
and for which was the

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principal purpose of this letter.

Mamma began with the Flu ~~and~~ along the first of last week, but has only been in bed three days and seems now to be over the worst of it. She has no fever now and her cough is most gone so we think now that she will be all right again soon. Bertha is at work and I am doing the cooking housework and, ~~errands~~ in her absence and will not let Mamma have anything to do for some time. Yet, we think with a little rest and care for a while she will be all right. Papa has not been well for

some time but for several weeks and ~~possibly~~ may be two months he had failed quite rapidly. He is able to be around the house and look after Mama and their fire tho I look after all the outside chores and keep him in.

He has not been able to rest much at night for several weeks owing to pain in his stomach and abdomen, and has had considerable pain during the day also. We - Bertha, Mama and myself - have been trying for some time to urge upon him a thorough medical examination but all efforts seemed to be in vain and he thought he would wear it out after awhile, tho I felt quite sure it was more serious than he.

thought. After Mama had been sick a few days with the 'flu' he thought it best to have the Dr. in to see her. She told him that if the Dr. came to see her he had to prepare and take an examination also, ^{he} finally got in the notion and last night I called the Dr. in to see them. As I have already stated he thought mamas' condition excellent and the wart over but Papas' condition is quite serious and just how serious we cant tell for several days yet. In the first place he has Ulcer of the Stomach and I suppose you know what that is. It

is not cancer but an eating
Ulcer in the stomach, lining
which if unchecked sometimes
eats thro the stomach to the
abdominal cavity - this resulting in
death. Also if unchecked it
sometimes causes ^{of the stomach,} cancer, which
caused the same thing. The
treatment is diet and a powder
taken internally to coat over the
sores till they heal. The Drs
say they can usually check
them for an indefinite length
of time up to a year and
sometimes more but when
^{ulcer} one is healed they usually
break out again in a new
place at a later date and a
cure is very difficult and as
I understand it rare. This
A.M. I took a bottle of his
things to the Drs. Office for

analysis. Of late Papa has had
to get up ~~at~~ about every hour
and the Dr. said that was
indication of Kidney or Bladder
trouble. The analysis showed
some blood and with other
symptoms and severe pain in
the bladder region the ^{Dr.} consid-
ers now that he has stone
in the bladder also. He wants
to treat the ulcer for a week
or two days then make an
exray of the stomach and
bladder to ascertain the truth
about the stone and note
the ulcer condition. Should
the stone be located, the only
cure known is an operation and

This would be the only means
of saving his life. And would
likely have to be done soon.

Of course with a person of ^{rather} ~~Peper~~
age an operation is ^{rather} ~~is~~ risky, and
~~we~~ know what would soon
happen without it should it
develop that the stone is there.
I knew a woman who was
operated on for stone in the
bladder when she was past 70.
She was over it much quicker
than the average. This was
three or four years ago and
she has been exceedingly well
and strong ever since.

The Dr. I have employed is the
same that has had all my cases
here. He is the most skilled in
this part of the country and a
very fine Christian gentleman
and does not try to put anything

over on anyone but is always
straight out with the truth.

Of course there are Drs.
experts in the various lines
who would be more skilled
than this one tho in my
acquaintance here I should
rather risk Papa in his care
than any one I know here.

Papa or Mama either do not
know ^{yet} all that is liable to
develop from Papa's condition and
we think best likely not to tell
them that we think such and
such a thing wrong till it is
known. The Dr. told Papa he
had Ulcer of the Stomach but

further than this he has not
informed him yet. Would be
glad when you write them if
you make no mention of my
having written you regarding
him or that you know anything
of his condition other than what
you get from them. When you
reply to this - Address it to
B. B. B. B., care of The Great Western
Sugar Co. and they will not
wonder why it is not passed
around for general reading as
she will deliver it with out
their knowledge. Will let you
know as fast as developments
come but thought it best to
get this off to you at once so as
you might be prepared for any
outcome. I think his ulcer is
of several years standing and
has been the direct cause of his

frequent Billious sick headaches
as he terms them. The Dr.
says that is the cause now
and has probably grown steadily
worse for some time.

My personal sicknesses here
have cost me around \$500.00
during the past two months and
it is likely Papas' might run as
high tho if it is not as
serious as it now seems of
course it would ~~not~~ be in
proportion. Would be glad to
hear from you immediately as
to what you think best and
desire to be done under these
circumstances. As ever
Geo.