

Last days  
of Clarence



Mr. J. N. Crosby  
Bartles  
Oriente Proa  
Cuba

Copy of letter from Ruth

Dear Fannie,

Your letter arrived on morning mail. Your sisterly interest and willingness to help touched your brother in fact both of us deeply. It has been one of my greatest griefs these past weeks that I could not get a minute to write to Clarence's people, even before he became critically ill. He could not see to write and he received such lovely letters from Bertha, Elnoir and Elsie which I longed to answer for him. I have some close friends up north who still do not know of Mother's passing and I have not yet been able to write my sister a detailed account of her illness as I told her I would.

I can't remember at all what I wrote in your "family letter". Clarence dictated it and it was done in such haste that it has all left me. Now I can only stop to give you the main facts regarding our present condition.

It was a week ago last Tuesday (April 27) that I finally prevailed upon Clarence to go for a medical check up. He had gone to two ~~me~~ different chiropractors here (one visit to each) and the relief was of very short duration. I wanted him to continue but he determined to turn his case over completely to the Lord. We had ministers in for prayer and he did feel decidedly better. But just then (April 9) Mother took sick suddenly. During her illness, he helped me all he could which was little, things were so chaotic that it took a great deal out of us both. Mother died the evening of Apr. 15 and while I was away with her at hospital he fell and hurt his hip, bruising it badly. The following week, I put his health problem (one of many) first on my list. But it was not until early the following week that we agreed on the medical visit for the primary purpose of determining the nature of his trouble so I could feed him properly. However, the doctor's report was worse than I anticipated and unnerved me temporarily. He said it was an advanced case of Bright's disease and that his blood pressure was so high that he might have a stroke any minute. His body was full of poison and there was nothing he or any one else could do for him. The question of food, he said was not important but he should drink much water--which he was already doing. During the past three years I had gone into the study of vegetable juices considerably on Mother's account, and we have, you may recall, an electric juice extractor. So, while prayer has continued to be our main resort, I at once checked up on all my food studies and selected a diet of juices especially suited to his needs. The results have so far been very gratifying. He appears to us, and to friends who come in frequently, to be decidedly better, altho not to the point where we dare relax our vigilance.

Now, the fact is, I do feel the need of some one here with me, for a little time at least, on two or three counts:

1. Since we moved into J.C. last winter, I have been doing some piano teaching and the work has grown until I am now giving about 20 lessons per week. During Mother's illness I, of course, cancelled all lessons and gave pupils a vacation. But I resumed teaching again Apr. 24 (before medical checkup) as I never thought of such a bad report. After learning

the facts, I longed to give up the teaching entirely and devote all my time to caring for him, but I really cannot afford to do this, either from the financial standpoint or from the stand point of holding my pupils. At Mother's death, the estate affairs, of course, automatically changed, so my income from that source will henceforth be very limited at best, and is now completely stopped for an indefinite period. Clarence needs ~~some~~ someone here with him while I am away teaching and it is impossible, it seems, to get hired help even if I could afford to do that. On Wednesday and Thursday night after his visit to doctor he had bad nights and I got very little sleep. But each day I had very much to do here, and teaching besides and had to fairly fly from morning til night. Thursday A. M. I was so nervous and worried about him and the way my work was piling up, that I sat down right in the midst of the confusing and wrote Ariel and Maxine a ten page letter explaining the situation and asking for any suggestions they could give.

This Tuesday I was able to get a friend to sit here with Clarence part, of the time while I was teaching but that is the only time anyone here has been available. The two problems about leaving him alone are:

1. In ~~the~~ getting about, even in the house, he could easily fall, since he had a fall just before I came in from teaching but no serious injury resulted.

2. He is apt to forget his juice schedule, no matter how carefully rehearsed before I leave, and go to the ice box and take things he should not have. (Last Mon. eve I came home from shopping for groceries and found a glass shattered on floor in kitchen and found him helping himself at ice box.)

Mon. May 10. ~~am sending this father~~  
information regarding C. Have just talked  
to Ruth long distance & she said he was very  
near a stroke Sat. night & she wired me to come  
at once. However I could not make it until  
to-day & am leaving on the 10 p.m. train but  
can only stay a day or two as things are so  
rushed here & everyone working & no one to do  
them we have further complications. Fern's  
boy friend is here on furlough this week &  
naturally I want very much to be here. He  
expects to be shipped the 1st. of June. It is the  
first time we have met him. But look to C.  
2 drs. examined him Sun. & agreed he did  
not have stroke. One dr. had seen him  
this a.m. but she had not rec'd a full  
report. Joe C. arrived in the night & was

with him this a.m. Don't know  
how on earth we can arrange for his  
care. Please mail this on to Walter.  
Will try - keep you posted best I can.

Love  
Fannie.

<sup>Walter</sup> Wed. 10:15 A.M. This just came a few  
moments ago + I will put it in the  
mail box right away + hope it gets to  
De Land before Vera + Carolyn leave. Please  
send it on to Jesse. Have fixed the

envelope, but am not sure about the  
postage, so am putting two extra  
stamps in the envelope. From  
Bet's letter yesterday + what is in this  
one about Joe's being with Clarence,  
I imagine if he is able to travel, Joe  
will take him to Moural right  
away. Nell

Dear Jesse, Received these letters  
from Nell today and hope they  
reach you soon. We are all  
well here and wishing luck  
Walter + Carolyn