

Lawrence, Kansas Dec. 16th. 1925.

Dear Julia and Chas.

I received Charlie's letter today containing the copy of your forthcoming Christmas greeting, and presume it was mailed before the receipt of my recent letter.

I was mighty glad to get it. I started reading it at my desk down stairs and then went up to my private office where tears befogged my glasses in remembrance of the old times and of the sister who was one of the most unselfish girls in the world. We three older children knew what it was to throw every blamed cent we made into the common pot. Louis and Grace were always generous, but things were opening up some better as they came on, so they always had the handling of their own money to a great degree.

I have been having some labor troubles, which I hope will be adjusted as the result of a talk with my men tonight, but while reading the letter I had a long distance call from Chicago from the Secretary of the Employing Printers Association of America, which stands back of me and with tears on my face I talked as hard boilded as you please about the troubles in hand and preparing to meet and conquer them, and when through with the phone turned back to the Christmas story, which I knew so well.

Now here is what it all amounts to. You have been deeply grieved over what we have done with no thought to hurt you, we have been deeply grieved by the way you have held us responsible for simply not taking sides. Now is this devilish thing can be burried seven feet deep and face downward, I'm for it, but if it ever comes up again I'll kill someone.

I dont want to have any part in splitting the "Simons Brats" nor in casting a chill over the Christmas season. Now if you are as game as I am, the thing is over for keeps. Gertie was the first one to tell me that my letter was heard, and later Louise said the same thing. Really a man has no business writing a hard letter to his sister no matter what she does, and if there was a hand on this machine, I would offer it you in true printer style. In a few minutes I go to the R.O.T.C.

*Handwritten signature: Tomby Collier*