

October 24, 1951

Mrs. L. A. McNalley  
Minneapolis, Kansas

Dear Janet,

I haven't anything special to write to you about, because you know that I love you, and you know that I have always been proud of you from babyhood up, and you have not in any way disappointed me. Kindly nature, with the aid of your parents, gave you a wonderfully brilliant intellect. Now that your children are more or less for themselves, I wish you would take the advice that I first gave you many years ago, and that is to do some literary work. With your brilliant mind and well-rounded education, the only thing necessary to make you a success in the literary world is someone to keep polking at you until you start to work.

Write articles for the public press, write a book, or write a series of articles on various subjects, and you can make enough money to hire some worthy woman to do your house work and more too. Maybe you could make enough to feed your old father in his old age.

As a matter of fact, it would be a darn shame to have anyone as brilliant as you are fail to leave a mark in the literary world. You know just as well as I do that I am writing the truth. Take for your subject the fact that most of the girls, who go to college and who are the pride of their fond parents, could do a lot for themselves and others in a literary way, if they would just break away from "the blamed ~~attigued~~" (fatigued).

You know I have suggested this to you since you were in your teen age. It is like a beginner going in swimming for the first time; they need someone to push them into the water, and after the first splash, they gain confidence.