Jan. 27, 1923.

My dear Billy:

I don't see how the devil I am going to fill out the measure of even a note that will be decent as to length, much less a letter. It would take worlds to bring me, discourse of挂号 against before bearing firm for with reference to the elaborate that treatment of that subject which was sent you some weeks ago by my papa. I am afraid that is what has so clogged your fire that you don't write as often or regularly as you used to. Now with that topic gone, I am embarrassed for want of the material with which to fill a letter; but that comes not of itself put me in extremity, I ought to say.
around and find other matters to
write about. But you in your li-
liner embarassment, me almost to the
in extremis degree, for I don't know
whether that silence is due to the
fact that you are dispahted with
my galls & nerve in writing you in
such a strain, or not. If it is
due to that, then of course the per-
er thing for me to do would be
to write in the apologetic voice
this time; but then if that is not
the cause of your silence, a letter
of apology would read like a
mass of infernal nonsense.
So I shall neither write a letter
of apology nor one on general
topics; but just wait until
hears from you, so that Bruce
knows what manner of letter it
will be proper for me to construe.
Do you will please consider
This merely as a note, asking you what the devil is the matter with you that you don't write me.

I may tell you, though, of a matter that has given me some little concern lately. Mrs. Harmsworth got a letter from my father telling me that one of my brothers had become entangled in a love affair with a girl in Illinois, Miss Redding, whom I never heard of before, and that if he did not break it off he should never enter his house again. I did not pay much attention to it at first, as I considered it nearly one of those petulant families to which, like myself, I know him to be subject. But I can get nothing else from a single member of the family, with regard to this matter of

...
turn. My father, I am afraid, by two hostile letters also convinced what would otherwise have led only two or three more of months' patience – I hope for the best, but I have been greatly troubled about it during the past week.

With me soon

[Handwritten signature]

Abbeville