

*Dr. John A. Wyeth,*  
*244 Lexington Avenue,*  
*New York City,*

December 27th,

1907.

Dear Friend:

I hope you and Annie are well and that neither the frosts of age nor winter are interfering with your spirits, your health or your comfort. This leaves my little family in good shape. I am working away as of old and do not seem to be able to stop. I doubt if it would be well for any of us to stop work as it is better to die in the harness than to be

"Even as a flame unfed which runs to waste

With its own flickering or a sword laid by

Which eats into itself and rusts ingloriously".

Is Sam Russell who used to be Orderly Sargent of my old Company still living? I would like to get into communication with him. He was in Huntsville the last account, and if you will hand him the enclosed letter, I will be much obliged. If not, please return it to me. Give my love to Willie and especially to dear Annie.

Ever yours,

*John A. Wyeth*

P.S. Can you tell me anything about Meck Robinson? I have not heard from him in years and the last time I was led to infer that he was not "sens sana in corpore sano".

J. F. O'SHAUGHNESSY, President  
LAWRENCE COOPER, Secretary

HERMAN WEIL, Vice-Pres. & Treas.  
W. P. NEWMAN, General Manager

—OFFICE OF—

# Huntsville and Monte Sano Improvement Company

INCORPORATED 1896

CAPITAL STOCK \$100,000.00

Huntsville, Ala.

Feb 19, 1908

Dr. J. W. A. Myette

New York, N.Y.

My Dear Friend:

Your letter of Dec 27, last was duly received, also an enclosed letter to our old comrade, Sam<sup>l</sup> N. Russell, which was upon the same day handed to his son for delivery. Since then the son has informed me of the delivery of the letter to his father, and that it had been answered.

I feel quite ashamed that I should have allowed such a long time to elapse before replying to your kind letter; but, my dear friend, let me assure you, it was not the result of any waning friendship, nor any diminution of the high esteem in which I have ever held you. This high appreciation which I have entertained for you is still fresh and strong, and I am glad to tell you the same feeling is shared by all the members of my little household. It is too much my inclination to procrastinate, and indeed this is a fault that has more than ~~once~~ one occasion caused me loss in a material way in some of the plans I have conjured up, which, had they been vigorously ~~pushed~~ pursued at the proper moment would have yielded probably large profits. In citing this I am not altogether attempting to urge procrastination in excuse of what seems und pardonable indifference to a valued friend; for there should be no comparison between the loss of an opportunity to make money, and a disregard of the <sup>the American cause</sup> duties of friendship, promptness and steadfastness in all ~~our~~ duties of friendship.

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personal relations. This latter sentiment is so much the more exalted.

Your kind expressions of ~~such~~ friendly, warm and tender wishes for Annie, Miller & myself fill me <sup>with</sup> gratitude. This world is so cold, so cruel in <sup>so</sup> many of its aspects, John, exhibitions of the noble qualities of freedom and sympathy become sustaining helps, ~~mean spirited~~ master ~~hand~~ essences of an evolving force ~~that~~ upholding and strengthening ~~the~~ our moral natures, promoting of higher and better life.

You tell me you are working away as of old and seem not to be able to stop, and doubt if it were well for any of us to stop work, - rather better to die in harness than to be

"Even as a flame unmet which runs to waste with its own flickering, or a sword laid by which eats into itself and rots ingloriously."

This is a game, ~~heroic~~ and manly determination to do battle in life's struggles, to the end, ~~and so~~ <sup>is this</sup> perhaps to be commended. But, <sup>is it not to come up to</sup> ~~for the most part~~ impracticable, as well as inconsistent with the teachings of physiology? Taken in its whole, does not the complete life manifest itself in the shape of movements characterized by feeble beginnings, gradually increasing to maturity, then culminating, then gradually <sup>decreasing</sup> ~~decreasing~~ until they end, as feebly as they began. This view of life, the physiological, places it in three aspects, - infancy, maturity, decrepitude. Infancy, - the formative or integrative period; maturity, - the development or reproductive period; decrepitude, - the disintegrating period.

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If you concede this to be true <sup>to</sup> the physical, but without ap-  
plicability to the mental state, then ~~I shall have to~~ <sup>much</sup> ask you  
is not mind a product of organization? Does not the mind  
grow as the body grows? if these propositions be true, are not  
then the three states of mental existence correlative to, or  
similar to the three states of corporeal existence. If you  
declare this not to be the case, then I ask you what  
~~shall~~ <sup>shall</sup> you do with the lines:

"Such scene of all,  
That ends this strange, eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans ~~tate~~ taste, sans everything."

Hence I conclude there should be stops, resting places,  
green pastures in the closing days of life for those freighted  
with years and broken in body and mind, before the tomb,  
the final, sweetest of resting places, is reached.

I was somewhat appalled as well as amused at the dec-  
laration recently made by some one, (I believe a Bostonian),  
that sixty years should mark the limit of life, and this period  
when attained should be visited with decapitation, or removal  
in some way. I announced myself (jokingly of course) to be  
in harmony with the views of the Bostonian, and that he  
had kindly tendered me, when his views had become adopted, the  
position of executioner for my county. So I gave it out that  
upon appointments, my first official acts would be set in  
with the removal of Willis Gault, Bill Echols and Syd Fletcher  
all septuagenarians, and officers of the First National Bank of this  
City. The views of ~~some~~ Boston framed were vigorously assailed in the  
press of the country for their barbarous inhumanity, and with

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so much severity were the assaults upon him, that the bel-  
low recanted and retreated, leaving me his only avowed sup-  
porter. - Of course such views, <sup>seriously taken</sup> are revolting to the  
feelings of humanity, <sup>at present</sup> as ~~now~~ expressed; and which they  
<sup>may now</sup> appear absurd, ~~foolish~~ and inhuman in the present  
state of the world's population, to the far distant genera-  
<sup>move</sup> tions to come, <sup>to restrain or check the growth</sup> to <sup>maintain a serious proportion</sup> increase of  
population to a limit consistent with man's ability  
for sustentation. If we are to give credence to a  
recent promulgation, that the world's population  
in 1806 amounted to six hundred fifty millions of people,  
and the estimated population now to be about one  
billion six hundred millions, - an increase of  
150 per cent. in an hundred years, - one we  
not constrained to admit that, preserving this ratio of  
increase for 1000 years to come, when population shall have  
reached, upon the basis given, some twelve trillions of  
people, there surely will arise the <sup>ugly</sup> ~~serious~~ problem  
as to what or how to do with such an enormous horde.  
Which a contemplation of a matter of this character should  
provoke no particular worry to those of us to day, yet its  
consideration is forced at times upon the minds of the  
more thoughtful class. That population is increasing  
at a rate greater ~~than~~ than the means of obtaining subsis-  
tence, I think cannot be denied. The world's land  
area consists of thirty-three billions six hundred millions  
of acres, inclusive of all ice-covered, barren and unin-

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habitable sections; - the number of inhabitants to the acre in the 1000 years to come, would approximately be 350. How impossible, as we now know it, would it become for the earth's producing capacity to maintain such a vast body of humanity. Surely impossible. But if the given rate of increase is maintained, long before the end of the 1000 years <sup>shall have</sup> come, will some expedient be necessary to check the growth. Will that expedient be the Boston man's theory? or will it be a percentage destruction of female infants, and a percentage emasculation of male infants? or will the Spartan practice of old of preserving the fittest & destroying the inferior prevail? <sup>if you wish</sup> you, ~~if you wish~~, may suggest the solution; to me it affords no concern.

To-day, Feb'y 19, 1908, marks an epoch in my life's career; for it was on this day in the year 1838, I first saw the light of the sun. If the standard of measurement be the earth's revolution <sup>of the</sup> around the sun. I have attained seventy years, <sup>the additional</sup> three score and ten, - the accepted limit of man's earthly sojourn. If the standard of measurement be perplexities, hardships, severe trials endured, ~~then~~, I am many times older than 70, or 120; if the standard be, good works, charitable deeds, high citizenship, I am yet in infancy.

This forenoon, I remarked in the family gathering, this day I hope will not end my troubles; but I know it will at least determine who are my friends. My first speaking, said: Papa, how would you like a bottle

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of fine whiskey? Said I, no son, I prefer beer, which resulted in a present of eight bottles; <sup>Annie</sup> the dearest woman on earth, - except <sup>your own good wife</sup> ~~Mr. J. M. W. W.~~ - knowing my tastes brought me in four bottles; Bobby Troy, my nephew, now away at school in Illinois, remembered the occasion, and from him came funds for the purchase of two bottles; and Annie Troy, dear soul, presented me a pint of "Mumma's Extra Dry"; - totaling 14 bottles of beer, and one pint of champagne.

I have been confined to the house and much of the time to the bed for the past three weeks, presumed with "grippe", as it is locally extremely prevalent. So the ~~best~~ beverages, - beer and wine are well suited to a fevered disposition.

You ask about Sam Russell and Dr. Meck Robinson. I regret to tell you, Sam Russell is, I am afraid, upon his last pins, - confined to the room and at times to the bed. He is full ripe, and by nature's demand ~~to~~ must soon drop from the bush. Dr. Meck Robinson resembles an apparition from the tomb; more like a walking dead man, when I last saw him, than any ~~one~~ <sup>picture</sup> I have ever beheld. I rarely see him. filled with "dope" he sleeps, his moments of wake-

J. F. O'SHAUGHNESSY, President  
LAWRENCE COOPER, Secretary

HERMAN WEIL, Vice-Pres. & Treas.  
W. P. NEWMAN, General Manager

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fullness <sup>are</sup> ~~being~~ few. — ~~There is~~ He presents a sad picture to look upon. There is another person here, — a Dr. Hensley, — in youthful manhood of fine appearance, and well educated, — who is another sad victim of the dope fiend. Could the pictures of these two unfortunate creatures and thousands of others of similar habits, be posted ~~and~~ for observation upon the walls of museum galleries, what an interesting study would be afforded. The effects produced by ~~the~~ in requiring such ugly horrors might prove ~~benefi-~~ ~~cial~~ helpful in the arrest of these baneful excesses.

John, ~~I am tired,~~ I must quit, for I am tired, as I know you will certainly



HERMAN W. WYNN, President  
W. F. KIMMEL, General Manager

J. F. O'SHAUGHNESSY, President  
LAWRENCE COOPER, Secretary

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Huntsville and Atlanta Loan and Investment Company  
INCORPORATED 1886  
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Said lot being the same conveyed to Maria F. M. Carroll  
by deed of Newman Boyd & Coise of date July 10, 1894