

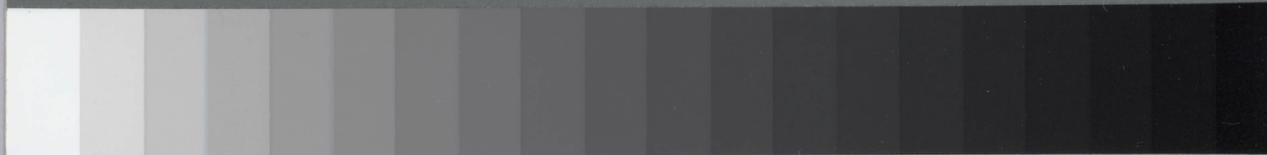
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KODAK Gray Scale



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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

June 9, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

This morning I received Art's letter of June 3 and Jack's letter of June 4. I was glad indeed to have them. I tried to write you Mother's wishes about her birthday, but, as I imagined when I wrote you, the suggestions in my letter were not enthusiastically received.

We adjourned Saturday night amid a scene of confusion seldom witnessed in the senate. Many of the Republicans have already left for the Cleveland Convention which opens tomorrow, although there is not anything like the interest in the Convention, of course, that there has been in past Republican gatherings. I am remaining here, in reality in the hope that I can induce your Mother to come to California with me. I have pretty nearly given up that hope, however. She has got herself into nearly the same frame of mind that she did four years ago about coming back here, and the discussion of the matter, or even hinting at it, leads to very deep and almost hysterical feeling on her part. I know it is my duty to come out to California, and beyond that duty part of it, I want to come anyway. Perhaps in a week or ten days the situation may change.

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There is a most singular political situation, particularly in the Republican Party. Big business is in the saddle as it has not been before during my life. The great exploiting interests are united with an enthusiasm and determination I have never seen exceeded. They are perfectly satisfied with the present administration, and Coolidge's success in the primaries has made ~~them~~ truculent and arrogant. The most interesting part of the activities of predatory wealth has been practically reading out of the Republican Party old liners, who have voted against Coolidge in the senate. I have had my quiet laughs in the last few weeks, and I have indulged in some remarks to my standpat colleagues, the truth of which they have conceded, although they have not relished the indubitable fact. In Massachusetts, Lodge has been denounced with a virulence not even exceeding that with which I was denounced during the primaries. An unknown Senator, Dale, in Vermont, by his state convention was practically read out of the party. Jim Watson, who has neither sensitiveness, nor feelings, nor prejudices, nor principle, finds it most difficult to put his arm around Republicans now in power, and is repelled on every hand. Moses, able, cynical, disreputable, indecent, callous, and with the gall of a burglar, spends his time sneering and satirizing Coolidge. Brandegee does not even go to Cleveland. Wadsworth, originally selected to be the permanent chairman of the Convention, is elbowed aside. On the other hand, Progressives, who have been crawling to the White House and vying with one another, with the sole exception of Borah, who is not now and never has been

-3-

Progressive, are treated coldly. Massachusetts is in command, and Butler, Stearns and Sloop are the arbiters of our destiny. Of course, all those I have named will throw their hats in the air and vociferously cheer Coolidge, tell what a great man he is, how he is certain to be elected, but in the dark they will curse and rave, just as they do in private here now. I have gone my way saying nothing to anybody about myself or my fate, acting as if I had never left the Chamber here, and as if nothing had happened. I have kept my mouth shut, and shall keep myself silent for a considerable period of time.

The Democrats are up in the air. The far-seeing ones don't want McAdoo, because his mental attitude toward public service in the oil investigation was demonstrated to be no different from the attitude of those at present in control of the Republican Party. McAdoo will be the strongest man in the Democratic National Convention, but men on the floor like Harrison, Robinson, and others, believe Ralston ultimately will be the nominee. This is unostentatious mediocrity.

LaFollette is going the route as the last act in his political life. Confidentially, I don't think he is entirely right, and if he indulges in an active, personal campaign, I believe this will become obvious before the end. If he sits here in Washington and indulges in pronouncements, he will carry a number of states in the northwest, and have a vote in other states that will be surprising. It is perfectly silly to indulge in speculation as

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to what the result will be. If the Democrats had a real man, they ^{would} win. Without a real man, and they will not nominate one, in my opinion, I think Coolidge will be able to buy the election. The amount of money behind him will be greater than in all previous campaigns during our lives. In addition to this, money has learned how to disseminate propaganda cunningly and scientifically. The press is more venal than ever before in the history of the Republic. With this venal press, and a propaganda which will be cleverly managed, my present opinion is the alliance between crooked big business and crooked politics will put Coolidge over. I am enclosing you full page editorial of the New York World of . . . This reads like the speeches I made in the last month or month and a half of the campaign, except that I began with the Slomp letters, which I insisted, ^{stamped} indelibly / the character of the administration. Some of the sentences in this World article are almost the exact sentences I used in the speeches. Of course, I could not get mine over. The papers did not publish what I said and I succeeded in getting it over only with the limited audiences to which I spoke. It was speeches of this sort that made the administration so bitter, and I think they were justified in their bitterness, but I said nothing that was not actually true. If the Democrats had a press in the Nation, and this kind of fight were made, it would be a test of the moral attitude of our people. The country is so big, though, the press so corrupt, that I doubt if the people will ever understand the depth of the degradation of this administration, and certainly, they never will understand it if McAdoo is nominated, who is justly

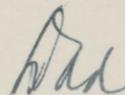
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open to attacks of like character.

We had one summer day last week, and yesterday, because of it, I put on my old thin suit, and then in the afternoon, we had a big storm, the biggest of the season, which continued throughout the night. Today is overcast and threatening. It has been the most remarkable summer thus far. What a pity, we could not have had this rain transferred during last winter to California.

With all my love.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'H.W.J.', written in dark ink.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

June 12, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Jack:

I received yesterday your letter of June 5. I received also statement from Harriet. The statement brings home to me very forcibly a subject, which I wish you seriously to consider, and about which I want to talk to you when I come out next month. I have got to devise some way of getting to work in order to add to my income. The easy and the natural thing would be the lecture platform. While I could not command the same sums I might have commanded during the past few years, I could, doubtless, get one hundred dollars a night, and in two months, / ^{earn} approximately, five thousand dollars. It is the cleanest way of earning money for a man in public life, and no criticism could ever attach to him in respect to it. Unfortunately, Mother is intensely prejudiced against it, and probably in deference to her wishes, I may have to abandon this mode. The only other way in which I can earn anything is by the practice of the law. Upon this, again, there is a difference between Mother and myself. She does not wish me to practise in San Francisco, and it is perfectly obvious now that I could not practise any other place. I don't want to go back into the law for very many reasons. I am rusty in it, and in fourteen years my habit has entirely changed, so that it would be extremely

Mr. H.W.J. Jr. - 2

difficult for me to return. Again, the task would be a dreadfully uphill pull, unless I could form some sort of partnership where the burden would be eased. I hasten to say to you I would not wish to start with you or Arch, both for your sakes and for mine. The combination would be I fear ultimately unhappy, and all of us have gone along too far now to risk a possibility of unhappiness. I say this quite frankly to you so that in thinking of the subject, you will dismiss entirely from your mind any thought of a family firm. Your Mother's view, first, is that she wishes me to start in New York, and secondly, that it would be^a disagreeable, unfair, and outrageous thing for me to begin the practice of law in San Francisco in competition with my own sons. Of course I would not want to be in competition with my dear boys, that goes without saying. I think, however, in an endeavor to specialize, such as I would make, the field would be large enough for all of us, without competition of any kind or character. However, I think your mother's viewpoint in this regard is well worth considering. The fact of the matter, my dear son, is I don't want to lecture, and I don't want to practice law. I would like to live my remaining four years in the senate in ease and comfort, and then spend the remainder of my life reading or traveling, or even sitting still, as I might desire, but I can not follow my own bent, because of our imprudent and extravagant mode of living; and while I can drift for a brief period, sooner or later I am going to be up against the absolute necessity of some other occupation. It seems to me the part of wisdom to

Mr. H.W.J., Jr. - 3

think of the matter now and reach a conclusion before I am actually driven to it. It is for this reason I am writing you. Don't write me about the matter, unless the spirit moves you, but keep it in mind, and we'll talk about it when I come out.

Yesterday was Mother's birthday, and I think she had a pretty good day. We went to a movie in the afternoon, and we had a big dinner at night, at which Schwerin was present. I filled the table full of little bits of toys, and together we had a good time. Your gift and Arch's have not yet arrived. I will acknowledge them just as soon as they come.

With my love to the boys and yourself,

Affectionately,

Dad

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

June 13, 1924.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

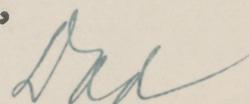
My dear Arch:

I wrote you that your present for Mother on her birthday had not yet arrived, but this morning the beautiful gift from Martha and you came. I think it was splendid. I am writing you merely that you may know it had been received.

I had a defeat in the primary in California. Mr. Hoover won success there. Mr. Hoover had a defeat in the convention last night for vice-president. As I listened to the twenty-nine California votes cast for him, and then heard him swamped as the big states were reached, you could imagine that I had a quiet smile. These anti-Johnson delegates that went to Cleveland, returned with their idol shattered, and Mr. Hoover in the discard. He has been trying to be vicepresident for sometime past. Finally, the administration got behind him and last night agreed to nominate him. They tried to do it, but a boss-ridden convention in its last moments rebelled and turned to one of their own, a man who represents finance, and finance alone, who hates poverty, and whose creed is a poor man has no right to live.

My love to Martha and yourself.

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

June 13, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Attorney at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco.

My dear Jack:

I wrote you a note yesterday in which I said that your gift for Mother's birthday had not arrived. It came this morning. It was beautiful. I leave to Mother to write you about it. I am sending you this note merely that you may know that it duly came.

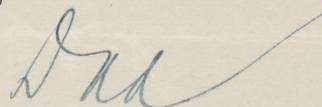
I listened over the radio to two parts of the Republican Convention; first, that where the Wisconsin people presented their platform, and secondly, the balloting last night on vice-president. Whatever may be said about these Wisconsin people, you have got to admire their guts. As I heard Cooper making a poor presentation, amid yells, ~~and~~ sometimes however applause, and noted how doggedly he went on and read his platform even to the denunciation of the Melon Tax Plan, you and I with our admiration for courage, could pay him our little tribute last night. As the last roll call on vice-president was taken, and the first five or six states, including California with its twenty-nine votes, were cast for Hoover, my emotions were mixed, but when as the roll call progressed, Hoover was overwhelmed, I was delighted. I made an open fight for the presidency and was badly beaten, but I stood my ground and made my fight. This sneak Hoover has been trying to crawl into power in

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr. - 2

any fashion he could, first with Wilson, then with the Democratic Party, then with the Republican Party, then with Harding, then with Coolidge, and as all of us have known in the last few days, mad to be vice-president. The administration tried to put him over on this last ballot, but the boss-ridden Republican Convention rebelled and revolted at the skunk and would not stand for him. While these twenty-nine Californians thought they were chosen against me for president, their selection was unable to render any real service to Hoover, and they came away from Cleveland a defeated bunch.

I started this letter just as an acknowledgment of your present. It was fine of you to remember Mother as you did. Love to the boys and yourself.

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

June 16, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

I am getting very nervous and very restless in my desire to come home. The manifold reasons for my desire to come I think should be obvious, but the paramount one, after all, is that it is home, where my loved ones are. To come home without your Mother seems terrible to me, and without complaining or going into detail at all, I am writing to ask each of you, without indicating that I have said anything, please to write Mother begging her to come out.

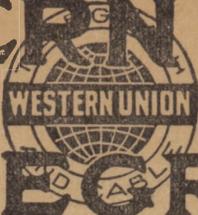
Affectionately,



CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

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DELIVERED FROM
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DB327 86 1/70 BLUE CS WASHINGTON DC 28 1218P

1924 JUN 28 PM 12 14

HIRAM W JOHNSON JR

025 ATTORNEY AT LAW MILLS BLDG SANFRANCISCO CALIF

I DROVE MOTHER HERE TO ATLANTIC CITY LAST MONDAY SINCE HAVE HAD ACUTE
 ATTACK NEURITIS MY RIGHT ARM USELESS AND EXCEEDINGLY PAINFUL STOP
 I INTENDED TO RETURN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY HAD TRANSPORTATION FOR
 CALIFORNIA TUESDAY BUT DOCTOR FORBIDS MY LEAVING HERE STOP ALL
 MY PLANS FOR RETURNING ARE IN THE AIR UNTIL I AM ABLE TO GET ABOUT
 WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED WOULD LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN TO THOSE IN
 CALIFORNIA WHOM

VICE	SYMBOL
	Blue
ge	Nite
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If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	
Telegram	
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RECEIVED AT 722 MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. ALWAYS OPEN

1924 JUN 28 PM 12 14

DB327 2/16

YOU THINK ENTITLED TO KNOW MY SITUATION WILL BE HERE FOR FEW DAYS
 LONGER ALL LOVE
 DAD.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

July 3, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

I had a telegram sent to you from Atlantic City so that you might know my situation there. I had arranged to go to New York a week ago Sunday night and attend the Democratic Convention. I had done this at the earnest entreaty of your Mother, and our reservations were made at the Ritz, and Senator Harrison was to provide me with first-class seats. Suddenly on Sunday, Mother changed her mind and became bitterly opposed to going to New York, and desired instead to go to Atlantic City where Gicyzka was at that time staying. I, of course, acceded, although I would like to have spent a day or two in New York just to indicate that I was not wholly dead. I undertook, because Mother suggested it, driving her to Atlantic City in the little Dodge. My driving experience, as you know, consists of coming in in the morning from the house to the office and back again in the afternoon, and in the firm avoidance of traffic. Because Mother desired it, I would not, for an instant, suggest that I could not drive from here to Atlantic City, although, to tell you the truth, I had some misgivings. I did the job on Monday and made 170 miles without mishap, driving through

-2-

the traffic of Baltimore and Wilmington, and reached Atlantic City late in the afternoon of that Monday. We had Cooke come along in his Ford with a friend of his, so that I was under no apprehension of any sort. However, the trip I rather enjoyed, although I got tired at the end. Thursday, I developed a neuritis. It stuck with me until Monday of this week. I "enjoyed" excruciating pain for three days with a right arm absolutely paralyzed, and I experienced the soothing effects of morphine. I am all right now, although a bit shaken. Mother is not feeling well, and the last day or so at Atlantic City she was in wretched shape. We are both glad to get home. Just as soon as we get settled, and I feel equal to the task, I will get my transportation and come to California. My intention was to leave last Tuesday, but I turned in my tickets after I got laid up in Atlantic City. My opinion now is that Mother will come with me, although she has never wavered in her refusal. Of course, I will wire you.

I have been watching intently the Democratic Convention. How true was Grant's exclamation that the Democratic Party could be relied upon at the right time to do the wrong thing! There was no earthly reason for its bitterness over the Ku Klux Klan, a mere temporary distemper, and it could have passed the matter over exactly as the Republicans did. Discussion of the matter was not of such great moment, but the bitterness I am told that has resulted is the bad feature of the situation, and this bitterness will leave its scar, and affect the ultimate nomination. I am writing this to you on Thursday after I have just listened at home to three ballots over the radio. I have not the slightest idea what is going to be done,

-3-

although it seems, of course, that some unknown, weak, and mediocre candidate will be the result of today's deliberations. It might not have been a bad thing if John W. Davis had been selected. The difference then between the two parties, as Lasker remarked to me in Atlantic City, would have been whether the entrance to the office of J.P.Morgan and Company should be on Wall Street or Broad Street. This difference will not be so accentuated by the nomination by the Democrats of some very ordinary personality. While the press cries down the LaFollette movement scheduled for tomorrow at Cleveland, it is, in my opinion, one to be reckoned with. Of course, it would be infinitely stronger if it were founded upon a set of principles rather than an individual, and it can not develop into a national third party so long as there is a pre-dominating personality. It will, however, give voice to the discontent of the country, and will play an important part in the November election. It may break, however, upon the very personality that dominates it, for I believe La Follette is not in good condition physically or mentally, and I should not be surprised before the campaign is over, if he becomes at all active, we should see exactly in 1924 what happened to him in 1912.

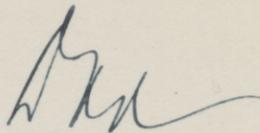
I am thinking particularly of getting out to California. I am sorry to come out not in the best of shape, and I am sorrier still that Mother feels our coming in such fashion that she will have a miserable time on the trip and reach California horribly wrought up. I shall do my utmost, of course, if she'd come with me, to make her forget her fears and relieve her tension. You boys will have to aid me when she arrives. Her mental condition regarding the trip to

-4-

California is wholly imaginative, but it is past arguing with.

My love to all.

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. W. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
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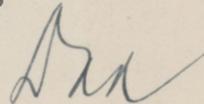
July 7, 1924.

Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

It is not the case of "The Villain Still Pursues Her" but just one damn thing after another with us here. I was getting in pretty good shape and looking forward to obtaining transportation again to California, when on Saturday, Mother either was bitten by some insect or poisoned by poison ivy or poison oak. She has been terribly distressed and suffering since. Her face is swollen, and one eye practically closed. I got the doctor out yesterday morning, and while he said there was nothing to worry about, nevertheless I do worry, and his pleasant assurances do not of themselves relieve the pain your Mother is suffering. It is very difficult to get her to take care of herself. I did get the doctor out there yesterday, but I can't get her to come in to town today, or let me have the doctor out there today. I hope the thing will clear up speedily. I am writing you about it, merely that you may understand why I am delaying again. If any more bad luck intervenes, I shan't write you about it at all.

Affectionately,



HIRAM W. JOHNSON, CALIF., CHAIRMAN
GEORGE P. MCLEAN, CONN. KEY PITTMAN, NEV.
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R. A. BURR, CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
TERRITORIES AND INSULAR POSSESSIONS

July 10, 1924.

Mr. Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.,
Major Archibald M. Johnson,
Attorneys at law,
Mills Building,
San Francisco, California

My dear Boys:

Mother is gradually recovering from the poison which settled in her face. I have my transportation now for Friday, the 18th, and Mother, I expect to come with me then. I am hoping and praying that nothing will occur between now and that time to disappoint me. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick", and I am beginning to think that I never again will get to California. Mother does not want to come, and she is coming as a mere matter of duty to me. You both will have to bear with Mother's vagaries in this respect. I think that a brief period in California will eliminate them.

We have been listening over the radio to the concluding days of the democratic convention. As I said to you last week, the ticket finally selected differs from the republican ticket only as to the mode of entrance into the House of Morgan. Mr. Dwight Morrow, of Morgan and Company, is the real manager of the Coolidge campaign. Other members of the firm will be the real managers of the Davis campaign. Both candidates belong to this great banking house, which in its influence, its power, and its wealth, has succeeded what, in my younger days, was the great world financial power, the House of Rothschild. We have, therefore, in this campaign, as between the

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two major parties, the right of determination of what members of the House of Morgan shall lead us, and a third choice in a thoroughly personal candidacy of one, who is believed to be fit, neither mentally nor physically.

We listened last night to Smith's reception when he appeared in the democratic convention. It was wonderful. We listened then to his speech, which was simply rotten - the speech of a boaster and a rough-neck. We then listened to Davis, who has been heralded as a great and finished orator, and we were as disappointed in the one direction with him as in the other with Smith. Big business tried to alleviate the dose with Governor Bryan for vice-president. As one correspondent remarked this morning, it was Wall Street going to Main Street. Big business is thoroughly satisfied. The rest of us can fight a great sham battle.

With love to all.

Affectionately,

