

2

*The Willard Straight Papers at Cornell University*

004304



23 WALL STREET  
NEW YORK

December fourth.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

May I break in upon your deep sorrow by expressing my heartfelt sympathy with you at the untimely death of your husband, for whom I had the highest admiration and respect. Major Straight was very kind to me on several occasions, and I am very much grieved at his loss. It was a great honour to have known him.

Yours very sincerely,  
A. L. Bangert.

Mrs. Willard Straight.



RAMSEY, ONE-ONE-O

12-4-18

Wednesday.

MAHWAH  
NEW JERSEY

My dear Mother,

Scarcely a month

ago my young cousin - who had failed admission into very active branch of the Service because of his extraordinary shortsightedness - died of influenza in a camp hospital, here.



as a private in the Quartermaster's Corps.  
Among his papers was found his last  
form which I am sending you  
with the hope that it may bring  
you some comfort in your grief.  
The wonderful spirit of living that  
has urged on towards that shore,  
the men who need not go, is  
something to brighten our darkest hour.

No doubt, Mother, your heart knows the  
love - but greater - for and pride that is  
mine - I cannot lose me, my love.  
I am writing you this to let you know that  
Stephen and I are thinking of you in all  
admiration - with a strong desire to be  
of some help to you in this moment of your  
grief. But believe me, always to be  
your most sincere, Mary Rand Smith.



[Encl. 12-4-18]  
[Birch]

"Limited Service Only"

I am not one of those the gods' decision  
Has chosen for that highest gift of all -  
The sacrifice, the splendor, and the vision -  
To fight, and nobly fall:  
  
And yet I know - what though it be but dreaming!  
Should the day hang on some one last desperate hope,  
I- I- could lead one reckless column streaming  
Down some shell-tortured slope.  
To face the shadow-hell of Death's own Valley  
With eyes unclouded and unlowered head -  
Know, for an instant, one ecstatic rally  
And then be cleanly dead.

Kenneth Rand,  
Q.M.C.

December 4<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Dorothy  
No words can  
express to you how truly  
shocked & sorry I was  
to hear of your great tragic  
loss. Please know that  
with your hosts of loyal  
friends, I too, am  
offering my silent love  
and sympathies.

Affectionately yours  
Margaret H. Blandy

7-4-1918 Wash. D.C.



care as your husband should  
be cut short just when men of  
his ability are needed so badly  
is very difficult to understand.  
Words are so very inadequate  
but my heart aches for you  
in your suffering, and I long so  
to be of help and yet I know there  
is nothing that can lessen the  
sense of utter loneliness.

I realize how brave & splendid  
you will be and unselfish  
in your grief, but that only

DEC. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918

Wednesday

176 EAST SEVENTIETH STREET

Dear Dorothy

My thoughts have been with  
you constantly ever since I  
heard of the tragic news of your  
husband's death, and no words  
of sympathy can express how  
deeply I feel for you in your  
great loss. That such a wonderful



makes those that can for you sympathize and  
be more deeply -

With a great deal of love

Affectionately yours  
Lydie P. Blagden

blessing the Ladies will  
be to you, even though  
now they cannot understand.

May God help you  
and give you strength

Yours friend

Maud Emma Burke

December 4, 1918

The Rectory of Trinity Church  
Roslyn, Long Island

My dear Mrs. Straight:-  
I know

that your sorrow is so great  
that no words of mine  
can be of any comfort,  
but I must let you  
know how my heart  
aches for you, and  
how constantly you are  
in my thoughts and  
prayers - What a



these inadequate words, I would  
never have written them, so  
please don't. I only want to  
add my small tribute to  
your husband. I never met  
him but have always heard  
of what a wonderful person he  
was & how he always stood  
for what was best & finest.  
With deepest sympathy,  
yours always sincerely,  
Josephine Bradley

1402-21<sup>st</sup> St -  
Washington, D.C.

[12-4-18]

Wednesday-

My dear Mrs. Straight,-

I want to add  
a few words of sympathy  
to the many you will have  
for the loss of your husband.  
I was so shocked and  
distressed to read of it  
in the papers, and my  
heart ached for you in what



you must be going through.  
I know there is nothing  
that ~~we~~ can make such a  
loss any easier to bear,  
unless it is the pride you  
must feel in what he has  
done for his country, for every  
one will consider that he <sup>made</sup> gave  
the supreme sacrifice as  
much as any man who  
was killed in the trenches.

It was a wonderful way to die, but  
the real sacrifice is for those who are  
left behind, and I know how awful  
must be your sense of loss and loneliness.  
I hate to think of any Junior League  
girl having such sadness come to  
her, and especially our beloved President  
of whom we are all so proud.  
If I thought you would answer



December 4<sup>th</sup>

Chicago

847 LINCOLN PARKWAY

Dear Dorothy

I cannot tell you how  
I feel for you in this  
sad time - or indeed how  
sorry I am for all of us  
who knew Willard & loved  
him - He was the  
finest - human being & the  
truest - friend I have ever  
known - I think he  
made the world a better  
place for having lived  
in it - You have all my  
love & sympathy  
Yours Cecil Clark Davis.

31 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK

Dec 4-1918

My dear Mrs Straight

I was immensely shocked at the  
news of the tragic toll exacted by the  
war god in your's and Major Straight's  
case. In such an hour words of  
sympathy seem so ghastly inadequate  
as to amount almost to an intrusion.  
To have rendered such signal service  
in different quarters, to have  
"done his bit" so eagerly and



yours. And the sorrow is not confined  
to a few, but is shared by almost an army  
of people who knew and admired and  
loved him and by a still greater army  
whose lives he had enriched by the things  
he had done. May you gather strength to  
for your price for peace.

your friend

Ernest R. Buckner

forcefully, to have seen the  
sun finally rise on a  
world at peace, and then —  
with reconstruction labors calling  
him — and you with him —  
somehow the tragedy seems  
more poignant than ever.

It must seem poor comfort  
in your sorrow to know that  
the hearts of others too are bleeding,  
but such little fortitude as  
that knowledge begets is



21 Coburn St. Yonkers N.Y.  
December 4, 1918

My dear Mrs. Straight:

Permit me to express my  
profound sympathy in your great  
bereavement. Like others I have followed  
Mr. Straight's achievements with high  
admiration for the wonderful way in which  
he combined executive ability with the vision  
which comes only to those who are ever  
young in their enthusiasms. I hope you  
and your children will find consolation  
in the supreme sacrifice for the holy  
cause of country and humanity.

Sincerely yours  
Morris R. Cohen

December 4<sup>th</sup>

1014 FIFTH AVENUE

Dear Mr. Straight

I want to offer you our  
deepest & most heartfelt  
sympathy in your  
trouble & heartbreaking  
sorrow. Perhaps as a  
Comparative Stranger  
I have no right to  
intrude on you even  
in writing at a time



like this, but I have  
felt for you so deep  
and sincerely that I  
simply cannot help  
offering you my sympathy.  
A loss like yours is too  
sacred to speak of and  
there is nothing that  
I can say or do to  
help or relieve you, I

know, & yet we all want  
you to know how much  
your sorrow has saddened  
us and how truly we  
suffer with you.  
Sympathy & prayers are  
all we can offer you, and  
I for one, do so with  
an overflowing heart.

Evelyn Clark



so well in his brief period  
of life. It will be a privilege  
- however, to remember that  
I knew him and had felt  
his singular charm.

Sincerely yours  
Sherman

December 4<sup>th</sup>

6 EAST FORTY FOURTH STREET.

My dear Mrs Straight

I want to tell you of  
my very profound sym-  
pathy for you in your great  
sorrow. It is indeed a most  
cruel blow to you and  
a deplorable loss to the  
country he had served



120 EAST EIGHTIETH STREET

Dearest Dorothy  
I can only send  
you keep your  
understanding of the  
sorrow that has come  
to you - you have a  
double duty now to  
your lovely children  
& their need will be  
your help in your position.

Dec. 4. 1918.

Affectionately  
Emily W. Dix

always made him a  
man apart to me.  
I don't think that  
anyone among his  
host of friends loved  
& appreciated him  
more than we did,  
& I can't bear to  
think that he has  
gone out of our lives  
forever. Dorothy, dearest,  
God bless & help you  
through this terrible time.  
Deepest love from

Beatrice - [de Menocal]

4 West Hill Place.

Boston -

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Dorothy, dearest -  
My heart

is full to over-  
flowing with sym-  
pathy & sorrow  
for you. If there  
were only something  
that I could do or



say to help you, dear.  
It is all so sudden  
& terrible, & so hard  
to understand why  
the best & finest &  
most useful sh<sup>d</sup> be  
taken. Dorothy  
dear, I can never tell  
you how we loved  
& admired dear  
Willard & what  
he meant to us.

He stood for the very  
best & highest our  
country produces, & I  
know no one who  
combined so many  
rare qualities & gifts.  
His chivalry &  
quixotic sense of  
honour, & his un-  
swerving adherence  
to his ideals & what  
he thought was right,



Dec. 4. 1918

Headquarters  
Camp. Eustis Va.

Dear Mrs. Straight

Gwendolyn

wrote me that Willard had succumbed to pneumonia in Paris. It is very sad to have to face the fact that his career which was becoming more brilliant every day should be cut off at this time. You have my very deepest sympathy.

I shall always remember with pleasure the few times I saw him in France. It was at the little town

[12-4-18] [2]

of Ligny. My Reg. was on the move from St. Michiel to the Argonne. I came ahead to this town to try & get a map of our route for the night. Passing a window I saw Willard with several other officers pouring over maps. He gave me some fine maps & information which made our night work much easier. I saw him twice after that in the same town and dined with him on both occasions. That was in the middle of Dec.

you can always carry

[12-4-18] [3]

with you the thought that his work both in civil life & in the army was not only brilliant but not in vain. He was liked and respected by all with whom he came in contact with.

Most sincerely yours  
Dan Downs.



122 East 82<sup>nd</sup> St.

[12-4-18]

My dear Dorothy - I just want  
you to know that I am thinking  
of you in your sorrow and  
wishing that there were something  
I could do to help you -  
You have my love and my  
cheerful, heart-felt sympathy  
Always sincerely yours  
Horse Koff's Farnum.

[12-4-18]

630 Park Avenue

Dear Donny -

I very deeply sympathize  
with you in your terrible sorrow -  
It seems a long time since we  
have met, but I would like  
you to feel that I have not  
forgotten you and that my  
thoughts go out to you now with  
sympathy & grief for your loss.

Sincerely Yours  
 Evelyn Field



# LALUZ & LOS ANGELES MINING COMPANY

INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

511 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1918

OFFICE OF THE

Dear Mrs. Straight :-

I tried to telephone  
you this afternoon for the purpose  
of offering my services at any time.  
I beg of you not to hesitate to  
call upon me for I will  
consider it an honor and great  
privilege to render any assistance  
or service that I am able.

My office Phone is - Murray Hill 4203

Most Sincerely

David Fletcher

# AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

120, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

J. GRANT FORBES  
LONDON REPRESENTATIVE.  
TELEPHONE, CENTRAL 9711.

18, BIRCHIN LANE,  
LOMBARD STREET,  
LONDON, E.C.3.

December 4<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Mrs. Straight

Forgive me for intruding on your grief  
but it may help a little to bear it, to hear how  
deep is the sense of personal loss of all those  
who were privileged to know Willard.

I knew of Willard first through my intimate  
friend Neil Fancher who died in London, and  
had followed his career with interest, but it was  
many years later before I met him.

From the very first I fell under the charm of his  
keen intellect, of his dynamic energy, of his  
kind heart. I am not one who makes friends  
easily, but I was proud to count him one of mine.

It was through him that I joined the  
American International Corporation, and  
it was because he was there that I had looked  
forward with zest & ~~pleasure~~ enthusiasm to  
working out together the problems of the future.  
His loss to us in the Corporation is incalculable.

Everywhere I hear the same thing - The  
sense of bereavement among his friends and



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

120 BROADWAY NEW YORK

IN BIRMINGHAM

LONDON AND STAMPA

LONDON E.C.2

J. GRANT FORBES

LONDON BOSTON

NEW YORK

The feeling that the world is poorer for losing one of those rare brains which combine imagination, sense of proportion, and motive power.

It is a cruel destiny that has taken him from us in his prime, at a time when his qualities were so much needed.

Yours very sincerely

J. Grant Forbes

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>  
1918

Ham Island Club

North Island

N.C.

Dear Mr. Hayt

I have just read of Willard's death with that sinking of the heart that comes with the knowledge of the loss of a dear friend and of the passing of a good & great man. He seems to have been making good in a very big way on there and long better than received for Peter. Commate on it - And also



my heart goes out to you  
and to the dear children -  
When the time comes that  
you will like to see me all  
come, and I only wish I  
could be in some way helpful  
Yours most sincerely  
W. Cameron Fisher

Ellis  
Mass.

it is hardest to lose when the  
fighting is ended - and  
we are all so conscious of  
how great the cost has  
been. The task of being  
witness of the sacrifice remains.  
My deep sympathy  
Sincerely yours  
Bellevue Fraser.

THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN HIGH STREET

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1918.

Dear Mr. Willard Straight -  
Please accept  
my very sincere sympathy  
in your loss.  
We know so many of  
our men - and I think



it's hardest to see when the  
fighting ended — and  
we are all so conscious of  
how great the cost has  
been. The task of being  
witness of the sacrifice remains.  
In deep sympathy  
Sincerely yours  
Bellevue Fraser.

Belle L. Greene

Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Ch. East 77' 45"

Dear Dorothy

When I heard  
of your husband's  
death the thought  
of Francis's mother  
when Quentin's mother  
died: "What a royal  
gift" if one could  
have one's choice.  
Dear love Dorothy  
& much thought for  
you.

affectionately always



DEC 4, 1918  
16

  
The New  
REPUBLIC  
421 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York City

My dear Mrs Straight,

It is impossible for me to tell you the sympathy I feel for you in your great loss. What comfort there is in the knowledge that it is a nation's loss as well should be yours. For no man I have ever known, or known of, embodied more completely what to me he always was - the promise and the hope of American idealism. His great, kind, joyous spirit was an inspiration to know. Such a spirit can never really die.

Sincerely yours,  
Robert Halliwell.

DEC 4, 1918  
95, RUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ  
F FLEURUS 00-48

Dear Dorothy - all my sympathy goes to you in these sad days. I heard yesterday of your terrible loss. We have lived so much in fear of separation from those we love in the last four years that

GRACE MEMORIAL HOUSE  
94 FOURTH AVENUE.

December 4.  
My dear Dorothy,  
How I wish there were some place or way in which I could be present to you!  
I think of you from home to home with devoted affection and



I realize all the more vividly what  
your letters mean

With deepest sympathy

Emily de la Grange

a young thing I find  
no words to express.  
Faithfully  
Julia L. Gardner.

[12-4-18]

Chère Madame

Je viens d'apprendre  
le terrible malheur  
qui vous frappe, et  
je tiens à vous dire  
combien je vous plains



Avec tout mon cœur —

J'ai gardé un véritable  
et si sympathique souvenir  
de votre hospitalité et  
de l'atmosphère intime  
de votre home, et je  
fais que seulement les  
grandes affections peuvent



Créer de tels foyers -

Soyez sûre, chère  
Madame de mes sentiments  
émus et profondément  
sincères

Gabrielle Sills

53 W - 50 St

DEC 4 / 1912  
56

BROAD HOLLOW FARM,  
WESTBURY STATION, L. I.

Wednesday

Dear Dorothy:

I have been thinking  
of you a great deal. Do you  
remember a talk we had in  
Southampton about Fufy? You said  
how hard it was for her  
that she had nothing to look  
back on. Nobody can take away  
from you the memory of  
wonderful years together -

God bless and bless you Dorothy  
the way you do all those who  
know you affectionately. With love



HOTEL VENDOME  
1, PLACE VENDOME  
PARIS  
ADR. TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: VENDOMOTEL  
TÉLÉPHONE: CENTRAL 41-78

December 4<sup>th</sup> 14

December 4 - I keep thinking  
of things that I haven't told  
you. Before Willard  
became delirious he  
talked of leaving his son  
& the children. After the  
delirium came on he  
thought, as I wrote you, that  
he was at the front. The  
last connected sentence  
he ever spoke to me

was to ask me ~~that~~ when  
I got to Paris the next  
time to cable to you his  
love. He told me not  
to send it that day but  
that the next morning  
he would tell me some  
more. When the next  
day came he was too  
ill to concentrate long  
enough to tell me what  
to cable.

Every time that I see  
him before his illness  
he used to get me to tell



live stories about the children  
at Southampton, ~~about~~ &  
discussed the possibility  
of your getting over here.  
It may be a comfort to  
you to know that Willard  
has never left first to  
the care of the Nurses -  
Lippman & I both took  
worn at the Grillon and  
we never both went out  
at once - It was much  
easier for me than for  
L., because I was allowed  
in the room all the

time, and he could  
never do anything but  
peer through the cracks  
of the door -

The Nurses were the most  
devoted I have ever seen  
and Willard liked them  
very much - Before his  
delirium I told him that  
either or both could be  
changed, but he said  
"No, they are both splendid."  
After consultation with  
Lippman I gave him  
Stacey \$50. Miss Lewis \$25.





ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE  
RITZOTEL - PARIS

Hotel Ritz  
Place Vendôme  
Paris

And Miss Beale \$25. -  
to keep presents from you.  
Remick gave me the  
money from Willard's  
account -

Miss Lewis - the light  
nurse - was taken ill  
with influenza, so Miss  
B. replaced her for the  
end of the time - The  
latter was so lovely looking  
& so wonderful the way  
that she did everything  
that last night -

[12-4-18]  
(4)  
Darothy Dear, I don't  
know if you want to  
hear all these details,  
but I write them in  
case you do. You may  
want to think only of  
his beautiful spirit  
that never faltered, and  
through all the discomforts  
of the last days was always  
that uplifted, unselfish,  
generous Willard - His  
life, laid down for his  
country, just as truly as  
if he had fallen at the  
front, will be an inspiration  
and guide to many.



For as it is hard to think  
of going on without him,  
but ~~every~~ since he left me  
I have thought every minute  
"Nothing matters now but  
Dorothy, may she find  
some comfort & peace".  
I wish more than I can  
say that I might go home,  
as writing is rather an  
unpleasant factory thing &  
I would like to be able to  
tell you of every minute  
of the time & every word &  
look - Always I thought only  
of how you would want  
things, but it is hard to

act for another, and I  
fear that in many ways  
you would have chosen  
differently - Only, I did  
- And all your friends did  
try to carry out what seemed  
to ~~them~~<sup>us</sup> would be your  
wishes -

I went to see Bennett  
at Dr. Blake's hospital  
the night before the funeral.  
Poor boy, I have never  
seen such distress, and  
he kept saying that if  
only he might have been  
with him Willard would  
never have caught cold.

[15-4-18]  
He begged to be taken to  
the funeral on a cot,  
but of course that could not  
be allowed - He is badly  
paralyzed, but I haven't  
had a chance yet to  
ask the doctor what  
they think -  
Joe & Pembroke are  
going home with Capt. &  
Pembroke - Poor Joe  
has the Grippe too -  
So, dear Dorothy let me  
hear from some one  
how you are -



All my love to you,  
Daisy [Harriman]

I realize that  
great love, not  
only to his family  
but to his country.  
That he felt that  
all others could  
have brought the East  
and West together.

Very, sincerely yours  
Major Stephen Hunt  
December fourth

"The Old House"  
Cor. Cob. Conn.

My dear Mrs. Straight-  
Please I add a  
little word of regret  
to your great sorrow  
coming so lately  
from China where  
everywhere the  
praises of your  
husband were being





The New  
REPUBLIC Dec 4  
421 West 21st Street  
New York City

1918  
36

Dear Mrs. Straight: When you are suffering under the heaviest loss that one can bear and yet live, will it seem an intrusion upon your grief for one whose relationship is only through a common ideal and a common purpose to claim partnership in your loss? I did not know Mr. Straight so well as I admired him. I looked forward with hope to greater intimacy with his frank and brave spirit. That spirit lives on, by the side of your own. It will exert its potent influence upon all of us who knew him. But I am so sorry for you and for us all.

Sincerely  
Alvin Johnson

Oshville N.S. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1917

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

Please accept my deepest sympathy in your great loss.

As you know my intimacy with your dear husband began upon his arrival in Peking in 1902 as Secretary to Sir Robert Hart.

From the first he was of great interest to me and this soon became a friendship and admiration for him which has never ended.



His strong dominant personality -  
the belief and confidence he  
had in himself - the power  
to impress his ideas upon  
the great men of our country -  
and the watching his growth  
until he became one of these  
few great men - has added  
much to the joy in my life.

He was always a dear  
and true friend to me and  
as such I feel his loss much.

I am home from China  
after nearly eighteen months  
in the hospital and am  
improving rapidly in this  
place.

Any services which I may  
ever be able to do for  
you - while they can  
never repay the past  
kindnesses of yourself and  
Willard to me - will  
always give me the greatest  
pleasure -

Most sincerely yours  
J. D. Harrison



December 4

39 EAST THIRTY-NINTH STREET

Dear Dorothy :-

It is perfectly impossible for me to express the depth of my feelings of sympathy & sorrow for you in your great grief - Percy & I have always had such a great admiration for you & your husband, & for what you both have always stood for. He will feel just as I do - He has been in Paris for the past year in the



Air Service Department, and  
if there is any possible way  
in which he could be of any  
service to you - please don't  
fail to call on him by cable  
or letter - his address is  
Major Percy H. Jennings - A.S.  
Co Morgan & Harjes & Co  
31 Boulevard Haussmann  
Paris. France.

It would only give him hap-  
piness to be of service to you,  
& I have written him, that  
I have sent you his address.  
With most loving sympathy  
I am, affectionately yours Percy H. Jennings

HEADQUARTERS AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

You must let me say this  
word to you, after following  
yesterday the flag-draped  
casket up the Avenue that  
propitiously leads to the  
Arch of Triumph, and beyond  
to the little military burial  
place outside the walls of  
Paris; for the Major was in  
some degree the friend &  
me that he was to you.

Later in September, I was  
living for a few days at his  
musee in Ligny when the  
telegram came that I be  
commissioned. He brought  
the message home to the  
dinner table and he  
brought, too, the officers.



enigma which I am  
 wearing now; so that,  
 in a sense, he has been  
 to me a sort of military  
 god-father. But for very  
 much more than that, of  
 course, the memory of all  
 you will cling to him  
 — the splendid ideals, the  
 scrupulous honor, the  
 unfailing energy, the  
 abounding cheerfulness,  
 and all the things which  
 made us love him as we  
 did. Most of that is with  
 us yet; there can be any  
 death to that which we  
 many have seen in him  
 and, having seen, will  
 carry with us to the end.

Sincerely yours,  
 Ralph Hays  
 125 St. Louis  
 G. S. G. H. A. C. T.

Chammond  
 Dec. 4, 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight, [12-4-18] pg  
 As the realizing the greatness  
 and the fineness of the life whose  
 passing we all mourn deeply, every  
 man who saw the corpse  
 yesterday paused and raised his  
 hat in reverence.

I did not know Major Straight  
 long, but I feel that I knew him  
 well. Working with him was an



Dear Miss Bogue

Please express my  
 deep sympathy to Mrs  
 Straight in this terrible



inspiration to further and better  
 effort and close contact with  
 him was an experience the influence  
 of which is a continuing one.  
 Your cablegram showed  
 that you have the same resolute  
 spirit we loved and admired  
 in him. Many feel with you a  
 great personal loss. Among those  
 many is Yours sincerely  
 William D. Mack.

sorrow which has  
 come to her. A few  
 words is all we  
 have to give at  
 such a time.  
 Sincerely yours  
 Helen L. Pickens  
 Englewood, N.J.  
 Dec fourth.

83 B<sup>te</sup> Couscelles 1918, L.  
 4 Decembre

Chère Madame,  
 Je ne sais si vous vous  
 souvenez de moi mais  
 j'ai gardé de vous un  
 si bon souvenir que  
 je viens vous dire com-  
 bien je suis peignée de  
 grand malheur qui  
 vous frappe et vous  
 rendra guérir ma bien  
 sincère sympathie  
 sans a moment



si cruel.

Si votre chagrin peut  
être adouci, il le  
sera certainement par  
l'affectueux intérêt  
que chacun vous  
témoigne et par  
la pensée que votre  
cher Mari était très  
apprécié et laisse  
beaucoup de regret.

Tout va bien Chère Madame  
vous êtes une victime

de cette horrible guerre.  
L'éloignement rend  
l'épreuve plus dure  
encore. mais je sais  
que votre admirable  
courage est digne  
de vous et du sacrifice  
qui vous est imposé.

Recevez Chère Madame  
l'assurance de ma  
bien vive sympathie

J<sup>h</sup> Lallouche



one of them has asked me to  
convey his or her personal confidence  
and sympathy.

Sincerely yours

Abraham M. Willard

December 4-1918.



27 EAST THIRTY-NINTH STREET

Dear Mrs. Straight:

It was the wish  
of each one of the eleven trustees of  
Teachers College who were present  
at the funeral service of Mr.  
Andrews that an expression of  
their profound sympathy be extended  
to you in your great bereavement.

With hearts saddened, they realize  
how great the sorrow which came  
to you upon the same day - each



come.

May you be given  
the courage to go on in  
faith, hope & love.

affectionately, yours  
Ruth Minter

Dec. 4th

Dear dear Dorothy  
I wish that I might  
express to you all that  
is in my heart but I  
know only too well the  
inadequacy of words at  
such a time. I know  
the darkness that surrounds  
and every step of the  
road you must travel,



but there is day light  
ahead in your children  
and those precious  
memories that never can  
be taken from you.

That ~~the~~ should have  
come to you dear Dotty -  
you who need the begin-  
ing through suffering  
so little, is not ~~understandable~~

I grieve for you and much richer the life to

for the world in the loss  
of such a splendid,  
brilliant personality as  
Willard. If there can  
be alleviation anywhere, it  
must be in the thought  
that he gave his best -  
his life for his country.  
This world is the poorer  
without him but how  
much richer the life to



My dear Mrs Straight

In the midst  
of your great loss  
and sorrow may  
I just say one  
word of sym-  
pathy, born of  
the knowledge



Trigon N. E.  
Dec. 4 - 1918

Dear Dorothy! - I was  
astounded to learn from  
the New York paper last  
night that Willard has made  
the great sacrifice.

My heart aches for you.

I wanted him to go, but  
I did hope that he would  
come back still better able  
to bear his part in the  
great days to come. I dreamed  
of the work he would do  
in the reorganization of  
the whole world, including  
our own country, which  
must inevitably and it once  
fall out. He and you together.

that the country  
& those who  
looked towards  
its future are  
sharing in your  
sorrow for the  
noble life and  
stimulating ex-  
ample which

was meant & would  
have meant much  
to us all

Yours sincerely

Cornelia E. Lawrence

[Marshall]

Enclosed please



heart and give you what help  
can come from steady faith in  
you and the power of loving thought  
to uplift into better days.  
With profound sympathy,  
Your friend,  
Mary and W. H. Newley

But he has stepped into  
another sphere of action  
and we may at least  
hope that there he will  
find also opportunity to  
help move humanity along.

And upon your brave  
shoulders falls the respon-  
sibility of bearing alone  
the beautiful but hard  
burden of being both  
father and mother to  
your children. I have  
heard enough of you to  
know that you are equal  
to it, but I also know  
with what anguish you  
will start upon the  
lonely road. I shall  
love you in my

[12-4-15]

5 East 8<sup>th</sup> St  
Wednesday

Dear Dorothy,

I have so recently  
been going through the  
same "deep waters" you  
are now passing through  
that I feel I can  
sympathize with you  
understandingly - You  
have both been working



So hard for others these  
awful months are.  
Sure peace will come to  
you at last - Everyone  
speaks so highly of your  
husband. His memory  
will be a help to his  
friends as well as to you.  
I found old friends  
thoughts helped me.

in my sorrow to Sophie  
& I both want you to  
know we think of you  
often - Sophie sends  
her love -  
Your affectionate old friend  
Milly Langdon Motte

TELEPHONE 3158 MAYFAIR.  
TELEGRAMS  
DOUBLEMENT WESDO LONDON.

Dec. 4. 1918

39, BERKELEY SQUARE.  
LONDON, W.1.

My dearest Dorothy  
How am I going to  
tell you how deeply  
my children and I  
grieve for you, and  
yesterday I sent you  
a cable which I  
hope arrived in due course.  
It was a terrible shock  
to me as I knew nothing  
of poor Willard's illness  
and the first I heard



was at work yesterday  
from Mr. Penzell of Morgan's  
Bank. He it appears did  
know of his illness but  
failed to tell me, for if he  
had I should have  
attempted, which means  
I should probably have  
succeeded, in going to him  
to do what I could.  
It was too late for me  
to go to Paris service today  
but I tried to have  
a wreath sent and I  
may that wire got through  
in time.

All this dear mother is  
an inadequate way of

expressing my feelings, but  
you are never out of my thoughts.  
You were very proud of him  
and his work and he  
would have gone a long  
way in whatever he undertook  
and he was equally proud  
of you, as this letter which  
I enclose & which you will value  
will show. It is the only  
one I received from him  
but I was always hoping  
and expecting to see him here  
on his way back and  
was looking forward so much to it.  
All my love and sympathy  
to you & yours

as ever affectionately

Alfred

[Paget]



"LA MANCHA"

December 4, 1914

82, RUE D'ASSAS

Dear Mrs. Straight,

I cannot tell you how greatly I regret Willard's death. The three months that we were in the Staff College together, I had a chance to enjoy his charm. He was much of the life of our little group of Willard, Stimson, Murphy & myself. And he was a principal attraction to guests. We talked of & planned many things at the mess & looked forward to the day when after the war we could get together & accomplish them. Willard was essential to our doing it. And the idealisms that had come to us in our mature years are chief to have been largely in vain now that he is not here to give them life & direct them along. There were few men in our country who had the outlook for usefulness that Willard had. No one can fill



the place that publicly was to be his, with  
the service & proper that would have been his.

There is an older matter than the Staff College  
for which I thank his influence on me & that is the  
Landon Christian College. He asked me to join the  
board & his asking & being not decided me & the  
work was the most interesting of my activities.

For a long while we looked forward to  
having him in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. I thought he had  
been asked for. But there had been some slip up.  
I last saw him at Ligny-en-Barrois when we  
were moving up in early October for the Meuse  
Argonne fighting. I then determined to get him to  
the division, either as an assistant to G3  
(operations) in the staff or in command of a  
battalion. But it was clear that as things  
had evolved there was not a chance for work  
to keep him busy in the staff. So far as the  
battalion was concerned, we were going into

batth. & there ~~was~~ no chance for the preliminary  
association, training & quiet sector work that were  
essential <sup>LA MANCHA</sup> [his fitting himself <sup>82, RUE D'ASSAS</sup> & that  
work. I was very glad later that it had been so.  
For we attacked in rain, wet weather & in addition  
to the shelling & machine gunning battalion  
commanders had the elements to meet. There  
was no dugouts or shelter. I do not believe Willard  
could have stood it. I know I could not have & I am  
pretty handy. Could he have had a battalion  
earlier & fought it in the earlier fighting I am sure  
he would have distinguished himself.

You have my warmest sympathy, for I  
feel his going keenly & know what a hard grief to  
bear it must be for you. The children have a fine  
inheritance in his (for an American at least) romantic  
& useful career.

Faithfully yours,  
Herbert Parson



if there is and you will let me  
know I shall be only too ready - I  
fear there is not and that there  
is nothing I can do but send you  
this line of sympathy which is  
such an empty thing - Please don't  
bother to acknowledge this -

With very deep sympathy -

I am very sincerely yours

Thomas H. Perkins

TEL. DEDHAM 2

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1918.

WESTWOOD,  
MASSACHUSETTS.

Dear Mrs. Straight -

It is with a deep sense  
of personal loss that I write to  
send you my very sincere sympathy -

I became so very fond of Willard  
in what after all was a  
comparatively short time and he  
brought into my life so much



interest that I can form some faint idea of what it means to you. I have spent many hours thinking of Willard's and my trip and planning things that I hoped might materialize after the war in which he and I might work together. I shall never forget the trip nor shall I ever forget what I owe Willard - His knowledge of things

outside of the world in which I had lived, his vision and enthusiasm gave me a new point of view which has made my life infinitely more interesting than it ever would have been. And more than all there was his individual personal quality that gave him so many friends and made and made us all love him. I wish I could do something to help you. Of course



.2.

other women who are called  
upon to give up what you  
have given - So many women  
would have accepted exemption  
from the rule & gone abroad,  
so many would have wished  
to have the bodily remains of  
their dear one brought back  
here, thinking first of their  
<sup>need of</sup> own comfort. But you without  
any shadow of hesitation  
thought beyond, you grasped

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>



Flowers

"Wootley"

Wootley Lane  
Washington

Dearest Dorothy

You have risen so high  
above all of us to meet the  
supreme test, that I feel dumb  
& helpless when I most wish  
to give you help & comfort.

The spirit of utter unselfishness  
of patriotism, of generosity, that  
you have instinctively shown  
must ring like a trumpet  
call in battle, to all the



.4.

& more closely perhaps, than  
human limitations allow.  
The more freely & generously  
we give the temporal & human  
side of what we hold most  
dear to God, the more fully &  
fully does He return the spiritual  
& eternal part of it to us. It is  
the old paradox of giving in  
order to receive. Souls as  
great as yours have more  
supreme tests to face than  
others, the valley of the shadow  
is darker & lonelier for them

.3.

the heroism & the spiritual glory  
of what Willard stood for, of  
what you both stood for. Now  
I pray & I believe, that having  
chosen the spirit, a spiritual  
reward will be yours. You will  
grow to feel the nearness &  
reality of the world of the spirit  
where part of you lives, and  
as time goes on you will know  
that you & Willard can still  
work together, even as you  
did here, for the same ideals,



.5.

Dec 17/1914

 to go through, but the reward  
is beyond anything we others  
can dream of -

Dear Dorothy you know how  
much we wish there were any-  
thing that we could do, & you  
would let us if there were,  
because your one thought is to  
give happiness to others.  
Perhaps you will feel like  
seeing us when we are in  
New York next week? If you  
do not we will surely under-



stand. We will telephone you  
when we are there.

God bless you & the little son  
Always faithfully your

friend

Caroline J. Phillips

---

Dear Dorothy:

May an old friend of  
school days tell you how  
her heart goes out to you in  
affection and sympathy?  
We all say - we all think  
we feel. That if we are called  
upon to make the sacrifice  
we can. But, oh, the loneliness



must be almost unbearable.  
Great as must be your pride  
in your husband's splendid  
career and death, I am  
afraid it does not help  
much - It would not help  
me.

I hope with all my  
heart that you have the  
blessing of a faith that will

sustain you. May that and  
your children's love help you  
through these heart breaking  
days.

Believe me, with deepest  
sympathy,

Very sincerely yours  
Francis C. Lamont Robbins

Woodbury, L.I.  
Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>



Oh! Dorothy I seem so much  
so - so poignantly sad. To  
think that at the height of  
your love and companionship  
he should be taken - and you two  
separated - I don't think I ever  
can be so much in need of  
comfort I seem to have little  
to offer for the moment, except  
the thought of how good your  
children are some day will be  
that their Father went out there  
and took his chance -

547 West 4th St  
Buffalo  
N.Y.  
Dec. 1st

Dear Dorothy,

Last night I saw the  
notice of Willard's death in the  
paper, and for some reason I  
felt as though some one in the  
family had gone - not because  
I knew Willard well of course -  
but I think on account of your  
and Edith's particularly won-  
derful friendship, which makes  
I seem very close to me -



To have known of Willard's illness before he died and not to be able to go to him! It seems really as though super strength was being demanded of this generation.

That you will rise supreme from this tragedy I have no doubt - and you must never forget that hosts of younger women and girls look to you for inspiration. I suppose you little realize the influence you have had on girls just younger than yourself in New York. It is unparalleled as far as I know and I know that they are all thinking of you in your sorrow, and wishing that they could in some way show their sympathy and understanding.

After all - this war and all connected with it is a matter of spirituality and I feel sure that God will help you as none of us can - Affectionately yours Marion Greene Potter

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

Dear Dorothy;

I know that you will have received many many letters, and so I hate to bother you with another one. But I can not help sending you just a line to say that if ever anything comes up that I could do for you, or help you in any way no matter how slight that you will not hesitate to ask me as it would be a privilege to do so.

In times such as these we can not offer sympathy to those who have lost some one they love, it is not worthy of them, and so in closing



I want to send you my love and tell  
you how truly you are an inspiration  
to all of us who know you.

Sincerely yours,  
Frances T. R. R.

Country. In the years to  
come I am sure the memory  
of this will comfort and  
support you - and I feel  
sure that had he lived  
the army would have  
given him new fields to  
conquer. To us who  
knew him in the old  
days more of the personal  
side, than anything else  
will live in our memories -  
We hope some day our  
paths may cross if at  
any time we can be  
of any use to you



December 4<sup>th</sup>

My dear Mrs Straight.

My sister Polly and I  
are two of the sisters of  
1718. We want to add  
our little word of sympathy  
to all that you have already received.  
Although to most people  
the Major's great achievements  
along other lines stand  
out to us of the army  
the greatest thing of all  
is that he lived his



remember that any one belonging  
to 1718, and to the army, can  
always call upon us -

Sincerely yours  
Annie Paul Randolph

December the 4<sup>th</sup> 1918.



My dear Mrs Straight -  
Although I have  
never had the pleasure of knowing  
you, I feel that I must add  
my word of sympathy, in your  
great loss. Willard and I were



Childhood friends in Oswego and  
 I with all his other old time friends  
 have watched his remarkable career  
 with loving interest. It is with  
 real sorrow in my heart that I give  
 you, my deepest sympathy.  
 Respectfully,  
 Adeline Thomas Roby

It is a heart to sore  
 with such fine and delicate  
 depths, was a gift for  
 my dear Dorothy -  
 And each year he seemed  
 to grow more in the future  
 I said in its fine editorial,  
 his is a life and an endeavor  
 that should be a great  
 example to the young men  
 of America. He is a busy, but  
 his country, his work, his  
 giving and his natural  
 wish to be with you and  
 the children, if the  
 glances things called him -  
 Only a few weeks ago that

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Jan 1918  
 9 EAST 43RD STREET  
 Dorothy -  
 I thought  
 how little I thought  
 of you - I seemed your  
 beautiful little about  
 my own great loss that  
 you would soon be  
 called upon to bear the  
 same grief. I say the same, yet as  
 I write I realize that your  
 loss is harder in every  
 way - I have had a long  
 full life, I thought I had  
 not yet very old, I am  
 no longer young, years  
 do not stretch out before



me & I have this sense  
that much is one for  
me any way, but with  
you and Willard you  
were at your fullest  
most vital period of  
life, & your life was  
such a splendid, mutual  
enterprise, shared in  
the most fulfilled way.  
I have often wondered if  
you knew how happy  
it made me to see  
you grow nearer & dearer  
to each other, & bigger  
& more useful for the  
world - as years went  
on. For I have always

felt that I had a share  
in it all because Willard  
came to me so lovingly &  
frankly when he first  
knew that I loved you, in fact.  
Before you were engaged,  
I knew you were still alone  
he came to me & mentioned  
one long long ride together,  
(I remember his telling me  
that he would not ride  
with any one else. Because  
he liked to keep his thoughts  
of just riding with you!)  
He embraced his heart &  
his soul home, & I was born







in your lonely letter, you  
feel him when you come  
to my home - you always  
will feel him, for he is  
always there -  
the hunger for the physical  
presence cannot be appeased  
but even that yearning  
hunger is only the counter-  
part of what we would  
not give up for any thing  
like that kind of which it  
is the "other side" -  
My experience with great  
grief, death, is that we  
must mind create it, - we

restful, satisfied home I  
spent in his Chinese home,  
which had such a special  
charm for me, where  
his unerring taste had  
developed the <sup>Chinese</sup> national  
sense of repose, in spite  
of the ardent American  
quality in his own heart.  
Dear, dear Dorothy, there  
is only one comfort.  
You have had the big  
thing, even Death can  
not take it away -  
What we have had,  
never can be denied  
us - I still possess  
Stewart. As you said



My dear Miss Bogue  
I wish you to  
express to Mrs. Wright  
my sincere sympathy.  
If at any time I can  
be of any service to  
her in any way  
please call upon  
me. In settlement  
of Mr. Wright's estate  
appraisal or some  
thing of that kind where  
I can be of use.  
Yours very truly  
Wm. Beaman  
Six East 57th Street  
December fourth.  
1918.

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1918  
5 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street.



Dear Dorothy:

I don't know how to write  
and tell you all I've been  
feeling for you in the last three  
days.

Your husband's going is  
a loss to the whole country,  
and I know that your pride in  
him, and in the service in which  
he gave his life will help you



pathy.  
yours very affectionately  
May Schaffner

to bear the loneliness until  
you see him again.

If the love of countless people  
could help at a time like this,  
all the comfort the world could  
give would be yours; because  
there is no one I have ever known  
who is loved by as many  
people as you are.

Dorothy, I wish I could ex-  
press all I feel, but I cannot.  
All I can do is to send you  
a heartful of love and sym-

Four hundred East Avenue  
Rochester, New York

Dear Dorothy - You are so constantly in my  
thoughts - I do want you to know of my  
deep sympathy and my love at this time -  
Your husband is an inspiration to us all,  
and I don't suppose you can know how  
far reaching his influence and yours is.  
He died, as he lived, "in the service",



and America is very proud of his record.  
But I cannot bear to think of the sorrow  
that has come to you and to your children  
and I only wish there were some thing I could  
do or say that would help - But I realize  
that all our friends can do is "to care", and  
that I do from the bottom of my heart -  
With my sincere love and my prayers,  
I am  
Very affectionately  
Berrianna Sibley.  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

December 4<sup>th</sup>



Dear Mrs. Straight -

I feel I know you  
sufficiently well to ask  
you to let me sympathize  
with you - as you always  
drew me into a nearer line.

One morning, I heard  
Mr. Straight say to you  
"Be good to yourself" and  
then he added "Promise  
me not to forget it."  
Now, is the time to find  
comfort in his loving  
words. Let his heartfelt  
request lighten some of  
the shadows of to-day.  
Yr. V. Sincerely  
Frank M. D. Hurd



Homer



Dec. 4

21 EAST 37TH STREET

Dearest Dorothy

You are so

much in my  
thoughts that I  
want you to know  
how deeply I feel  
for you in your  
great sorrow. I



Greenwood House

Dear Mrs. Wright.

I cannot keep telling  
you how deeply you express my  
harmest thought and effort at  
this dark time. My heart goes  
out. And perhaps more day by day  
as one enters into the sorrow of the  
land, that he needs more, "God is  
one" and that all that happens  
is tied up with God, our source,  
our life, our end.

His hand with grace to  
you. To one who knows you well

How how brave  
& splendid you  
will be about it -  
& I pray that  
you may be comforted  
& be given strength  
to do what lies  
before you -  
I hope you  
will let me

Do & see you & if there is  
any thing I can do to  
help you - for  
I am so - I am  
with you  
Sincerely  
James



fail to deny L.H. of service -  
and yet all we can do, do stand  
outside your circle, close friends,  
is to offer you an outgoing heart  
your life, lived as it always is  
frustrated, cannot fail to reward  
you at this time with wonderful  
consolations which self-centred people  
can never know.

His words count - but you cannot  
be conscious that you are surrounded  
by an admiring affection for powers.

Has a great good fortune to me but  
I miss your wonderful husband  
& now his remembering, his talent

[12-4-18]

Energy & form, & his readiness to  
see things as they are. His charming  
fellowship & a harmonious  
nature capable of giving out life  
by deeper sympathy - but  
what do I know, much grief? Nothing

Faithfully yours

Mary Prunkhovitch.  
[Simpkhoritch]



[12-4-18]

1839 MADISON ROAD  
EAST WALNUT HILLS  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Dear Dorothy-

Ever since I read of Willard's death yesterday I have been trying to find words that would express in some slight degree the sympathy I have for you. But it's no use - they won't come.

To understand fully one must have suffered deeply - and so far nothing has come to make me suffer one little of what you are going through. I p.



however its any help to know-  
that one who loves you very  
much indeed is thinking of  
you night and day, then I  
want you to know it - that's all.

I cant get out of my mind  
the picture of you all by your-  
self in that great big house -  
bottling everything up inside -  
and going your pure, proud, way  
all alone. It haunts me - and I  
wish - oh so much - that I might help.

Good night dear Dorothy - and  
God keep you - your devoted  
Florence Tweed.

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>



TWELVE EAST THIRTY-SEVENTH STREET

Dear brother:

Wishes find me in which  
express my deep sympathy  
for you in your heartbreaking  
sorrow. I can only say that  
for me constantly in my  
thoughts, & that I feel sure  
you have all the strength.



Dec. 4/18.  
1109 FIFTH AVENUE



My dear Mrs. Straight  
May I express to you  
and my husband's and my  
deep sympathy in your  
great sorrow? We have always  
been great admirers of your  
husband, and though  
have not seen him of late  
years, I always remember

courage & endurance necessary  
to meet the great trial which  
has come into your life -  
I shall always remember  
with pleasure those happy  
days at Camp Lake before  
you were married. Your  
husband in those years  
has been such a useful &  
kindred one, & now he has  
lost his place among the  
heroes of the world's history.

There is much to be proud & thankful  
for that makes the burden  
light & bright even to bear, for  
though it is all been given the  
more to see above things temporal  
with this consciousness of  
"Heaven's Reward". And this sure  
way to find in the reward and  
& hope of your future friend  
Alice Van Rensselaer

[Van Rensselaer]



the impression he made upon  
me, when he described the  
East to us, one summer day  
at my parents' country place.  
What a full life of interest  
and usefulness, though so  
short, his has been.

Believe me, with all our  
sympathy, Cordially yours  
Frieda S. Warburg.

[Warburg]

Dec. 4 1915

My dear Mrs Straight - <sup>457 W 164</sup>

Please accept my heartfelt  
sympathy in the great  
loss of your husband,  
may God strengthen you  
to bear it -

He was in here and worked  
for the defense of his  
name and Country during  
which - he thought best not  
doubt - his Patriotic duty  
and honor -

Please accept the sincere  
sympathy of our Organiza-  
tion -

Sincerely  
Mrs A. H. Washington  
President - Soc. of Daughters of America



sympathy & tell  
you how deeply I  
feel for you. You  
have been so much  
in my thoughts these  
past days & I only  
wish I could help  
you. With a great  
deal of love, I am  
Affecly yrs Sybil Whitehouse

Dec 4..



125 East 73rd Street

Dear Dorothy

There is very  
little we can say  
at a time like this,  
but I want to  
send you a few  
lines of love &



& heartiest sympathy.  
There is no more glorious way  
to die than as they among  
the elect & soon in your  
great sorrow you trust  
to be with them, but it is hard  
on those that are left behind.  
& I feel for you heartily.  
With a great deal of love

Affectionately Yours  
Martha Bl Whitney

DEC. 4, 1918.  
WESTBURY,  
LONG ISLAND.

Dear Dorothy  
I have just heard  
of your great loss & my  
whole heart goes out to  
you. Words are very  
useless at a time like  
this but it may give you  
a little comfort to know  
that your friends feel  
strongly for you & send  
you their dearest love

DEC. 4, 1918.  
Dear Dorothy. All I  
can say is to send  
you my best love -  
All my thoughts are  
with you. I can do  
i



Working; but feel  
that you will be  
able to do all  
you can - would love  
to see you some time  
later -  
Gentle Whiskers

P.O., OLD WESTBURY, L.I.  
STATION & TELEGRAMS, ROSLYN, L.I.  
TELEPHONE, 8 WHEATLEY HILLS

Decem<sup>ber</sup>  
the fourth,  
BRIGHTHOME

Dear Mrs. Straight-

This carries my  
love and sympathy  
to you, in your  
great loss.

Every one is so  
sorry - and the  
whole nation is  
mourning with you!

Sincerely your friend  
Hannah A. Willer



so much of Mr. Straight  
and somehow it seems  
so unjust that those of  
gold through and through  
should be taken, whilst  
those of the lesser metal  
are left here.  
We do not understand  
these things.  
My deepest sympathy  
is with you. from  
Mae.

1911  
132. East. 45<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York.  
Dec: 4<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mr. Straight:-

I am pained beyond  
words to hear of Mr. Straight's  
death, and my heart is  
aching for you & the babies.  
It is little we can do or  
say for you in your pain.  
I, as every one else thought



152 WEST SEVENTY-SEVENTH STREET

My dear Mrs. Straight -  
May I take the  
liberty of telling you of  
my personal share of  
the deep sympathy  
which is so universally  
yours.

Most sincerely

Ruth Adler

December fifteenth.

Dec. 5, 1918  
16

78 Rue de l'Université  
Paris  
EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

You have my deepest  
sympathy and you have had it since I  
knew that Willard could not live. Your  
quiet courage and faith has excited the  
profound admiration of us all.

I knew Willard well  
for only a few days but even in that  
time I had gotten to love him. During  
the days just preceding the signing of  
the armistice he telephoned me frequently



feel the loss in.

Faithfully yours

Gordon Auchincloss

[Gordon Auchincloss]

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1918

—

forced to quit by his weakness.

You have heard all about his sickness from others and you must feel very happy knowing that through it all he was always cheerful, courteous — a splendid fighting gentleman to the last. I think I have never been to a more beautiful service than that held for him at the American Church where they sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic while we all thought of Willard.

I can't tell you how personal?



from Foch's headquarters and it was  
he, at 5.15 in the morning of the day the  
Armistice was signed, who gave me the  
news of the signing fifteen minutes  
before and I passed on his message to  
the President by cable on a wire that  
had been held clear for an hour before.

He joined us the next day and  
I was with him almost all the time till  
Monday morning when he appeared at  
his desk next mine and I saw that  
he had a high fever. It was all I could  
do to make him go to bed and each  
day he telephoned several times until he was

5 December, 1918.

ÉGLISE DE LA SAINTE TRINITÉ  
23, AV. DE L'ALMA, 23  
PARIS

My dear Mrs Straight:

I did not leave  
your husband well, although we had  
met a few times and I had a few  
minutes with him late in March when  
he was studying at Langres. It was at  
the American Church of the Holy Trinity (where  
I have but lately become Rector) however where  
his Burial Service was held, where we  
prayed and thanked God for him, where we  
prayed for you and your children and from  
which his comrades in arms bore him to  
the Military Cemetery at Suresnes. I shared Billings,  
who prayed with him at his bed side and I assisted  
Bishop Brent, so I send you this line of sympathy,  
you who have such a superb and beautiful memory  
to preserve and which no one can take from you.  
I hope that you have been told of Bishop Brent's last  
words at the grave. There wasn't one of us who would  
not have been happy if they could sometime be said



of us "Willard Straight lived a great life in a  
few years" and "He laid down his life for his  
friends." May our Heavenly Father and his-  
be very near you just now.

Faithfully yours,  
Frederick H. Beckman

5/12/18

British Embassy  
Washington

My dear Mrs. Straight,

I was deeply shocked to read  
the news of Willard Straight's death -  
for his country - in Paris. Only a few  
days before I had been consciously  
congratulating myself that he was not  
among the number of my friends whose  
lives had been claimed as a sacrifice  
for victory, and I had been looking  
forward to congratulating you +  
him on his safe return. Coming when  
it did the blow must be a terrible  
one for you and I ask to be allowed  
to express my deepest sympathy to



you + for your children.

I have always looked back on the happy voyage to England on the "Adriatic" in December 1914 when I was privileged to form a real friendship with Willard which I had hoped would have lasted long into the years of peace as one of the pleasantest memories of this terrible wartime. It has been a heavy blow to me too that this friendship has now been cut short by Willard's premature death. I can only once again express my deep sorrow + sympathy.

Yours very sincerely

Barrett Blackall

On one afternoon here, lettered them  
climb all over him, + tell me  
how homelike it made him for  
his own . . . . .

And he has done so splendidly,  
that you must be proud of him.  
His memory will always be a  
 noble beautiful thing for all of  
us. —

My love to you — I feel I must  
let you know I share your grief.

Affectionately  
Katharine Blake

RUE BEAUJON N°5  
PARIS VIII<sup>e</sup> ARR<sup>t</sup>

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Dorothy: —

I can't tell you how full of  
your anguish my heart has been  
during these last weeks — I had  
constant word of your husband's  
condition from Dr Taylor of  
Blekin's hospital, + day by day  
appreciated how his character was



running here . . . and always  
I feel for you, over there.  
I had seen Mr. Straight just  
before he was taken ill & both  
Blake & I shook of how thin  
he looked, so that we were  
wondered about his resistance as  
soon as we heard he was ill.  
He had very thin skin for him.

& Dr. Taylor told me he was delirious  
for the last week, & so did  
not know he was dying, & that  
was merciful. —

And at the funeral — when I  
saw the flag-cased casket with  
his cap & sword pressed down  
the side — oh Dorothy — I  
was so so sorry for you.

He was so dear with my child.

Syracuse, N. Y.  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight,

I wish to convey to  
you my deepest sympathy in  
your bereavement. I am most  
sorry that it was deemed wise  
that Major Straight be summoned.

He was the man I was  
proudest to say I knew. He did  
for me what no other man  
would do. Sometimes, if you wish  
to know of it, Mr. Fiedler can



tell to you all he did. He  
saved us from a judgment of  
injustice and made possible  
our things of today.

With more than just  
sympathy for you in your  
sorrow, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Frank E. Bolway.

[12-5-18 PM]

Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Div.  
Aiguay. Le. Due  
France.

My dear Dorothy:

After a month's  
death of news - it was an awful  
shock to read of Willard's  
death in the first paper I had  
seen for many days.

One thinks that  
we become calloused over  
time to the life or death  
of individuals - the whole  
scale is so tremendous -  
until sorrow suddenly  
strikes in the homes of  
those we care for. And  
then we feel so far away  
and so utterly unable to  
be of help.

All we can do is to  
immediately offer our  
sincere sympathy and to  
wish that in the future  
we can be of service.

Please believe, dear  
Dorothy, that for you yours  
I am  
always to command  
Philip Dorn



write - I feel so much that  
I am dumb. But dear  
Dorothy I can only send  
you my deepest love and  
sympathy and hope someday  
I may be privileged to help  
you in any way in my  
power

your friend

Peter. [Bowditch]

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

12/5

Dear Dear Dorothy

I have tried and  
tried to write to you and  
express to you some of the  
deep love and sympathy  
I feel for you - A bright  
light has gone from my  
life - I dare hardly think  
of what these days are to  
you - Willard was so vitally  
fine and strong - But  
his memory and the memory  
of his kindly thoughts and  
deeds are deep in the hearts  
of all of us. As I can't



S.H.P.  
A.E.T.  
5 Dec. 1918

Dear Mr. Straight

After reading your cablegram  
which Mr. Porden Harrison showed  
me the day we laid to rest your  
husband & our comrades in arms,  
it is easy to write you in terms of  
success & triumph, not in terms  
of failure & defeat. If there is such  
a thing as super triumph it would  
apply to the swift going at this  
moment of one equipped by nature  
& experience, as he was, to serve,  
were it not for the fact that death  
is its own defeat always. The  
super triumph becomes a super triumph.



There are many of us, & he was among the  
foremost, who have had a shy hope  
that we might be counted worthy to  
offer the supreme sacrifice. As I  
said in my tribute at the grave, he  
has made it - God has accepted it.  
His unending energy was at the cost  
of vitality. I expect he used some of  
his capital fund so that when the  
fatal attack came his physical power  
was not equal to their task. But  
his spirit was unbeaten. Even in his  
decline he was moving to action  
& grappling with problems. I had  
not seen him for about 3 weeks before  
his death. One day, just before the arrest, I  
was at the C. in C.'s Paris home &  
John Hubbard heard my voice. He came in &

we had a few moments chat. He looked in  
good trim then & was, I think, just starting  
out to see Jack's H.P.

There will tell you of the services at the  
Hotel, the Church & the grave. It was  
remarked as we moved away at  
Lancaster that nearly all of us who stood  
about the grave - Egan, Keely, Cheney, Bouditch,  
Greene & the rest - had formed our  
friendships in the Orient.

There is so little I can say, dear Keely,  
straight, that can be of service beyond  
the assurance of fellowship &  
sympathy. The mystery of death is  
& must be inexplicable until one  
passes through it & makes it the  
last great adventure of a daring life.  
We know & we shall soon know.



We are aware that love is stronger than  
death on both sides. He is no more  
defeated than you are. As he was, he is.  
It is simply that he is in the place called  
Paradise, some great department of the  
Holy City, rather than in France or in <sup>men &</sup>  
America. To one who knows ~~men~~  
loved order it can be no strange place.  
The refined men & women of the ages  
are there & the activities are social  
not less than righteous & spiritual.  
He fits in to his own place where  
all his fine qualities will have full  
play. Such disciplines & refining  
forces as he needs will be brought to  
bear on him so that the food that is  
in him will become better & the better  
best. He knows the meaning of  
God & human life as never before.

[12-5-18] 2  
But he is none the less human. His  
love for you is all that it has ever  
been & more. You can never be  
lovelier or so complete a life as  
his secret to have been as your  
permanent possession & treasure.  
Your children will always speak for  
him even though his voice for  
creation is quiet. You are among the  
great group of glorious women who  
in giving their husbands & sons to  
this cause have given something  
more precious & sacred than self.  
You will not feel <sup>of sufficient comfort or</sup> of an inadequate  
reward.

Devotedly & faithfully  
C. H. Brent



[enc. 12-5-18]

SUBSTANCE OF BISHOP BRENT'S REMARKS AT GRAVE OF WILLARD STRAIGHT:

In the Army when a comrade is taken, it is the common custom to speak of him in terms of farewell before his body is laid in its last resting-place.

In speaking of Willard D. Straight, I speak of one who lived a long life in a few years. His native gifts and varied experience equipped him to render distinguished service to the cause and country for which he spent his powers without stint. His organizing genius was exactly what the moment needed. We had thought of him as one of those destined and prepared to make a valuable contribution to the reconstruction of life in the new era that is at its dawn. But it had been ordered otherwise; and he has carried into a sphere beyond this world a personality which will operate there in building up the permanent order for which this world is the training school.

It would be a lack of faith to think of him in terms of loss only. We shall surely miss the courtly presence of our comrade. But his disappearance from our midst does not mean that a superior force has conquered him. Death is powerless to defeat so knightly a man as he was. It has set him free to operate in wider fields, and the vitality which flowed from his well-directed efforts among men will forever course through the veins of his country. Even though it was not the hissing bullet or the angry steel that closed his eyes in death; even though it was not in the turmoil of battle that he died; he has none the less given himself in behalf of the common cause. He has done the greatest thing that God or man can do - he has laid down his life for his friends, than which there is no greater act of love or service.

He strove in all he did to reach excellence, and far more than most men he achieved his aim. Those who knew him intimately felt the force of his leadership. We had thought and planned to work by his side when we doffed the uniform and returned to the homeland. This may not be, nor shall we disguise our sense of loss, but we will not on that account lower our aim or decrease our effort. On the contrary, we will by added purpose and activity endeavor to make up what has been lost to us by his going and, like him, we will make excellence our watchword. This is our best tribute to our gifted and gallant comrade. With confidence that all is well, we now commit his body to mother earth, and his soul to the high and loving God from Whom he came and to Whom he goes.

(Address given by Bishop Brent at the cemetery at Suresnes (Paris) at the burial of Major Willard D. Straight on December 3, 1918).



BRENTANO'S  
FIFTH AVENUE & 27TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

December  
fifth  
1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

I am regretting that mere words seem so inadequate to express to you my sympathy in the death of Mr. Straight, since I have a distinct feeling of personal loss, arising from many years of most pleasant contact with his great personality.

I can only hope that your understanding of the height of International fame to which your husband had arisen will, in a slight measure, tend to compensate you for the great loss that you have suffered. You may also take much comfort in the respect, regard and admiration in which he was held by the big thinking men throughout the civilized Nations.

With added assurance of my deepest sympathy,  
I am,

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur Brentano*  
[Arthur]

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,  
No. 1180 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.



1926 Eye St., N.W.,  
Washington, D.C., December 5, 1918

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I have just learned from Mrs. Charles Lindley your address, or I would have written you sooner.

I first met Willard one cold morning at Dalny in the spring of 1907. I had heard much of him through Fletcher and others long before that; so we at once became acquainted. He was then, as you know, Consul General at Mukden, while I was in charge of the Consulate at Dalny; so we were thrown much together during 1907. In August of that year I visited him at Mukden and was with him for nearly a week. I shall always treasure the photographs and sketches he made during that visit, which gave me a good opportunity of becoming well acquainted with Willard; for after that we always called each other by our first names.

What at once impressed me with him was his intense flexibility; and soon I noticed that he had another rare trait, the intense power of omitting the useless things from his mind, or, as he once expressed it, "dumping out the mental rag-bag every now and then." This faculty of elimination, combined with that of concentrating on matters in which he was interested, was of great value to him; and many of his friends considered him remarkable for these two qualities alone, not to mention many others, which we all know.

He was never satisfied; this quality impressed many who only had a casual acquaintance with him. When he was forming the National Foreign Trade Council in 1914 I went with him to see an official of one of our largest business corporations, a man of few words. It did not take long for Willard to secure his cooperation and to arouse his interest. Afterward the man said: "Well, your friend Straight not merely gets what he wants, but he also seems to look beyond what merely exists today."

That reminded me of a remark that Willard made to me once when I was very discouraged, in Japan, and things looked black. He wrote me a letter I shall always value. In it he said: "You must never be downhearted simply because you think people don't like you. You should look ahead more, and learn to eliminate the disagreeable things that may just happen to be happening." On another occasion, when I was in Manchuria with him, he said to me: "Strange as it may seem, I would like to be a Student Interpreter instead of a Consul General; I want to learn something. I want to get one thing thoroly into my head at one time."

He had a great faculty of giving explicit directions about what he wanted done, so that whoever carried them out knew exactly what he was supposed to do; for he always liked to cooperate with people, and I noticed he was never dictatory, or overbearing. The Chinese liked this; and it was one of the many qualities he possessed which enabled him to get on with them so well, and win their confidence.

His Far Eastern experiences were a very important part of his career, but to my mind they were not his greatest achievement. The most important thing he accomplished in his life, taking it by and large, was the creation of the National Foreign Trade Council, and India House. For the Far Eastern work was preparatory, as it were, for even broader things - and but one of the bases on which the great work was to rest. He conceived it his duty to rouse up the whole country to have a broader outlook on international problems, to make converts everywhere to his ideals - and in this he most certainly succeeded.

If Mr. Herbert Croly is to write a Memoir, I should be only too glad to contribute to it some account of what I remember of Willard at Mukden, if such reminiscences would have any value; I have some very characteristic letters from him at that time. I

[12-5-18] [4]

I do hope that the pioneer quality, the adventurous, exploring side of his nature will be written up. How well I remember that he planned a trip from Mukden to the Holy Lake of the Dragons, - a wild, mysterious place on the border of Korea, which was supposed to be the home of the spirits and the wraiths of the departed. .... Well, he is there now at last, at peace, and he has found the Holy Lake. .... and I have lost one of the best and truest friends I ever shall have.

It is needless to say that you have my most profound sympathy. Mrs. Lindley and I spent quite a while this afternoon, talking of Willard, and recalling little instances about him. I am most sorry that pressing work in Washington, which I know he would not have me leave, prevents my attending the memorial service in Grace Church for him tomorrow. I shall be there in spirit. ....

It was a great disappointment to me to miss seeing him when I was in France last summer. I thought of him at Geneva.

His going is a national loss; but it is an inspiration for those of us who are left behind to cherish his memory and follow in his footsteps.

Very sincerely yours,

*Charles von Chandler*



Dec 5718.

THE CITY CLUB OF NEW YORK

My Dear Mr. Straight

I beg you to accept  
my sympathy in your  
grief at the loss of your  
gallant husband

Sincerely Yours  
James W. Colt

Some will be tempered by  
the pride that Willard's death  
was an honor to himself  
the great cause. Though  
I knew him only slightly  
I had unbounded admiration  
for his great qualities &  
have always looked on him  
as an example of the finest  
type of man that has been  
produced in this country or  
any other & I have a very  
distinct sense of personal loss.

I should not consider this  
note justified if you felt called

Dec 5<sup>7</sup> 1918

Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dorothy

It seems perhaps  
an intrusion to write to  
you at this time but I know  
from experience that there  
are some crumbs of comfort  
to be found in the facts of  
human sympathy & this is  
the only available means  
of expressing mine for you.  
I am glad to think that your



up to answer it or find anything in it  
but such comfort as may be had from the  
sympathy for you which exists among the  
many who know him.

Sincerely yours

John Cross

Be for you — because  
I am living through  
it constantly —  
And my heart goes  
out to you —

Affectionately yours  
Emily Davis.

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

Twenty East Eighty-second Street

My dear Mr. Straight —  
I have thought  
of you so constantly.  
And I send you  
my love and  
deepest sympathy.  
I know too well  
what a heart-breaking  
sorrow this is to



[12-5-12]

HR Dear Mrs. Straight:  
Please accept my  
deepest and most sincere  
sympathy in your great  
sorrow. Helen B. Deon.  
Thursday-

[12-5-18]

My dear Mrs. Straight,  
I have just  
heard of the death of  
your husband whom I



me that my words are so poor  
to care for & pray since I am  
here.

Mary French

45 Lanes Belgrave St.  
Baton Square.

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dorothy

I don't know how to tell you of my  
sympathy with you. You know how  
it is a grief to us too. You have  
such a true sincere affection  
and admiration for Willard.  
But why say "how" it is here  
His fine soul is alive and  
surely thinks of you and the work.

Had the pleasure of  
knowing for a number  
of years, and wish to  
extend my heartfelt  
sympathy at this time. Sincerely  
Victor Hugo  
3214-18  
Washington, D.C.



ever and Please for we shall  
all meet again when this fitful  
Summer of this world is over.  
The war has brought death to  
men to us all, that it has lost  
more than half its errors. It  
is just going through the door.  
and our loved ones remember  
us on the other side and we  
can pray and unite with them  
in prayer. I feel as if I must  
write to you out of my heart and say  
what I believe to be true.  
But I realize what a loss Willard  
is to his country at this moment  
and when he was going to do  
such fine work. With his clear  
intelligence and strong upright  
character he would have been  
able to do so much to help and  
it seemed as if such a great  
future was in front of him.  
All his friends must be sad but  
their consolation is that they are  
proud to be his friends. Do you



December 5<sup>th</sup>/18

Dear Mrs Straight

Just a line to tell you how I feel  
for you in your great sorrow.

Please take my deepest sympathy

Very Sincerely Yours

Janet Fish

Amelance 3/8

Section 236

France



December Fifth -  
Union Club  
Fifth Avenue & 51st Street

My Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am deeply sorry  
for you in your great loss.

I admired Major Straight  
more than I can say.

Very Sincerely Yours  
Douglas Gibbons

husband's life was an  
inspiration to each one  
of us - his death is  
an international & irreparable  
loss

Yours sincerely  
Leonard Guthrie

ONE SIXTY-FIVE BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

5/12/18

Dear Mr. Straight,

At such a time  
words express little. But  
however unavailing I tender you  
my deepest sympathy in your  
loss with an expression of hope  
that you may be given  
strength to bear so grievous  
a blow.

Yours



and Almeria had that  
morning, I am writing  
to tell you how much I  
feel for you in the loss  
of your soldier-husband.

He had accomplished  
so very much in thirty-  
eight years that seemed  
as though it were while —  
when most of us are  
making nothing but mistakes —  
and seemed to promise  
as much more in the  
future that his loss appears

[12-5-18]

109 EAST SIXTY-FOURTH STREET

Dear Mrs. Straight,

With my letter came  
from a very real sympathy  
and a really intimate  
acquaintance of a few days —  
some twenty odd years  
ago and which you  
have of course forgotten —  
at the Clarks place in  
Newport Rhode Island



as a truly terrible waste and  
tragedy to even me like myself  
who knew him but very slightly.

What it must mean to you  
and yours — I can imagine  
but hate to think of.

Very sincerely yours,  
Wm. W. Hare.

5th December 1918

Norwalk, Conn.  
Dec. 5/18

My dear Mrs. Straight —

Although I have not  
seen you in many years,  
I want you to know  
how deeply I sympathize  
with you in your great  
grief. — I have often thought  
of you, and heard of your  
great happiness through  
mutual friends, — and  
now this terrible sorrow  
has come. — I hope it  
will be some comfort  
to know that your dear



[12-5-18]

Thursday -

My dear Mrs. Straight -  
Few men have lived  
such vitally full lives  
in thirty eight years -  
as did Maj. Straight.  
His work has been so  
broad - so effective - and  
so great in its results  
that humanity for all  
time will feel its ben-  
efit.  
Tho. a stranger - my

husband gave his splendid  
strength to his country  
and died for it, and  
your children have this  
beautiful heritage. - Your  
friends will trust that  
time will heal the great  
sorrow, and your own  
desire to help humanity  
which you have so  
bountifully shown during  
these last dreadful  
years will comfort you.  
I so often think of  
the happy hours I spent  
with you at the picnic  
during your girlhood

and hope that you have  
not forgotten me. The sweet  
free children's education  
will associate our being  
in New York, and then may  
I hope to meet you at  
your school?  
Very respectfully and  
love to you -

Believe me,  
Very sincerely yours,  
Herbert Stewart John



my sympathy for you  
and your children is  
so great that I must  
give it some expression.  
There are no words of com-  
fort - only sympathy -  
Yours cordially  
May Turner Jones  
(Mrs. M. Astley Jones)

2030 Willard Place, Washington  
D.C.

Dear Mrs. Straight,  
On behalf of the  
Junior League of the City of  
Washington, as well as our very  
own, I am writing to express  
and to assure you of our deep  
and heartfelt sympathy in



your great affliction and  
sorrow. Your husband's brilliant  
career and his generous services  
to his country will not soon  
be forgotten and must remain  
an inspiration to his children  
and to the men of his generation.  
The loss you have just ex-  
perienced is the most cruel that  
a woman can suffer and may  
a kind Providence give you  
the strength necessary to bear  
with resignation the blow it has  
inflicted -  
With renewed assurances of  
our deepest sympathy



*Believe me  
Sincerely yours  
Alyett Downing-  
President of Washington League -  
December the first.*

TO AID, ENCOURAGE, AND INSTRUCT PEOPLE OF FOREIGN BIRTH TO BECOME CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE-AMERICA. THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY AND RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS.

PRESIDENT  
NATHANIEL PHILLIPS  
SECRETARY  
SAMUEL W. LEVINE

VICE-PRESIDENTS  
ARNOLD SINGER DEMOSTHENES LIAKOS  
ROYAL DIXON G. CARL LOTZ M. D.  
JACOB WEISS

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY  
CHARLES HENRY LEE  
TREASURER  
RAPHAEL PERLMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BORIS FINGERHOOD

## League of Foreign Born Citizens

LS

(AN INSTITUTION FOR AMERICANIZATION)  
INCORPORATED 1913  
NATIONAL OFFICE  
303 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

PHONE, MAD. SQ. 2875

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

MRS. VINCENT ASTOR  
GEORGE GORDON BATTLE  
LEWIS L. CLARKE  
ABRAM I. ELKUS

CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM FELLOWES MORGAN  
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GEORGE W. WICKERSHAM  
TREASURER  
CHARLES L. BERNHEIMER

DR. GEORGE F. KUNZ  
SAM A. LEWISOHN  
GEORGE MCANENY  
ANNE RHODES

December 5th, 1918.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,  
1130-5th Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I am directed by the League of  
Foreign Born Citizens to state that a special  
committee has been appointed to be present  
at the Memorial Services to be held at  
Grace Church.

Again expressing our very deep  
grief, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Nathaniel Phillips*  
President,  
League of Foreign Born Citizens.

NP/TS.



and the spiritual  
communion bring  
you comfort in the  
long stretches of  
solitude - with the  
memory of all <sup>that</sup> his  
wonderful life means  
for all time.  
Sincerely yours  
Edith C. Macy.  
[Macy]

[12-5-18]

1785 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Straight  
I can-  
not let another  
day go by without  
sending love this  
inadequate word  
of my deep sym-  
pathy! You and



your husband have  
ever given so gener-  
ously of ourselves  
for others that and  
when the Supreme  
Sacrifice has been  
made by him -  
and by us - for the  
Great Cause - we  
can but stand  
aside in reverent  
silence, our hearts  
throbbing in sym-  
pathy and apprecia-  
tion.  
Such a glorious heri-  
tage he has left his  
children and his  
loved ones - may  
the veil be often lifted



4 East 84th Street.  
New York.

Dec 5/18

Dear Mrs. Straight

As a neighbor & as one  
who witnessed your liberal spirit  
to the tenement poor in your grand  
gift to the Tuberculosis Prevention  
for Children, as well as because  
I knew your husband & his splendid  
self-sacrificing public service,  
may I tender you my warmest  
sympathy in your sad bereavement.

My wife joins me in wishing  
you strength in your sad need

Sincerely yours  
Marcus M. Marks

[12-5-18]

131 EAST SEVENTY-FIRST STREET

Thursday evening.

Dear Mrs. Straight.

Many times in the last week  
I have sat and looked helplessly at  
this paper on which I was hoping  
to write some expression of my  
thoughts to you, and it seemed to  
me that from the very intensity  
of my admiration for you must  
spring words that would make  
you feel the true sympathy of a  
friend. But somehow I had come



to picture you in your suffering  
as having grown remote.

How little I knew!

I have just this moment come from  
the Junior League meeting and  
my heart is very full of thanks-  
giving for your wonderful example  
and presence among us. That  
you in your great loneliness  
could so far step away from  
you and come eagerly to the  
service of us all with your full  
and hopeful plan, has moved  
and stirred me beyond any hope  
of expression. But is there anyone  
who can be to you the helpful and

inspiring spirit that you were to  
all of us tonight - you who  
131 EAST SEVENTH STREET

above all should now have the  
comfort that you are so marvel-  
ously able to give to others?

Well this I do know that nothing  
else than the great presence could  
so sustain and give you this  
courage - I thank God that you  
are able to feel it and make  
it yours as very few in all  
time have ever done. I shall  
never forget this evening and I  
know now that if I am called  
upon to meet the great inevitable



where it hurts me most, that I  
can bear it differently and  
better because you have shown the  
way and given your silent  
testimony to the sustaining  
something that, alas, we do not  
understand, but that if we listen  
and try thank Heaven we can  
feel.

With dear love to you

Maryoria L. Sage.

Man for the young, and  
had accomplished a great  
deal in his short life I know  
you were always very proud  
of him In a very recent letter  
you wrote me after returning  
from your grandmother's funeral  
you said you should always  
be glad you were a Whitney  
I think you are very much like  
the Whitneys and have the

30 ST. PAUL STREET  
BROOKLINE

Dec 5-1918

My Dear Dorothy

I am very  
sorry for you and send you  
much love and sympathy  
It is hard to understand  
why Willard should die for  
his country at a time when  
his country most needed him  
He was a very distinguished



rather intense temperament capable  
of a great deal of enjoyment and  
a great deal of sorrow. This has  
come to you so suddenly it must  
have been almost a nervous shock,  
and it will be necessary for you  
to take as good care of yourself as  
you can. You are fortunate in having  
the dear children to care for.  
Do just as you know Millard needs  
and to have you  
Affectionately  
Aunt Abby.

December 5, 1918

My dear Dorothy:

Here is the message from  
Paris about which I telephoned you today;  
I know you will be glad to see it. I can't  
tell you what we all think about you.

~~B.D.~~  
[Miles]



done so splendidly and  
worked so earnestly for  
the advancement of all  
that is best in the  
lives of those about you  
should be separated.

I cannot but feel  
that there is no separ-  
ation, for your splendid  
leadership will go on  
through the years; not  
only in the progress

[12-5-18 PM]

16, WEST TENTH STREET.

My dear Dorothy:

I cannot begin  
to tell you how deeply  
Madeline and I sym-  
pathize with you because  
of Willard's death nor  
how constantly you and  
he are in our thoughts.

It is hard that  
you two who have



his name. He lived  
nobly and died bravely,  
his work is done but  
yours is the harder part.  
So far as the love of  
devoted friends can  
accompany you you will  
never walk alone. Even  
in missing Willard you  
must never be lonely  
for he has made

of the work Willard's  
pundlers in Russia and  
devotion did so much  
to instruct and aid, but  
in the hearts and minds  
of your devoted friends.

I can foresee how  
bravely you will carry  
on the work and how  
green you will keep his  
memory in the high places  
to which you will bear

[12-5-18 PM]

16, WEST TENTH STREET.

his work and the  
sacrifices in the hearts  
of his friends will  
be a companion to your  
sadness.

Believe me, my dear  
Dorothy,  
Your affectionate friend,  
George Melburn.



Encl. 12-5-183

MG

PLAIN

Paris.

Dated December 4th, 1918.

Recd. 1030 P. M

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

6127. Fourth. Routine.

For Miles from Sterling. Please send Mrs. Straight heartfelt condolences from all members seventeen eighteen overseas, also following from Mc Coy, "Dear Dorothy. Our only solace is that nothing that could be thought of by Willards best friends best surgeons and Mrs. Harriman was left undone, with constant loving thought of you and the children mort *pour la patrie*."

SHARP.

CSB.

This Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

My dear Dorothy  
My heart went out in great sympathy when the terrible news reached me and I am so overcome that I can not fully express my grief. What a loss! Willard held a peculiar place in the lives of all of us and neither to you and the children nor to his friends can he ever be replaced. Such



character, such gift and such charm  
are not often united. At one of the  
most interesting moments of his  
development we were as intimate  
as two men could be and though in  
the later phases circumstances have  
not allowed me to be near him  
I was conscious, when I was at  
home two years ago, that the  
fruit was as fine as the  
flowers. Was not the influence of  
the success to having been pass-  
ed and did not wear him,  
which were inherited from both his  
parents, give way under a double  
strain. When the newspapers arrive  
I shall learn whether my supposi-  
tion is true.

Perhaps it is too early to consid-  
er the matter but when the pro-  
per moment arrives will you  
not superintend the preparati-  
on



of a memoir. Willard wrote such delightful letters - full of impressions, self revelation and charm. In my boxes at Aurora there are many which show the man as he really was. It would be part of the children's inheritance which as they grew older they would treasure as indicating what an example they should take as their guide. You have probably

already thought of this

I hope you will allow me to transfer to you and the children the reservoir of affection which my dear boy commanded and to add it to the stores of appreciation and admiration which are already yours. If we can not transfer such accumulations to those who are entitled to them the pain of losing becomes so severe to bear when the object which has roused our love as left us for a season.



With every affectionate thought  
my dear friend, and an ex-  
pression of the hope that  
strength may be given you  
to endure and consecrate  
your sorrow. I am -  
faithfully yours  
Edwin Morgan.

December 5th

777 MADISON AVENUE

My dear Mrs. Straight  
I think of you with  
so much respect and  
admiration that I  
cannot refrain from  
letting you know at  
this time how deep  
and real a sympathy  
I feel for you in your  
great sorrow.

Sincerely yours  
Helen Phelps Litcher



He is never some what from the  
stunning effect of the blow I am  
still at a loss to express in even the  
smallest way the things that are in  
my heart to say. I never loved any  
other man as I loved Willard - for  
with the most splendid courage and  
high qualities of manhood he alone  
of all the men I have known combined  
the quick sympathy and sweetness  
of a woman. The months that I  
spent with him are infinitely precious -  
the inspiration of his faith can never  
leave me. I could not believe that  
he would be taken. He was so needed

December 5th - 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight -

I have

desired so much to express to you  
my sympathy and my feeling for  
you - but it has seemed to me  
impossible to write. I felt so sick  
with grief. And now when the  
passage of a little time has enabled



here. How true as unthinkable as Germany winning the war - a thing that God would not do. There is there any other man with his ability and energy who will ride as Willard would have done against the miseries and troubles that confront the world? He had the highest purpose - the most unselfish creed that I ever knew. How with the heart of a true crusader that he faced life - He was so splendid in his attitude to the war. He not thinks that anyone will ever fully know what he contributed to it. His first work here was invaluable and his development of the vital principles of Liaison so essential to our combat troops was adopted as practically the standard of our divisions. I talked to him just after the Armistice of his work with Colonel House - and his whole beautiful conception of the possibility of a wise and righteous peace was such that I am sure he will not fail to have a deep influence in focusing the influence of America into the right channels. He not only the feeling of personal grief - but the morbid thought of the loss of the country and the world - of that brain and potent

of Jangro - How many men in how many places I want for him for no other reason but that they loved him - How glad I am to see a little of what you and Willard once braced other - when I hear thought of you it seems as if I could hardly turn to think. But through the shadows of the past anguish there seem to come splendid things that I hope may in some measure comfort you too. Willard gave his life in the great war - in the service of that country and those principles which he so much loved. He fell marching forward with the glory of victory about him. The things that he did and

don't that will cut so terribly and so closely and was never sheathed - when noble words are so needed - and so few - How I ache in so many beautiful little things - the kind acts to the small nation and him - the truly giving of responsibility to right petty wrongs or punish what was wrong or mean - the sweet country that warmed the hearts of so many strangers in its little house in



the spirit that he first gave. It has only led more  
truly on those who had him the duty of fighting out the  
fight for the thing we determine to win. And he is  
brother - and will be with us to the end - I can not tell you  
how I know that - but I do - about Willard -

You have given Willard to the Cause for which he was  
willing to give his life if necessary. It was necessary -  
than ever met you and get I feel that I know you. I do  
not know whether ever it may be that for you or your children  
I can do any service. But if I can - in matter whether  
it be great or small - you could do me no greater honor than  
to command me that I may serve Willard's wife or children  
as he would have served mine - I pray God to  
comfort you and give you strength -

Sincerely yours -

Grayson M. L. Hughes

Box 453,  
Charlottesville,  
Virginia

My dear Mrs Straight:- I have  
just learned of your sorrow and  
I want to express my deepest sym-  
pathy.

You have always been so kind  
to me when I was in trouble and

I wish that there was some little  
thing that I might do now.  
I wish the Shores Club will  
know with you, especially the art members  
for we feel very near to you.  
My husband too has been and still  
is in the army and I have been  
continuing my work as I did before -  
we were married and I can not tell  
you what a help your generous  
presence has been to me in these days



of stress. I am wearing the furs again this winter  
and expect to go many a day to come and I think  
of you very often when I put them on.

Please accept my love and deepest sympathy  
again and if there is any thing that I can do  
please let me do it for you.

Sincerely

Ann Moon Peyton

(Mrs Philip B. Peyton)

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1918 -

During those days  
I hoped against hope  
that he might be spared  
how he felt helpless  
is as though anything  
he says must be an  
instruction. The pride  
& glory of the sacrifice  
that you have made  
together must comfort  
you a little. The

2622 SIXTEENTH STREET

DEC 5/1918  
Dear Brother,  
I have tried  
to tell you  
how much that fact  
Cable sent through  
my heart is full  
I can find no  
words. All your friends  
thought of you & you  
prayed with you



Knowledge that you were  
strong enough to live  
up to his ideal of you.

His friends' admiration  
for you is beyond words.

As to what his loss is  
to them - they cannot  
realize it yet but I  
wish that you could  
hear the wonderful  
things they say of him

See - there - says when they  
speak of him - "He will  
never take his place."

Now that this is a meaningless  
letter - so long, so to tell you  
of my love and sympathy.

Affectionately,  
Lily L. P.



which has given  
me to even greater  
service - where  
one day you will  
join him.  
And we share  
in the thankful-  
ness for you, &  
for all that your  
life means to  
very many.  
Yours affectionately  
M. Erik Schuffelin



5 EAST SIXTY-SIXTH STREET

Dec. 5.

My dear Dorothy,  
Our hearts and  
our loving sympathies  
are with you every  
moment. No words  
can express how  
deeply we feel  
for you in your  
never-ending sorrow.



& We pray that a  
dear sense of the  
Presence of God  
may be with you.

He has your dear  
one safe in His  
Keeping, not far  
away, but ever  
near.

May  
the great love which  
surrounds you -

the love of God,  
& that of your  
friends, be your  
comfort as the  
days go by.

He joins in  
the great gratitude  
for your husband's  
splendid life  
and heroic sacri-  
fice - a life

LA-5-183

405 PARK AVENUE

Dear Dorothy.

I need you  
to know you have  
my deepest sympathy  
and love in your great  
sorrow. I only wish I  
could do more than  
for you -  
Affectionately yours  
Cathleen Kendrick



[12-5-18]  
244 EAST 61<sup>ST</sup> STREET

Dear Dorothy-

I know that words are quite inadequate at this time of your heart-breaking sorrow, but I want you to feel that you have Seward and my very deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours  
Julius Webb

M.R.W.

December 5/18

38 EAST 37<sup>TH</sup> STREET.

Dearest Dorothy,  
Beckman and I want to send you our heartfelt sympathy, and my tenderest love. Your husband died in the service of his country, and no man



can die a noble death - example to all about  
He was a man of such <sup>you</sup> - I know how you  
exceptional ability, and suffer, and I wish  
such chance of mind - that even in some  
too proud you must faint way, I could  
feel of his record - Show you, how deeply  
your interest in all I feel for you -  
that he undertook, and always your friend,  
your unfailing devotion,  
have made you an  
Neha Rigg Wetherup.



HOTEL VENDOME  
1, PLACE VENDOME  
PARIS  
ADR. TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE: VENDOMOTEL  
TÉLÉPHONE: CENTRAL 41-78

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dorothy,

There is so little that I  
can say to give you any  
help or comfort. I have  
been here with Mrs. Harriman  
though Willard's illness  
and though I did not see  
him as he was in his  
room adjoining constantly  
during the many days of his  
illness there at the Crillon.

1918  
26

We were all watching and  
praying and hoping against  
hope that he could rally  
and pull through somehow  
and be spared for you -  
He made such a splendid  
fight - with his great vitality,  
and the odds were against  
him from the start with the  
terrible germ of pneumonia,  
which no one seems able to  
resist when once it starts.  
All his friends were here near  
him ready to be called upon.



Gen. H. C. Coy, Cheney, Warrick Co. Ind.  
I have. and dozens of others  
one after the other join in to see  
Mrs. Harriman and wanting to help  
somehow. I never knew a  
man to be so much loved.  
The most touching example was his  
servant Bennett who at Dr. Blake's  
hospital who begged and implored  
us to let him come to the church on  
a stretcher.  
How dear I have known him  
brave all these years, but I hope  
you will find courage to continue  
to bear his loss and leave him  
and his children at such a distance.  
But he died as a soldier in service.

What he would have wished, and  
I hope your great pride in his  
wonderful record and career  
with all memories here. With you  
you comfort and strength in  
the years to come.  
What a heritage of fineness he has  
left for the children to live up to!  
So much love for us. I shall  
be here in France this winter  
so cannot see you, but please  
count on my un-ending sympathy  
and longing to help. if there is  
anything I can do here for you.  
As remember I shall be so glad  
if you need me at this end.  
Aff. H. W.



fact we divided the work of our section, he taking practically complete charge of all the administrative phases and leaving me free for field work, which was vital at the time. — On the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup> we went together to the heights overlooking Clermont-en-Argonne and for an hour before dawn watched the artillery preparation. After daybreak we went forward up the road to Varennes and followed one of the attacking regiments for a time. It was all very impressive and going through it with Major Straight who appreciated every experience so thoroughly was a real privilege. Later on we often spoke of that morning. — I first became well acquainted with your husband when, as it happened, we both made our first visits to the front line trenches in February. I re-

Hdqs. 2<sup>nd</sup> Army, A.E.F.  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 1918

My dear Mrs. Straight —

It may be that a word from those who came to know and admire your husband here in France will be welcome to you at this time when all his friends are mourning his loss and feeling for you and the others of his family the ~~g~~ deepest sympathy. — Major Straight was one of the very few who could appreciate and handle certain of the difficult problems in our administrative work, a fact which naturally thwarted his constant desire to be closer to the front. I saw a great deal of him during the St. Hubert and Meuse-Argonne operations — in



member being particularly impressed with his thoughtfulness in taking the name and address of a young lieutenant in a dugout in the front lines so that he could write to the young fellow's father. - We had a very interesting day passing through the ruins of the poor little village, now famous, of Serchepey and visiting the lines from which our troops attacked on September 12<sup>th</sup>. - Major Straight was as always courageous and interested, a delightful companion. - We all who knew him felt a deep loss on the news of his death and remember with appreciation the valuable work he did during the critical period in September and October. - May I add that in another way, through the New Republic, Major Straight, with yourself, has had a most important and far reaching influence which seems to us <sup>to have been</sup> one of the great contributions toward beating the enemy. - He always wanted to be with a battalion or at least with a division - but I am sure the services he rendered were even greater as he served. - Please accept my deep sympathy in your loss which is shared by so many here.

Very sincerely yours  
*Armin*  
 (Colonel General Staff)

COPY OF THE MINUTE OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BROWN SPIN-WRIGHT COMPANY HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMPANY AT 30 CHURCH STREET, NEW YORK CITY, ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1918.

WHEREAS, by the death of Major Willard Straight, in the service of his country, the community has suffered the untimely loss of a citizen whose best endeavor has been devoted to affairs of the highest importance to the public welfare, and whose nobility of character and earnestness of purpose has been exemplary and stimulating; and

WHEREAS, this Company has lost in Major Straight a stockholder whose interest and confidence in the enterprise has been evidenced by large investment of money and counsel, continuing at times of financial strain, and in particular throughout the difficult period of the war, when he was giving the best of his life to the world, NOW, THEREFORE,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Brown Spin-Wright Company does hereby express its sense of the irreparable loss suffered by the community and by this Company in the death of Major Willard Straight, and that this resolution be spread upon the minutes and a copy thereof be sent to Mrs. Willard Straight, in token of the deep sympathy of the Directors with the family of Major Straight in their bereavement.

ATTEST: *Alexander C. Prouffit*  
 Secretary.



I could do to help you  
but I know that there  
is nothing -

I am so busy. Very  
sincerely - Yours,

May Bird

[May Bird]

[12-6-18]

TEL. 57 WHEATLY HILLS

WESTBURY.  
LONG ISLAND.

Dear Dorothy,

You have all my  
sympathy, love - I am  
thinking of you, praying  
for you - & wishing that  
there was something that



[12-6-18]

TELEGRAMME.

Paris, 5 Dec. 1918.

Consul Général FRANCE, NEW YORK.

Pour Mr. BLOCH, de la part de Mr. Octave Homberg.

Veillez exprimer Mme Straight notre profonde douleur.

AGENCE FINANCIÈRE  
DU  
GOUVERNEMENT FRANÇAIS  
AUX ETATS-UNIS

NEW YORK, LE

6 Dec 1918

Cherè Mrs Straight,

Je viens de recevoir de M. et Mme  
Homberg un télégramme qui me charge  
de vous exprimer leur profonde douleur.  
Je ne puis mieux faire que de vous  
en remettre le texte : les mots sont  
impuissants à rendre ce que nous  
éprouvons tous devant l'immense  
malheur qui nous frappe, et qui nous  
atteint tous avec vous. —

Permettez-moi du moins  
Cherè Mrs Straight, de vous renouveler



*l'assurance de toute ma  
sympathie, profondément attristée  
Friedrich Moch*

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
CITY OF NEW YORK.

*Board of Education  
Park Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street  
New York*

HUNTER COLLEGE  
PARK AVE. AND 68th STREET.

Dec. 6th, 1918.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,  
1130 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City,

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

There were many expressions of sympathy and sorrow in our High School Choral Organizations when the sad news of your husband's death reached the young people. He was one of the first to send them substantial encouragement, and although they had never had the pleasure of seeing their benefactor, their feelings were, nevertheless, deeply moved.

I am requested, therefore, by Committees, from the various members of the organizations, by personal calls, and even over the 'phone, to send an expression of condolence to you over the great loss and grief that you are now sustaining.

Allow me to add my personal expression of sympathy to you at this moment of your deep affliction.

I am,

very sincerely,

*Henry T. Fleck*  
Acting President.



Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 1918.

111 BROADWAY

Dear Mrs. Straight.

It is impossible  
for me to tell you how deeply  
disturbed and shocked I have been  
at the news of Willard's death.  
Please believe that every bit of  
sympathy of which I am capable  
goes out to you.

yours most sincerely

Henry W. Ball.

My dear Dorothy -

It was a sad shock  
to hear of the grief  
Kat has come to you.

May I offer you my  
very deepest sympathy?

Affectionately

Mary Canfield

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>



ROBERT W. DE FOREST  
PRESIDENT

OTTO T. BANNARD  
VICE-PRESIDENT

HAROLD T. WHITE  
TREASURER

LAWSON PURDY  
SECRETARY AND GENERAL DIRECTOR

THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY  
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LOWELL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

224 WEST 34TH STREET

TELEPHONE GREELEY 2787

MISS J. C. COLCORD  
SUPERINTENDENT

TERRITORY: 30th to 46th Streets  
West of Fifth Avenue

MISS ANNA KEMPSHALL  
DISTRICT SECRETARY

At a meeting of the Lowell District Committee, on December fifth, Nineteen Hundred and Eighteen, the following resolution was adopted by its members:

RESOLVED: THAT THE LOWELL DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY EXTEND TO MRS. STRAIGHT, WHO HAS SHOWN SUCH A DEEP AND HELPFUL INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE, ITS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY IN THE GREAT LOSS THAT HAS COME TO HER THROUGH THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF HER HUSBAND, MAJOR WILLARD STRAIGHT, WHO HAD WON SUCH AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE NATION.

*Ruth Minturn*

District Chairman.

Dec. 6, 1918.

My dear Colonel:

It is all too terrible about Major Straight's death and it is hard even yet to believe it is really a fact that we are to see him no more.

Straight kept right on directing his affairs with the Peace Committee after he was taken ill which was quite characteristic of him. Double Plura pneumonia developed and then there was no hope. I am told however, his vitality made it possible for him to fight the battle for life longer than ordinarily would have been possible.

On Thursday night November 28th I arrived at Paris from G.H.Q. enroute for Tours and in the morning before catching the early train I called at the Crillon to find out how Major Straight was and they told me then that he was a very sick man but they hoped, because of his great vitality, that he would live. I had Captain Rennick catch the Friday night train for Paris in order that he might be with Straight in the hope that his presence might tend to make Straight feel somewhat more comfortable and too, if Straight wanted any personal things attended to, Rennick would be just the man to take care of them. On Saturday Rennick telephoned that Straight was no better and that his condition was very serious indeed. On Sunday morning Rennick telephoned the terrible news that Straight had died during the night.

This sad news spread very quickly throughout France and it seemed that nearly everyone was speaking of it.

I went over to see General Connor and asked permission to have some of the original War Risk crowd go to Paris to attend the Services. General Connor said that while in the military they were not accustomed to this sort of thing, he would take it up with General Harbord and advise me at their luncheon. Later when I saw him at the house for lunch (the regular Sunday Luncheon) he told me that General Harbord agreed that six from the War Risk could go.

Rennick was already in Paris and I was sending him also Sergeant Major Olson to help in attending to the many details necessary in settling up Major Straight's affairs. Captain Dyckman and Lt. Keasbey arrived in Paris enroute to one of the Divisions, so they also attended the Services. The six from the War Risk Section were Major Mack, Sergeant Major Jensen, Sergeant Major Irwin, Sergeant Major Clark, Sergeant Major Gruber and myself. Stuart Benson was there and so was Ijams and McPherson.

About thirty officers and civilians met at the Crillon and marched behind the casket from the Crillon up the Champs-Elysees to the American church, where the Services were held. The church was almost completely filled and the Services which were read by Bishop Brent were very impressive. After the Services quite a number including the entire War Risk went to the



#2.

cemetery.

The flowers which I had sent from the War Risk Section were given the position of honor. I returned to Tours on the Tuesday evening train, leaving Rennick and Olson in Paris in order that Captain Rennick might attend to many of the important details in settling up Major Straight's affairs and in taking care of his effects.

Again I say it is all too terrible.

*T.G. Hughes*  
Yours very faithfully,  
*T.G. Hughes*

Col. Henry D. Lindsley,  
815 Park Ave.,  
New York, N. Y.

Dec. 6, 1918

59 Wall Street.

Dear Dorothy, -

This is just a word of deepest sympathy.

I had for Willard a great admiration. His ability, courage, self-reliance, honesty and frankness appealed to me deeply.

With as much to lose as any human being could have at stake and with



everything to him for, he  
went forward bravely with  
a smiling face to the  
supreme earthly sacrifice

I trust that for you  
and the children the  
memory he has left  
will be a great con-  
solation. Many friends  
mourn with you, which I  
hope will make the loss  
a little easier to bear.

Most sincerely yours  
J. M. Henry Hammond

December 6, 1918

You have been so constantly in  
my mind the last few days -  
Dear Dorothy - that I soon  
how full I have already sent  
you my love & heartfelt  
sympathy - The only reason  
I did not write sooner was  
that I felt it would be a  
distraction to wait a while - I am  
sending a little quotation for



<sup>2</sup>  
a letter written me by Miss  
Mary Purcell of New Bedford -  
Mass. - she partially regained  
her health at Saranac Lake, & she  
built the Rensselaer Hospital to  
take care of the destitute &  
chronic cases of Tuberculosis, &  
Dr. Trudeau always said it  
was her interest & work for her  
fellow sufferers that helped to  
cure her. The letter was written  
just after peace was declared -  
& I quote it exactly - "Oh friend

<sup>3</sup>  
"What a lot of suffering there is in the  
world! Oh war is over, thank God, &  
now have stopped killing each other,  
but the suffering it has left will  
last out our life time, there is  
much unremoved with the war -  
I believe suffering does & it seems to find  
the soil it does to us, but rather a  
necessary part of our education" - --  
I sent to the author's memory that I was sure to



I think it is true as I said  
 about the meeting of the Jr  
 League last night - It should  
 have been a success - I feel  
 that the effect of the war will  
 be to bring about a new  
 social order - I think the  
 future will influence  
 the woman of the future -  
 I can only say as our  
 President and our leader  
 as a woman, with such a  
 vision as you explained  
 as so friendly & so clear  
 last night - I think we all  
 have a sacrifice in coming to us

December 6 - 1918.

AMERICAN EMBASSY  
PARIS

My dear Dorothy -

You can never  
 know how my heart  
 has gone out to you these  
 blessed days - I cannot



Write even now what I  
would like to say about  
Willard & for his death  
has touched me too  
deeply, and I am only  
just beginning to well  
again myself. (Yours sincerely)  
A. House

Hq. 1<sup>st</sup> Army -  
France. 6 Dec. 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I  
wish to express my deep  
sympathy for you in  
your sorrow. I was  
associated with your  
husband during the month  
of October when I became  
the assistant chief of staff,  
G-1 of this army. He was  
on duty in the section  
and doing excellent work.  
The work was not such  
as he desired and he  
requested another assignment  
more to his liking as



for his delightful personality as well as  
for his military ability.

Assuring you of my deepest sympathy,

I am

Sincerely Yours,

Leon B. Homer,

Captain, U.S.

soon as his services  
could be spared. It was  
so arranged and he  
left about October 25<sup>th</sup>.

He was of tremendous  
assistance to me, a new-  
comer to the work. His  
advice was sound and  
noteworthy for a broad  
view point. His standards  
of duty were of the highest,  
and he infused his energy  
and standards into those  
working under him.

I had a feeling of personal  
loss when I read of his  
sudden death, for although our  
acquaintance was of short  
duration I admired him



much one in thought & purpose.  
I can not bear to think of  
you separated from each other.

And I am not going to - for  
I believe with all my heart, that  
Willard is alive and loving you  
and going on, in some "adventure  
true and new," with the fine  
work, & intelligent work that  
he is so well able to do, and

that you are so well able to  
help him with - and that  
you will both be working for

[before Dec. 7, 1918]

FORTY-NINE EAST SIXTY-FIFTH STREET

My dear Dorothy,

My heart is broken  
for you, with sorrow and  
pity. I have thought of  
nothing else, since I heard  
Sunday of Willard's death.  
I do not think I know of  
any two people who seemed  
quite as happy together, as  
you & Willard - quite as



the same purpose, <sup>the way</sup> as you have  
always been.

I can not tell you how my  
heart goes out to you in  
love and sympathy.

from Florence Lamont.

115 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

6<sup>th</sup> December, 1918

Dear Mrs. Straight

It was with  
genuine regret that I learned  
of your husband's death.  
I met him nearly twenty  
years ago in Jamestown and  
continued our friendship in  
Cornell while we were undergrads.  
While he was in the Far East  
I heard from him occasionally  
but of late years, have not  
seen as much of him as I  
would have liked.

He was a splendid man,  
a charming companion. His  
death is most untimely and



grieves me greatly. He died  
in a noble cause which  
must be a comfort to you.  
I am going this afternoon  
to the Memorial Service.

Please be assured of my  
deepest sympathy for it  
feels I have lost one of my  
best friends.

Sincerely yours  
Howard C. Lake

Mrs. Willard D. Straight  
City

DEC 6, 1918  
56

1735 M STREET

Dearest Dr. May: There is no  
use in trying to tell you how  
very, very sad I am. Willard  
was a dear & true friend and  
his death is a deep personal  
grief. I wish there were something  
I might do, but I know no well  
there is not anything. I can only  
send you all my love & sympathy.

Alice.

[Longworth] pg



thought for yourself and  
the wonderful gallant  
spirit - you showed about  
Willard - will be an  
inspiration true all  
my life! Frank Polk  
says that the whole  
State Department ad-  
mires you so that they  
would do any thing  
in the world for you  
and that is the way  
we all feel! I shall  
never forget those letters  
and telegrams and the

[C. 12-6-18] pg 1341 New Hampshire Ave.  
Washington.  
Friday

Dorothy dearest - You will  
never know how I hated  
to leave you yesterday!  
I have been thinking  
of you every moment  
and I cannot seem  
to put my mind on  
anything but you. I  
consider the time I spent  
with you as one of the  
real privileges of my  
life. The utter lack of



sincere, ringing tributes paid to Willard by people all over the world that who feel that they have lost a real friend. Their number is legion and Charlie and I are among them. We feel as if a great deal of sunshine had gone out of our lives and our one thought is of service to Willard's wife and children.

Willard with his combination of keenness and sweetness was so alive that his spirit will be with us all for all time as a real inspiration in our human lives and why should we mourn when we know that the wonderful vision and courage that he brought into his work here - he is "carrying on" to its real fulfillment. God bless you, Dorothy dear.

[Lindley]

147 EAST SIXTY-FIRST STREET



Dear Mr. Straight

I feel I must

send you a little line. tho. when I try to think what I can say, words fail to

come.

You have hardly been out of my thoughts since I heard the news. - I know as we sit side the creek of intimate friends, whose names have been more true than yours.

You have been so brave so helpful all these past hard months. Only those of us who have been thro. it, know the effort & strain. My heart aches for you now, that you should not have been rewarded for all your courage. -

Your many friends will long to do what they can for you. & of course their love & sympathy will keep you to bear your grief. But knowing your love little as I do, I know your brave spirit



will find least comfort in  
doing for others as you have  
always done, & inspiring  
those around you.

Those who are blessed as  
I am, will feel very humble  
before their blessing, & their  
hearts will always be spec-  
ially tender to those whose  
sacrifices have been so great.

I know you believe in  
the sincerity & depth  
of my sympathy  
ever as always  
Charlotte Martin

December 6<sup>th</sup>

Augusta Ga.



by action of our Board,  
for remembrance of him  
in the years to come.

Others will write to you.  
I know, of the expressions  
of appreciation I hear on  
all sides of many other  
generous acts of Willard  
Straight for his fellow  
townsmen. His many  
friends here hold him  
in most affectionate regard  
and have much pride in  
this most brilliant career  
of one of our members.  
The sad news of his death  
is a real grief to us.  
It is hard to realize that a

L 12-6-187

JAMES G. MERRIMAN  
OSWEGO, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Straight-

I feel that it is my  
privilege, without the formality  
of an introduction, to extend to  
you my very real sympathy  
and to express something of  
the admiration and grateful  
appreciation I must always  
have of Willard Straight's  
memory.

In a very true & substantial  
sense it may be said of his  
life: "The good men do live  
after them". You are being  
overwhelmed with world wide  
testimonials from men in



high places of the high regard they held for the big things Willard Straight has done around the globe. I want to speak of what to me personally was a big thing of his doing. I can never forget what his friendly confidence & effective support meant to me in starting the little enterprise I promoted in 1916 - which was for me a mighty undertaking & is now the Oswego Larn Mills, a substantial industry of a sort much needed for the prospering of our town.

You see, he & I are both native of this soil, with a fellow feeling for our old Oswego. At the critical beginning of what was then a rather forlorn hope, for me a man practically without capital, he not only took a liberal amount of stock, but also volunteered to supply a director, adding much to the strength of our organization, and aiding much in disposing of the remainder of our stock.

I am going to ask if you will kindly let me have a picture of Willard Straight for our little office - this, together with a tribute to him to be placed in our records.

[12-6-18]

JAMES G. MERRIMAN  
OSWEGO, N.Y.

man so viable & so vital could be snuffed out in that way. That he should have succumbed to the toracherous epidemic which came in the war's wake, gives evidence of the strain he had been under, of how unsparingly Major Straight had given his splendid energies to his Country, and to all Countries in this most tremendous



of world wars -

Truly, Mrs. Straight,  
we mourn with you.

Sincerely yours  
James G. Merriman

December Sixth  
Nineteen eighteen

To  
Mrs Willard Straight  
New York City

Friday. <sup>[12-6-18]</sup>

37 EAST THIRTY-SEVENTH STREET

Dear Dorothy -

Having just come  
from the beautiful -  
memorial service for your  
husband - the usual  
note of sympathy seems  
utterly out of place.

To know that he is happy  
now - and that he has  
done his duty - is so



wonderful, that it seems  
as if pity should not go  
to you - but rather to some  
woman whose husband  
made excuses - and  
stayed home.

I am sure you - who  
have given all you could  
and done all you could -  
are comforted by the  
knowledge that your  
husband's death was that  
of a brave man.  
Affectionately yours Emily Knapp

1918  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

26 EAST 75TH STREET  
NEW YORK

Dear Mrs Straight

I hear you are  
attending to your numerous  
duties just as a soldier  
would - not permitting  
your great personal grief  
to bring confusion to  
important work. I admire  
you if possible more than  
ever, and can only  
say God bless you!



The whole country  
shares your grief for  
Major Straight, younger  
he was, was peculiarly  
needed just now & help  
in solving our problems.

Cordially  
Annabeth Meyer

I can't but think how thirty  
years ago my dear Mrs Longstreet  
acknowledged so quietly your mother  
and that her qualities have  
been passed on to you.

paltry I send you -  
words seem so inade-  
quate and I am not used  
at expressing my feelings  
but take these few the  
way they are meant and  
believe that my heart  
aches for you and you  
are continually in my thoughts  
and I only wish I could  
keep a little to lighten  
the burden these dark  
days -

With my love and most  
heart felt sympathy

Wm. H. Hiltner



WESTBURY, L.I.

Dear Dorothy -

I haven't written sooner  
because my heart was too  
full and nothing I said  
seemed in anyway to  
convey how deeply I feel  
for you - And now I am  
in the same fix. But I  
couldn't let another day  
pass without writing to  
let you know how much  
I am thinking of you and  
how much love and sym-



more generous character, and a  
greater capacity for usefulness and  
willingness to give his best to  
his friends and country.

His whole record and career was  
one of public service and must  
be for all time to you and  
your children the source of the  
greatest possible pride.

There is so much I could add  
were it not for the hopeless  
feeling of the ineffectiveness of  
words to convey what I feel

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

73, RUE DE VARENNE

My dear Mrs. Straight,

Permit me, as  
one who had a very real affection  
and sincere admiration for  
Willard, to send you my deepest  
sympathy.

Only those who knew him can  
appreciate the extent of your  
loss, but all those who did  
share your grief.

Few people have had a finer or



and to soften your distress.  
In the face of such a sorrow even  
friendship and sympathy must be  
silent.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert L. Miles

23 WALL STREET

December 6th, 1918

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

I returned from the South a couple of days ago, but have not been able to write you before, and now that I am able to do so I cannot find words to express to you the sorrow that is in our hearts. We were all so attached to Willard that we feel a very deep sense of personal loss. His conspicuous ability in many lines and his forceful and charming personality won him friends on every side, and we are constantly hearing eulogies of him and intense regret expressed at his death, which seems so untimely. I shall always remember him with great admiration, and shall feel extreme sorrow for the loss of such a dear friend.

Mrs. Porter joins me in assurances



of our deepest sympathy with you and your children. We can partially appreciate what it means, as we have just lost our only son, who was killed in action in France.

Sincerely and sorrowfully yours,

*Wm. B. Straight*

Mrs. Willard B. Straight,  
1130 Fifth Avenue,  
N.Y. City.

P.S. I regret that the condition of my arm does not permit of my sending you an autograph letter.

24 WEST 48<sup>TH</sup> STREET

Dear Dorothy —

It would be hard to tell you how deeply I feel for you in this great sorrow that has come to you. My sympathy is very keen & most sincere.

This has been a terribly hard, sad year for so many, and it is difficult to believe that there are for the best, when people like yourself, whose lives are given up to doing for others, are called upon to make such sacrifices. Those of us who have worked under or with



you, must feel this specially - I know  
I do - with appreciation of your leadership  
and example, and renewed sympathy.

Ever sincerely yours

Beatrice Gordon Bath

Eight December



[12-6-18]

My dear -

I have not been able  
to write you here this far  
weeks have truly failed me  
to express my deep appreciation  
of what you are suffering  
and how little one can  
really do at a moment  
like this except to have  
you feel we are with  
you in thought & sympathy.  
I want so to help you

but only you can do this  
and so I feel you realize that  
your sacrifice is of the highest -  
quite a real ideal and has  
not it only wonderful meaning with  
no regrets. Good we are if you  
will be in my heart  
I hope for you. Affectionately  
+

[12-6-18]

401 W. 118<sup>th</sup> St.

Friday

Dear Dorothy -

This is just a  
line to send you my  
constant love, and to ask  
if you won't feel perfect-  
ly free when things  
get too thick, to slip  
off for a while and



come here for as long  
as you will.

You and I know so  
well that Willard's spirit  
is nearer than ever before,  
a very real Presence which  
we can feel all the  
time. I did not know  
before that this was

possible. But in spirit of this,  
it is not always true to be  
suspected by the materialists  
of the people who do not  
know what we know. It is a  
wonderful thing I have this certainty,  
which gives such a vital sense of  
living and living protection.  
Come soon. With all my love, Fred [Sanborn]



LENOX 8840

Dec 6<sup>th</sup>/8  
THE HARRIET SEYMOUR  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
87 EAST 76TH STREET  
NEW YORK

Dear Mrs Straight -  
The talk we had  
last summer - leads  
me to write & tell you  
that I am thinking  
of you & wish I could  
come up to see you.  
Would you let me  
come? I am free  
all day Sunday &  
on Saturdays in the  
afternoon - so I can  
get off late on Thursday -  
at about 4 o'clock.  
Do not bother to answer  
until you feel like writing  
me / Yrs - faithfully -  
Harriet Seymour.

Glad that your dear  
husband should have  
died so far away from  
you and those he loved.  
I know how devoted  
you were to each other  
and what a terrible  
loss it is to you.  
I have been ill all  
summer but feel better

1058, FIFTH AVENUE

Dearest Dorothy, I wish  
I could say something  
that would be a comfort  
and help you in your  
hour of grief and sor-  
row. It is really too



Now and do hope I  
shall see you soon.

With dearest love  
and deepest sympathy,

I am  
Yours affly,  
Ellin D. Cope

December 6, 1918

STONY WOLD SANATORIUM,  
LAKE KUSHAQUA, N. Y.

MRS. JAMES EDWARD NEWCOMB,  
PRESIDENT.  
MRS. GEORGE F. SHRADY,  
MISS LEARY, } HONORARY  
MRS. ANSON R. FLOWER, } VICE-PRESIDENTS.  
MRS. SYLVAN BOER,  
MRS. HERMANN M. BIGGS, }  
MISS CORA P. VAN WYCK, } VICE-PRESIDENTS.  
MRS. FRANK J. SPRAGUE,  
MRS. CHARLES GILMORE KERLEY,  
RECORDING SECRETARY.  
MRS. ARTHUR COPPELL,  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.  
MR. EDGAR L. MARSTON,  
TREASURER.  
MRS. HERBERT L. SATTERLEE,  
ASSISTANT TREASURER.



MALCOLM F. LENT, M.D.,  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR,  
LAKE KUSHAQUA, N. Y.

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION,  
1074 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

TELEPHONE, COLUMBUS 1170

MISS EDITH C. LEIBERT,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

December 6-1918

My dear Mrs. Straight:

The members of the  
Board of Directors of Stony Wold  
Sanatorium desire to express the  
deep sympathy they feel for you  
on the death of your husband.

Always sincerely yours

May Anne Loppelt.

Corresponding Secretary.



DEC 6, 1918  
In my own heart to put my  
arms around you, to tell you  
how much I love you, and how  
my heart aches to help you,  
if love and sympathy can  
help.

Somehow the past years  
when you and Willard have  
been far away, seem to vanish  
and I feel very close to you  
both, and you are both standing  
on the threshold of your life  
together, so full of life and  
experience and hope. And  
though I have not seen them  
before, I know their presence

Dorothy dear,

I want so much  
to tell you of all that has  
filled my heart through  
these long sad days. In  
every minute I have been thinking  
of you and all you were going  
through, and how sometimes it  
just seemed as if I must  
go to you, not for your sake.  
Dorothy dear, for I know that  
you have those who can help  
you most around you, but



Have been very wonderfully realized in  
these all too few years. That you and  
Willard have found in each other  
a much more than even I also knew  
and loved you both so dearly could have  
hoped for you. And that who you have  
been called on together to make the  
most supreme sacrifice, and you  
have not hesitated either of you, to  
give all that your life has been  
of service and unselfishness, and  
development, by this last great gift.

Oh Dorothy dear, I can't believe that  
Willard has gone out of your life  
in any, but the narrowest interpre-  
tation. I am sure that he is near  
you, and that you must feel him  
so. Since I have been ill, with so  
many long hours to think of these  
things and at times so very near  
the border line myself. Death has  
come to be anything but dreadful  
to me, It is an open door into a



of knowledge of the means  
of communication, and doesn't  
exist at all for him. And  
perhaps will not exist  
for you.

Some day I want to  
talk to you of these things  
of what I have thought and  
read, and learned to believe.  
They may help & comfort you  
a little. If only, only I  
could bring up some thing,  
some little thing.

But perhaps Dorothy doesn't  
with your beautiful spirit, and  
the inspiration of the music.

DEC. 6, 1913  
Long Day and Beautiful  
Life beyond, and even for  
those who are left behind.  
The passing through  
the door of those we love  
leaves it a little more open,  
and gives us a wider, fuller  
view of what lies on the  
other side. And the  
Dorothy dear, even the  
seeming separation of a  
world where Willard can  
no longer come to you, from  
the world where he lives,  
is, I believe, only in our lack



ful life of self sacrifice, that you  
have led, you have found for your-  
self all and more than I have, and  
haven't needed as I did the lessons  
of these past eight years.

I hope so much that this is true,  
that through these little days of  
acquaintance, through all the sense  
of loss and loneliness, there is for  
you a sense of that "peace which  
passeth understanding," that will  
help you & strengthen you, and keep you  
skint close to Willard's in spite  
of all that seems to separate you  
from him.

My heart and love are yours  
soothing dear. If you can find some  
little way that I can help and com-  
fort you now or ever, you know, don't  
you what it would mean to me.

Elysia [Swift]

December 6-

1722 H Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Straight—

I have looked forward  
for some time to meeting  
you because of our  
common interest in the destinies  
of the Bureau of Industrial  
Research.

But I cannot wait until  
that time to express to  
you the deep sense of sympathy  
& love felt in the last several  
days because of your irreparable



who in a real sense  
suffer with you. If it can  
be of any value to know that  
many are wishing you every  
kind and sympathetic thought at this  
time, you should have that slender  
comfort.

I am

Very sincerely yours  
Ordway Tead

December sixth  
1918.

loss. I had only known  
your husband slightly - on the  
occasion of meetings with Bob  
Valentine. But I knew him  
enough, and I know enough  
of your common purposes, to feel  
nearly the loss that we all share  
with you.

There is little that can be  
said of such untoward events.  
I only wanted you to know that  
in addition to those who have been  
personally close to you, there are many  
others - myself among them -



[12-7-18] p1



TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK

My dear Dorothy

I have thought of you  
very, very often - a true deep  
sorrow, and want to send you  
my heartfelt sympathy and love.

Affectionately yours

Natalie K. Blair

MURRAY HILL 271.

283 LEXINGTON AVENUE,  
NEW YORK.

My dear Mrs. Straight.

I must hold out to you a  
hand of friendship - full of the tenderest sympathy.  
My heart has been full of you since I saw  
your brave face at the Thanksgiving service.  
You were a gallant sufferer, sharing the  
dread misery of so many women - but I  
longed to take you in my arms, as I saw  
your mother do, when she showed you to  
me as a wee baby -

Forgive me for thrusting even a note upon



you - and take no notice of it I beg - only  
feel the prayers of one more friend  
are being offered for you, that you may be  
given continued strength to wage the battle  
with loneliness and sorrow as superbly  
as you have thus far -

With very love to you.

Julia Whitman

Telephone, Brookville 368

December 6<sup>th</sup> 1918  
Syosset  
Long Island, New York

My dear Mrs Straight.

I can not adequately  
express to you my sympathy  
for you in your terrible loss.  
It is a loss to the whole  
community that a career  
should be cut short which  
promised to be so brilliant  
and useful. Of all the terrible  
losses that this war has caused  
there can be none greater or



Sadder than that of Mr  
Straight. It seems almost  
too much that you should have  
been called upon to make this  
sacrifice.

With sincerest sympathy I am

Yours sincerely

Bromson Winthrop  
[Winthrop]

DEC. 6, 1918  
Fri day.



My dear Mrs. Straight  
I just wanted  
to write you a  
line to tell you  
how much I have  
been thinking about  
you and to offer  
my deepest sympathy.



It seems almost  
impossible to believe  
that such a  
wonderful man  
could be taken.

With a great great  
deal of love and  
a thousand thanks  
for all you have  
done for us in  
Baltimore

Devotedly  
Helen E. Whitridge.

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

My dear Mrs. Straight.  
May I intrude  
upon your great grief  
in the loss of so great  
a man, to express my  
deep sympathy?  
Although I did  
not know Mr. Straight  
personally - all the  
world knows of his  
constructive work -



and I have always  
admired you, both  
for being on the side  
of right -

Very sincerely  
Harriette Cady  
Co Fifth Ave Bank.

19 West 55 Street  
New York

My dear Mrs. Straight -

When I read in this issue  
of the New Republic of the loss which has  
come to you, I was inexpressibly  
grieved. As if war were not a  
great enough evil in itself - there next



years need so vividly strong men with a vision like your husband.

I knew you only when I came to you with a note from Felix Frankfurter about going abroad, but I feel so sincerely this great loss to Americans everywhere, that I am writing to tell you that I grieve with you as do all who look to our big men to guide our country in this time. Very sincerely  
Saturday December seventh (Mrs.) Lucia Haupt Counsel

Laurel <sup>[12-7-18]</sup>

SIXTY-TWO WEST FORTY-NINTH STREET  
TELEPHONE, BRYANT, TWO EIGHT-THREE-TWO

Dear Mrs. Straight.

Please permit me to express to you my deepest sympathy when we came down

from Newport together, I felt how very much larger y<sup>r</sup> share of grief & anxiety for the war was, than most of us had had to suffer but now it is too tragic.



Everyone who knows  
you even a little is  
grieving for you now.

Sincerely yrs  
Alice Chandler

Dec 7 - 1918



TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.  
"RIZCARLTON"

UNDER THE DIRECTION & MANAGEMENT OF  
THE CARLTON AND RITZ HOTELS, LONDON.

RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL,

MADISON AVENUE & FORTY SIXTH STREET,

NEW YORK.

Dear Mr. Straight  
The death of your  
husband has grieved  
more than words can  
convey - for I had known  
him for long years, ever



Since he came to Ithaca  
in 1901 - and I had for  
him the warmest  
friendship - there never  
was a finer man,  
a truer gentleman than  
Willard Straight - and  
his memory will

always remain green  
in my heart - Pray  
accept my heartfelt  
expressions of sympathy  
in your deep sorrow and  
believe me, as always,  
most sincerely yours

E. de Larmer



Dec. 7. 1818

The Finch School  
Sixty one East Seventy seventh Street  
New York

Dear Mrs. Shapley

All this week I have wanted  
to write to you Mrs I have checked  
myself with the feeling that there  
was really no personal relation  
between us and that this time  
belonged to those who really  
knew you best - and yet all  
the time the feeling persisted  
that I might say one little word  
that would help. Everyone has  
told you, I am sure, that to have  
contributed so much to civilization  
as you husband had at his age  
was better than to have lived  
the far longer life of a hero



useful so, but I wonder if you  
 had been able to feel what is the  
 my thing that to my mind makes  
 life possible in a dull London  
 - that life is all one - that  
 there are no sudden transitions  
 but a constant progression, and  
 that we go on improving when  
 we learn of. This means that if  
 the people really stay together the  
 go on together and a few years  
 of really become a close thing?  
 of this is to be a living reality to me  
 and you in the last few years and  
 it is to be a living reality to me  
 like you are in - what is to my  
 mind - for that I love. It seems  
 to me that to my mind  
 and throughout anything - it makes  
 life a great deal of real and

The Finch School  
 Sixty-one East Seventy-seventh Street  
 New York

I want: I hope you will feel  
 the thing just of mine like  
 a handclasp - I hope you  
 know when it means most to you  
 to have a handshake.

Your very sincerely  
 James S. Cooper



STATION, GREAT RIVER  
TELEPHONE, 1002-ISLIP

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

WESTBROOK,  
OAKDALE, LONG ISLAND.

Dear Dorothy

Ever since I read in the  
papers the terrible sorrow that has  
come to you - I have thought of you  
constantly - & now must write to  
tell you of my deep sympathy.

Nearly seven years have gone  
by since the same blow fell on me.  
But it is as fresh now as then  
and I do indeed know what you  
are called upon to bear - it is  
truly the Way of the Cross - and  
the burden is lightened only by



Hi Lord. I have been reading  
today all that Dr. Stalley said so  
beautifully yesterday about  
Mr. Straight - and one knows  
how true it all is. Your heart  
is filled with pride at his  
splendid life and his sacrifice  
of self to the needs of this  
country. It is to such as he  
that we all turn - & blessed  
are they for being the burden  
bearers. I send you very  
love dear Dorothy and very deep  
& heartfelt sympathy -  
Yours very affectionately  
Olive M. Cutting.

[12-7-18]

My dear Mrs. Straight,

I want to send  
you just a word to express my  
very deep sympathy for you in  
your loss.

My mother died last spring  
and as I know what it means to  
lose the one who is dearest to you.

My love to dear little Whitney.



I know what a comfort he will  
be to you.

Most sincerely,

Charles F. Johnson

The number of his infinitesimally  
brief years, but with his use of  
them. There is no grief except  
with those who linger and who  
with them, though their time must  
fall, price and fate will show  
the hour will come.

These men who today remember  
have you to him with the great  
eyes of truth and honor.

They stand in the darkness  
with God's word and deed.



Windsor N.Y.  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

My dear Father

Please let me send my  
fitter note of sympathy to you  
every all you may may direct  
"A man may die at 45 in the  
light of candles, or at 35 in the  
glamour of the star shells. In  
defining the question is not to



This so fully expresses the way your  
splendid husband has done.

Please accept with deepest love  
and sympathy those few words

Sincerely yours

Julia Fairchild

[12-7-15]

127 EAST SEVENTY-THIRD STREET

Dear Mother  
My heart aches  
for you. But there  
must be such a  
feeling of great  
pleasure for that  
splendid young  
husband - which



in many ways?  
Please let help-  
ful the men will  
be all the more.  
I wish I might be  
able to do something  
for you at such  
a time.  
Your friend

[12-7-18] [2]

127 EAST SEVENTY-THIRD STREET

much love & sadness  
as are thank you  
Dear Mrs. W.  
4/10/18  
Sincerely  
A. W.  
Dear G. 10/20/18



PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE  
HENRY GREEN  
25 BROAD STREET  
NEW YORK

December 7th, 1918.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,  
1130 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-

The following letter was sent to Mr. Thomas W. Lamont. Please accept my condolences for the great loss you and all of us have incurred.

"I was deeply grieved by the demise of my dear friend, Major Willard Dickerman Straight. The tribute paid to his memory at the Grace Church while beautiful in itself, is by far not adequate. I hold that my dear dead friend was worthy of a national tribute and should you agree with me on this point, I stand ready to do all in my power to make such a ceremony possible and impressive."

Sincerely yours,

*Henry Green*

HG:FB

THIRTY-TWO EAST THIRTY-SEVENTH STREET

Dear Dorothy  
I am so  
very, very sorry  
for you, that  
I want to send  
you these few  
lines with my



sympathy in  
the loss of your  
husband.  
I never knew  
him personally,  
but have heard  
so many fine  
things about him,  
& I realize  
what it must be

to have lost him.  
I have written  
Charles, and I  
hope he will feel  
cheerfully for you.  
Please do not  
think of answering  
this. I only wanted  
you to know how



much I was  
thinking of you.  
Very Sincerely yours  
Alice Hay

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1918

356 East 139 Street N.Y.  
December 7, 1918.

Mrs. W. D. Straight,  
Old Westbury, L.I.

Dear Madam:

It was with deep  
sorrow that I learned of the  
death of Major W. D. Straight,  
while in the service of  
his country, and I herewith  
wish to tender to you my  
deepest sympathy in your  
bereavement.

Cordially yours,  
M. Anna Kettinger.  
(Sister of Louisa Wrinman)





ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE  
RITZOTEL-PARIS

Hotel Ritz  
Place Vendôme  
Paris

My dear Dorothy - ?  
Can only tell you that  
I am thinking constantly  
of your words - I shall  
always be proud to  
have known your husband  
& feel that there  
has been - & is still -  
such an influence -  
always & they for  
these I am sure -

[Lady Johnstone]

as fine as you  
obliged to suffer  
terribly but I can  
only think that the  
fine and strong are  
the ones chosen so  
that by their example  
they can help some  
of the weaker ones.

Dear Dorothy I do  
wish there were  
anything in the world

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 1894

WESTBURY  
LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

Dear Dorothy

I have thought  
so constantly of you  
this last week, but  
simply don't know  
how to begin to tell  
you how I feel for  
you. It puts one's  
faith to a hard test  
when one sees any one



I could do I lighten some part  
of it for you for I do sympathize  
or feel for you from the bottom of  
my heart.

Affectionately

Elizabeth Jay

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>/18

UNITED STATES SHIP GEORGE WASHINGTON

My dear Mrs Straight

It is with the deepest  
sorrow & sympathy that we  
learned of your great loss,  
& I want to tell you how  
our thoughts & hearts go out  
to you in your grief, & how  
sincerely we mourn with  
you one who among his  
many acquaintances counted  
only friends.



A true & loyal American,  
he gave his life for his country  
as much as though he had  
fallen in the field of battle,  
for his one desire was to serve,  
& it was really in serving that he  
made the supreme sacrifice  
which will not have been in vain.

It is such loyal devotion as  
his which has been the founda-  
tion stone of America's splendid  
army, it is that readiness to  
serve, any where, in any way,  
which has caused the whole  
American nation to be admired

throughout the world.

But if your grief is tinged  
with pride, I know it is time  
the less deep, I know too the  
greater void left in your life.

Please believe how sincerely  
I understand your sorrow &  
loneliness & sympathize  
with you in this dark hour.

My husband joins me in  
expressing, with our sympathy  
for you, our deep personal  
regret, & I am, dear Mrs  
Straight, very truly yours.

Eliel J. W. W. W.



[2-7-12]

THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR

CORNELIUS N. BLISS, JR.  
PRESIDENT

DWIGHT W. MORROW  
CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMITTEE

GEORGE SLADEN  
TREASURER

BAILEY B. BURRITT  
GENERAL DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE

TELEPHONE 7040 GRAMERCY

105 EAST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK

WILLIAM H. MATTHEWS  
DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT

BUREAUS OF DEPARTMENT  
BUREAU OF FAMILY REHABILITATION AND RELIEF  
PERCY R. PYNE, CHAIRMAN  
BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL NURSING AND FRESH AIR  
THOMAS COCHRAN, CHAIRMAN  
JOINT APPLICATION BUREAU  
CHARLES C. BURLINGHAM, CHAIRMAN

Mrs Willard D. Straight

1130 Fifth Ave, New York City

My Dear Mrs Straight

May I express to you my very deep sympathy in the great loss which has come to you. Full well do I know that I cannot add one word to the many that have come to you expressive of the high esteem in which Major Straight was held by those who knew & worked with him - & no less expressive of the large loss which the world at large must suffer in his going - In the meetings in which I heard him discuss the questions arising from our work here, I well remember the largeness of view, the sympathy, the understanding which was so characteristic & always so helpful to us in our work here -

In the thought that the sacrifice made shall not have been in vain - that because of those who went forth to save for the world that which was fine & best there will arise a better & truer world - in that thought may you find consolation in the days of grief & sorrow -

Most sincerely yours,  
Wm. H. Matthews

[Matthews]

Hotel Castiglione - Paris  
December 7th

My dearest Dorothy - I want to tell you how deeply I have felt for you in these last two weeks & that I have earnestly prayed for your husband's recovery - He seemed so full of life & vigor but the pain was too much for anyone to overcome - I have been living at The Crillon & it was such a pleasure to see Major Straight come in - always with an officer or two so busy and bent on their business, but always having time to stop & say a word of greeting to me - In the Hospital when I visit one of the patients was a valet to your husband & I thought that he said was a real little thing for such a humble man - "he was as fine a gentleman as ever lived Straight & clean in his life" - The saddest



of those in his own sphere of life is the  
same - Perhaps you would like to know  
that Mr. Hume I went out to see where he  
lies - The flowers were still fresh, & there  
is something wonderful about resting  
them with all those soldiers of ours -  
mostly so very young who also gave their  
all in this country's service - A message  
of Courage & Faith seems to come from  
them & I believe it has reached  
you & will give you strength & courage  
to be the sweet mother & your children,  
& the friend of all the poor & lonely  
that you have always been -

Believe me to be always  
yours affectionately  
Anna Reddick.

[Mrs. Wm Barclay Parsons]

58 EAST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET

My dear Mr. Straight,

I feel it was a privilege to  
know and a real pleasure to work  
with your husband in both Civic and  
Commercial affairs - His career was  
inspiring, his disposition engaging,  
his character uplifting and his  
enthusiasm catching. He gave a



life of service to men and then of  
service to his country. While mourning  
his loss his fellow citizens will glory  
in his example and achievements.  
May I add my sincere sympathy  
in this hour of sacrifice.  
Very sincerely,

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1918.

E. H. Outenbridge.

time, but if anything  
can help you it  
will be the wonderful  
life you lead,  
always thinking of  
others.

With sincerely  
Alice Hobbs Rand.

December 7<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dorothy  
I want to send  
to you my love,  
and very deepest  
heartfelt sympathy,  
for the great sorrow  
which has come  
to you.

Four words can  
help at such a



We have just had glimpses  
of you both since our  
days together in Peking -  
these remembrances and  
our great admiration for  
your two beautiful characters  
have made us always  
love you both and I  
really think Milford  
meant more to Phil than  
almost any other man he knew.  
Phil wanted me to tell

12-7-187  
My dear Dorothy -  
Our hearts have  
been very full of you  
this last week - and  
Phil and I both have  
grieved with you more  
than almost ever before  
in our lives - Because  
come - how even though



you a little of how he felt because  
he had to go with the Peace Mission  
and he felt that it would be  
too soon for him to see you

before leaving -  
I went to the beautiful service  
yesterday - it sure was made it  
all seem a glorious thing and  
his work so much worth while  
We all think that you are the

bravest person through it all that  
we ever knew -

With love Pally Patchin

I enclose a little note which my  
mother wrote you the morning we  
heard the news - Because she  
just couldn't help it - Phil and  
I had told her each day before she  
had so hoped all would be well -  
She is quite old and her eye sight  
not good so she rarely ever writes or  
reads any more - But she lived through  
the Civil war and has felt some - how that all

<sup>[Dec. 7, 1918]</sup>  
The boys in this one were just  
here - So I know you will  
understand why she wrote -  
P.M.P.



on his way to Rome & had  
mentioned his leaving so  
well. That was written as  
I remember the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nov.  
Dear Dorothy knowing  
Willard it seems terrible  
to me that he should  
be taken from this world  
where clever & fine men  
are so needed & wide  
from the loss to his  
country that he will be  
I can't bear to think the

DEC 7 1917  
1221 Connecticut Ave  
Wash. D. C.

Dear Dorothy,  
My heart is so full  
for you that I want to  
try & tell you how I  
feel for you in the agony  
of your grief. Only a  
few days ago I had  
a letter from Mamma  
& she had seen Willard



incalculable loss to you  
& his children. I know that  
you will be as brave as  
you can facing this.

The heartfelt sympathy  
of your friends & Willards  
are with you.

Very affly yours,

Olive M. Rodgers  
[Mrs. Raymond Rodgers]

[Dec. 7/1887]

Pardon a few  
words from Polly's  
mother. You and  
your husband have  
had my great interest  
since my children  
met you in England  
Now let me say that  
you have given of your  
best to our cause  
and he is one more  
of our noblest and



best who have  
lived down their  
lives for the  
good of mankind

Sincerely yours  
Elizabeth Thayer

[Encl. by Polly Patchin]

23 East 26th Street  
New York, Dec. 7, 1918.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight  
New York City,

My dear Mrs. Straight,

It was with a shock that  
I learned of the final departure of  
your husband, Major Straight.

I desire to extend my sympathy,  
also that of my family, to you in  
this great loss.

He was such a true friend of



ours, always coming into our home  
even if he were in the city for a  
day only, that we feel his loss with  
genuine personal sorrow.

We were proud of him in our  
home, because of his personality  
and of the talents and ability which  
gave promise of a marked future.  
Few young men have achieved  
the position which held in the  
work of the world.

With a prayer for you to the Father  
who comforts so freely and tenderly

those who are in sorrow, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Cornelius S. Savage.



have not had the pleasure  
of seeing anything of you  
yet it seems only yesterday  
that I was enjoying the  
hospitality of your splendid  
father and you were a  
young girl.

No doubt with your fine  
strong character you will  
be able to bear this great  
burden with fortitude, but  
to give up one's husband  
even for one's country takes  
courage indeed. With deep sympathy in

HOTEL ESSEX  
MADISON AVENUE AND FIFTY-SIXTH STREET

My dear Dorothy.

My husband and  
I are both so distressed to  
hear of your great sorrow  
and I trust you will accept  
our heartfelt sympathy and  
not think it "freak" in me  
to address you, as I used  
by your first name, for  
although in recent years I



Which I do join I am

Always sincerely yours.

Maude Thompson Smith

Dec. 7, 1918.

FIFTY WEST SIXTY-SEVENTH STREET

Will Miss Straight kindly  
allow the Rev Dr Henry A.  
Stimson who knew her  
gentle and graceful mother  
in the days of her early mar-  
ried life in New York, and  
who lived side by side with  
her father in his brilliant  
and beautiful days at Yale,  
and who is the senior mem-  
ber of the Board of Trustees



of Mt Holyoke College, to  
express his deep sympathy  
with Mrs Straight in the hour  
of her great sorrow, and to  
say that her husband's death  
was as truly sacrificial and  
patriotic as if he had died on the  
battlefield, and that her part  
in giving him to the service  
is as truly her 'bit' and  
equally sacrificial.

New York Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1918



Carl S. Stanley, Manager

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1918

My Dear Mr Straight

May  
I offer you my heart  
felt sympathy in the  
loss of your dear husband  
Major W. D. Straight. I  
loved him. We travelled  
out to China by the same  
ship when I went  
out to join the Chinese  
Customs. I have known  
him well since he  
was a great good  
man. I do so feel  
for you now. Love



2

[12-7-18]

[2]



Married on Apr 27<sup>th</sup> last  
and left New York on  
27<sup>th</sup> Oct for China. My  
wife was taken ill  
on the train and  
died in San Francisco  
on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> of Influenza  
Pneumonia. Consequently  
you can well imagine  
how lonely I feel now  
now God bless me both  
I pray that he will  
Sincerely yours  
J. H. Thomas  
Sergeant to China  
a new

My dear wife  
I think I can well know what you  
are telling me in this letter, how  
much I love you, & how I miss you  
children! The greatest sorrow in the  
world has fallen on you, & to add to  
it your weight you are far away  
and that has been happening, & things  
get magnified I think by distance.  
I am thinking how much I thank God for  
you, for you can rest assured that your  
father & mother had the most loving devoted  
care from their, & that those who







husband, my friend was as ready to do  
 (he interested in W. Straight, anyway)  
 he wrote to me of him, & of how much  
 he liked & admired him - & was so glad  
 to have got to know him! I think the  
 feeling was mutual. Now <sup>this</sup> greater sorrow  
 & loss has come upon him - but I know you can  
 & <sup>bravely</sup> overcome it, I wonder if you have any  
 idea how much the friends who are left  
 & remain as true as the true - have  
 has always been such a fine example,  
 & I know it will be in a case as of  
 busy life "career" in many duties, just  
 as fine & happy in other as ever!  
 but children will need you both for years  
 from thank God, a most pleasant time, &  
 they will be your best occupation now.

or thought expressed of  
 Willard.

We are all proud of the  
 record he made in life.  
 Basil and I wanted so  
 much to be at the  
 Service yesterday but could  
 not arrange it. I am sure  
 we all thought of Straight  
 at that hour, just the  
 same with feelings of  
 deepest sympathy for you.

SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY  
 PARK AVENUE

Dear Mr. Straight

I have  
 thought of you very often  
 these last few days  
 and it is a rare  
 meeting of the family  
 at 1718 when you are  
 not spoken of and  
 some other anecdote told



and sincere regret for  
ourselves.

Please do not bother to  
answer this. I just wanted  
to send a personal word  
and say that I am  
deeply sorry.

Always your friend  
Wm Wadsworth

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1818

2032 O -

1037 EIGHTEENTH STREET

Dear Dorothy -

In these the  
hardest days of your life  
it seems to me that  
you are still the won-  
derful example to those  
who have the privilege  
of knowing you, of all  
that is best & most to  
be desired in this world.

It seems difficult  
to understand that this



great sorrow has come  
to you & I only wish  
it were possible to  
make it less hard.

With much love -  
Ellie B. Wilson

December 7<sup>th</sup>

Frank Riley Kansas  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1918

My dear Mrs Straight -  
My husband.

Has written you how deeply  
sorry we are to hear  
of your splendid husband's  
death. This is just  
a line to add to  
his remembrance & to say



With my deepest sym-  
pathy for Mr. & you  
& your children -  
Thank God you have  
them as comforts -  
With love.  
Very sincerely yours  
Louis A. Wood -

12-1-1891  
Dear Dorothy,  
May I tell you how sad I feel  
for you in your great loss, and  
express my tender sympathy.  
Thank God for the blessed  
hope of immortality, and of  
meeting our dear ones again.



Yrs with love,

Frank L. Appleton.

26 East 37<sup>th</sup> St.  
Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

Comfort - Surely you  
must feel them trying  
to help you now.

Please don't think of  
acknowledging this. I just  
wanted to tell you  
that I sympathized with  
you in your sorrow  
and thrilled with you  
in the pride and glory  
too.

Yours most sincerely  
Helen Morgan Wood.

2158 Florida Avenue N.W.  
Washington - D.C.

December 7<sup>th</sup> 1918.

Dear Mr. Straight -

There are no  
words to say how deep  
I sympathize with you  
in all these hard  
days.

If the constant  
thoughts of those who  
have known and worked  
with you can be a



Sympathy and much love.

Life does seem so wrong,  
that the happy people  
must be separated and  
the others remain - You  
must feel so proud to  
know he did so  
superbly -

Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

TUXEDO PARK, NEW YORK

My dear Hester -  
He has been thinking of you  
so much all this  
week, and wants to  
just write you a line  
to offer my deepest



You poor child, I can't tell  
you how my heart goes  
out to you —

affectionately  
Mabel Pochman.

**The Consumers' League**

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

105 EAST 22ND STREET

MRS. FREDERICK NATHAN, HONORARY PRESIDENT

MISS AMEY ALDRICH, PRESIDENT  
MRS. MORRIS KELLOGG, TREASURER  
ESTHER PACKARD CHADBOURN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AN ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE  
IMPROVEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL  
CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

The Executive Committee and the Board  
of members feel so deeply the great sorrow  
that has come to you, they have asked me  
to try and express in some measure their  
heartfelt sympathy.

This passing on of one so needed in  
the community, so patriotic and so  
understanding of the needs of his fellow  
creatures, is a loss in which we  
all share.

Assuring you of our sincerest sympathy,  
I am, very sincerely yours

Agnes D. Henderson  
Corresponding Secretary.



# NOTES

"Nothing finer has come out of this war than this line from an epitaph in a British graveyard in France: 'For your tomorrow they gave their today.'"  
—London Truth.

My dear Mrs Straight.  
Here is the enclosed clipping - will express what those who have been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice - have done for the world?

With kindest sympathy.

Mary H. Faulkner.

1725 New York Ave.  
Brooklyn. N.Y.  
Dec. 8. 1915.

Dec. 8. 1915



NINE EAST NINETY-FIRST STREET

Dearest Dorothy - I have never been to a more beautiful service than the one on Friday and I am sure every one who had the privilege of being there carried away new inspiration to serve their country & to be worthy of the heroes who had made the supreme sacrifice. How proud your husband



must be of you! I can  
imagine no greater tribute  
than the unselfish way  
you are taking up your life  
again without a thought  
of yourself. On all sides  
I hear what your example  
is meaning to those who  
know you & love you. One  
of the junior league girls  
said the other day she  
would rather be like you  
than any one in the world.  
If you feel like seeing

me any time won't you  
please let me know? Adie  
tells me so many of your  
friends have been wanting  
to see you that I thought the  
kindest thing for me to do  
was to stay away for a  
few days.

John & I will always  
have the deepest admiration  
for Willard. Few men of his  
age have accomplished what  
he did, & he has left a  
rich heritage to you & your  
children.



God bless & comfort y.  
dearest Dorothy, is the prayer  
of your loving friend  
Lucy -

December 8<sup>th</sup>

7 EAST NINETY-FIFTH STREET

Dear Dorothy:

I want to send  
you a word - for I know  
how hard it is to lose  
one's own, - I know because  
I lost what I cared for  
most in all the world,  
my little car. And  
though nothing can



lessen the grief, a  
passing word from those  
who feel for us sometimes  
seems to help. Once,  
after we met in person  
and you had seen my  
photo album of little  
ones - you wrote me  
a wonderful letter,  
brimming over with  
sympathy, - which I  
shall always remember.  
And I know that now  
you will be wonderful

and brave - and wonderful that  
you so easily accomplished and  
left behind him as much to  
be proud of.  
Please accept my very deep  
sympathy, and with love,  
Believe me, Affectionately,  
Your little sister



Words are wonderful if well  
used, but it seems to me  
that loving & loyal thoughts  
must count even more &  
you surely know how  
many, many people have  
had those thoughts about  
Willard & you. To be  
an American these days  
is some thing we are all  
so proud of & it has  
always seemed to me that  
Willard was essentially  
me, gallant, spirited.

1866. 5. 17/8  
Sunday.

TWENTY-ONE EAST EIGHTY-FIRST STREET

Dear Dorothy,

I have started  
several times to write you  
but each time I have felt  
so utterly unable to say  
anything that would  
in any way show my love  
or sympathy for you or  
in any way be of help  
or comfort to you that  
I have put my pen down again.



ideals etc.

Best I thought the service  
at Grace Church beautiful.  
Grace Church in my own  
life is mixed up with so  
much beauty & tragedy that  
I always want to go there.  
I wish I could see you  
by & by.

Your loving friend,  
Edith G. Finckh.

TWENTY-ONE EAST EIGHTY-FIRST STREET

Dec. 8, 1918

My dear Dorothy,-

No words of mine can  
make you understand how  
much sympathy and love I have  
for you at this dreadful time.

I can only say that you have  
constantly been in my thoughts,  
and that I wish it were in my  
power, in any way whatsoever, to  
lighten your heavy load.

With sincere yours,  
Reynolds Finckh.



DEC. 9, 1918  
56.

Sunday

783 PARK AVENUE

Dear Dorothy

I realize how your heart  
is broken & I want you to know  
that mine is aching for you.

With all my love & sympathy,

Ever affly

Josephine Griswold

TWO WEST EIGHTY-SIXTH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

My dear Mrs Straight-

You have near & dear  
friends who should be first  
in expressing their love and  
sympathy in your recent  
sorrow, so I have hesitated  
to write you.

But I want you to know my  
heart has gone out to you, and  
I have wished I could in some  
way help to lessen your grief,  
but no one can do that.

You have always impressed  
me with your Calmness & Strength.



and yet I know your friends  
are thinking of you may be  
a help.

I have had one remedy for  
sorrow that comes from loss of  
loved ones. work and then  
more work. And I imagine  
you have learned that lesson  
also - You are always doing  
something to lighten the burden  
of some one, or to help make  
the world better. And I am  
glad for you sake your  
hands are full now, however  
be careful of yourself -

The world needs women  
like you - with faith, health  
and clear heads, and your  
children need you first of all -  
Words are idle & cold - but  
I only want you to know, I am  
thinking of you, with all your  
many friends, and praying  
the good God to comfort and  
strengthen you.

With love and sympathy  
Your friend and coworker  
Mary L. Hay.

Sunday Evening  
December Eighth - 1918 -



My dear Mrs. Straight -

May I  
presume upon a my  
friendship to  
express you the assur-  
ance of my deepest  
sympathy in your  
great sorrow -

Sincerely,

Wells Mason.

Atlanta - 8 December -

LA PAZ  
SCARBOROUGH-ON-THE-HUDSON  
TELEPHONE, DRESSING ONE-ONE-THREE-THREE

Dec 8, 1916

My dear Mrs. Straight:

As a fellow-officer with  
Mr. Straight of the American Inter-  
national Corporation I desire to express  
to you my high appreciation of his  
character and ability, as well as my  
deep sorrow at learning of his un-  
timely death.

With his qualities of personality  
and mind, and with the place he had  
already won for himself in the world  
of international business and politics, I



do not know of any one who had a more brilliant future, or who more greatly deserved one. That this future could not be granted him is a loss not alone to himself, his family and friends, but more than all to the world at large, which now, more than ever, needs men of his initiative judgment, influence and - beyond all - international experience and outlook.

I trust that I am not intruding upon your grief, but I could not refrain from adding my testimony to that of many others - and, after all, there is consolation in knowing that our loved ones have been appreciated by others as well as by ourselves. Sincerely Yours  
Philip W. Henry

FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE  
RIVERSIDE DRIVE

My Dear Mrs. Straight,

I was not prepared for the sad news from Paris and even now cannot realize that Mr. Straight has been taken from us.

It seems only yesterday that he took you to Peking where he was such a moving spirit in the large American things. The atmosphere of our American colony there never seemed the same after he left. Though it was not my privilege to claim



any degree for so great a  
loss.

Mrs. Jernigan joins me in  
deep and heartfelt sympathy  
in your trying hour of  
bereavement.

Most sincerely yours,  
Walter B. Jernigan

December Eighth -

Mr. Straight as an intimate  
friend, yet circumstances  
gave me peculiarly exceptional  
opportunities for observing his  
work in the Orient and appre-  
ciating his wonderful talents  
and personality. How proud  
we were of his virile Americanism.  
Though I never saw him after  
his departure from Peking, I  
followed his career with the  
keenest interest. That he finally  
gave his life for his country  
could be called an incident  
in his life conception of  
duty, and this must afford  
you some consolation if  
there can be consolation in



in this your time of need  
and affliction.

Praying that the God  
of all Comfort may give you  
the courage to bravely bear  
your burden of sorrow, and  
remembering how you have  
helped other mothers and children,  
that He may strengthen you  
and enable you to perform  
your doubled precious duty  
to your own little ones.

Believe me

Very faithfully yours.

Lucy C. Kellogg.

The Cricke. Englewood.  
December 8<sup>th</sup> - 1918.

Dear Mrs. Straight.

The Trustees of The Cricke wish  
me to try to express to you our  
deep and heartfelt sympathy,  
and our keen appreciation of  
the great sorrow which you  
are called upon to bear.

You have been one of the  
most helpful friends the Cricke  
has ever had, and we greatly  
regret our inability to help you



that the <sup>relieve</sup> <sup>place</sup> <sup>you</sup>  
 courage <sup>place</sup> <sup>there</sup>  
 set us all <sup>there</sup>  
 is a thing <sup>place</sup>  
 he will <sup>never</sup>  
 forget. <sup>it was</sup> <sup>so</sup>  
 wonderfully <sup>fine</sup> <sup>to</sup>  
 useless. <sup>you</sup>  
 put aside <sup>your</sup>  
 terrible sorrow, <sup>it</sup>  
 has an inspiration  
 to us all that  
 I feel that  
 all the people  
 I know <sup>you</sup>  
 least deserve <sup>story</sup>  
 happiness <sup>that</sup>  
 these afflictions

STATION & TELEGRAMS  
 HICKSVILLE, L. I.

JERICHO  
 LONG ISLAND

Dear Dorsey  
 I can't let this  
 time go by without  
 sending you a  
 line, because you  
 have been constantly  
 on my thoughts.  
 It seemed at  
 first as though I  
 wrote you, but  
 after seeing you <sup>last</sup>  
 of Sunday evening,  
 I feel I must tell you



should have come  
to you seems to have  
been

You don't think it  
presumptuous of me to  
write you this way  
but I feel that I  
feel out to you as  
sympathy & since we  
are so far from  
each other I feel  
that I need to express  
it - May the  
sympathy & love  
you countess friends  
be of service to you  
to your ease, this is  
sincere prayer -  
Aff. yours  
Frederic Libenmore.

December 8<sup>th</sup>

[12-8-18]

My dear Mrs. Straight:  
John and I send  
you our love and sympathy  
in your sorrow.  
The news was a great shock to us  
and I cannot tell you how  
many bright and happy  
memories came to us of you  
and your husband and how  
deeply we felt personally his loss.  
He had more warm and  
loyal friends than any man  
I know and he was so fine  
and brilliant and such  
a splendid figure in our  
American life.  
His being taken away is one  
of the great tragedies of  
this sad time.  
My husband as you know  
was perfectly devoted to  
him, so were all the men



He was known who were  
associated with him.  
He was the centre of life where  
his patients led.  
With deepest and truest  
sympathy, believe me.  
Truly yours  
Charles A. Oll

The Forsbors  
2129 Florida Ave  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup>

3 West Eaton Pl.  
December 8  
Darling Aunt Dorothy,  
I am so  
very sad to hear  
about dear Uncle  
Willard I cannot  
tell you how  
sorry I am for  
you I wish you  
were over here so  
that I could see



you. It seems  
especially sad as  
we were all re-  
coiling over the  
armistice. You  
must long as I  
often do that  
Mummy was  
still here. Please  
give my love to  
my cousins.  
With lots of  
love your loving

P. S. I am at a  
school in London  
at the above  
address.

[Paget]



how anxious it is for our  
country to have men like  
Mr. Straight - What his  
loss must mean to those  
who were nearest to him  
it is impossible for any  
of us to estimate. But -  
I have wanted to tell you  
how very deeply I feel for  
you, how I wish that I

December 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

15 CEDAR PLACE  
YONKERS, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Straight: -

You have been constantly  
in my mind during this  
past hard week. True how  
I cannot find expression  
for all that I would like  
to say to you - Every one knows



could help you, and how above all else  
I admire your splendid spirit. Your  
presence at the meeting on Thursday  
night was an expression of the most  
unselfish heroism I have ever seen, it  
was an inspiration to us all and is an  
experience in my life which I shall  
never forget.

Very faithfully yours  
Louise Meyer

I will still find a moment to  
give me such inspiration as  
you can.



The morning of the  
white war, was I am sure  
in my mind at the  
beautiful memorial  
service for William Straight.  
I shed my weep at the  
breaking of a union - so  
full of noble purposes &  
love as yours - I went alone -  
& my heart was touched by  
your bravery -  
Your friend  
James H. Wood



as words are so empty.  
You must be very fond  
of the tributes that have  
been paid Willard's  
memory and you have  
the satisfaction of knowing  
that all that was  
said and more was  
fairly his due. A more  
charming personality  
would be hard to find  
a no man was more  
alive to his responsibility

[2-8-18]

2622 SIXTEENTH STREET

My dear Dorothy

You have been so  
constantly in my thoughts  
and my heart goes  
out to you in your great  
sorrow. I wish I could  
say something to make  
it a little easier but  
I know that is hopeless



to his country, society and  
his friends - He led  
a useful life and set  
a great example. You  
have been so brave  
through it all. If I  
can be of any service  
please give me the pleasure  
of doing something for you.

Yours affectionately

Frank B. Kelly

Dec 8 -

[POK]

Central Prison of New England  
A. P. O. 717 A. E. J.  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 1908

My dear Mrs. Straight - I want to express  
to you my profound sympathy in the  
loss of your beloved husband and  
my sincere friend. I came over in  
the Insurance Section, with Major  
Straight, after I had been rejected  
at the 2nd Officers Training Camp  
on account of defective ear drums,  
and he had this affliction removed  
in order for me to accompany  
him. When he went to Staff  
School he sent me to Gen. Hdqrs.



of the American Expt. Forces as he considered my opportunities much  
better there. I was again with him at the Headquarters of the  
1st Army just behind Verdun as late as the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. In  
fact until he was called to Paris. The Major was more than  
Commanding Officer to the Officers and men associated with him.  
he was their adviser and friend in every sense of the word.  
and his place can never be filled with us. how far him to  
be taken, after its all over, just at a time when he is  
most needed is beyond us to understand. There was no  
position too big for Major Straight, and we had set no limit  
to what he would do when we returned home. I have  
thought of you many times since the passing of the Major  
and doubt you to know you have the heartfelt sympathy  
of his friends near here.

of Lt. Hugh I. Nichols  
C.A.W.E.#1 H.A. 7.17.

Most Sincerely - Hugh Thompson Nichols.  
Columbia South Carolina



Let I simply could not  
intrude and let  
Dorothy I just can't  
keep reading for a  
little bit of love -  
Please don't think of  
assuming this: There  
is no one who has more  
friends than for. I  
can well imagine  
they all feel as I do  
that they need with -

[12-8-15]

Sunday

HAMILTON  
MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Dorothy:

As you must know I  
is perfectly impossible  
for me in any way to  
express the truly deep  
sympathy I have for  
you - At first I  
seemed impossible for  
me to write for you



We all can not understand  
why this should happen to you  
if there is any reason I  
think there is no more  
now for all I have for  
an example. Over better I  
think for. For have been  
a lot of strength and I can  
well imagine how under fire  
I have for an example —

What worries me is that I am  
afraid for you to be too much so.  
The whole world seems to be  
sympathizing with you. You  
cannot not for care. I keep  
being proud of your husband's  
full life & the memory of  
friends he had —

All my love to you  
Affectionately, William Lloyd Garrison

Dec. 8/5

NEW YORK,  
265, HENRY STREET.

Dear Mrs. Straight,

The residents of  
the Settlement are in the  
habit of meeting once  
a week all together to  
confer about matters of  
social concern that  
touch us — At the  
last meeting the talk  
turned upon your gallant  
husband — upon his



knowledge of far reaching this loving tribute & all  
significant, social that you do and all  
development, of his that you are - such  
health and tolerance splendid comradeship  
and generosity and I between two in one -  
told them of the They asked me to try  
message Mrs. Swift to write for them a  
sent to him through few words that would  
be in China - It indicate the affection  
seems so long ago and and sympathy that  
yet it is but a few they feel and I find  
years - and very that when all is said  
people in the house said - nothing is really said



beyond just that -  
Love and understanding  
and sympathy with  
you in your sorrow  
and what must be  
also - your sad pride.  
I wish it were my  
good fortune to be of  
some help to you. Perhaps  
you can find some thing  
that I can do. I would like  
to lighten your burden & to  
discuss any service whatsoever  
that I can give you.  
Yours with affection  
Lillian D. Wald.

human person, so  
sympathetic, so generous  
in his way of thinking,  
that it seems that the  
world is fearfully poorer  
without him. I cannot  
bear to think of you, so  
young, deprived of a  
companion so devoted and  
so congenial. The love  
and staunchness of your  
many friends can never  
help very much, but you  
may feel certain that we  
should all like to.

During the days of  
uncertainty and worry  
during Mr. Straight's illness

Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 1918.

BEECHWOOD  
SCARBOROUGH-ON-HUDSON  
TELEPHONE TWO HUNDRED OSSINGO

Dear Mrs. Straight

I have been thinking  
of you many times since  
the news of your splendid  
husband's death came,  
and wishing that there  
was something I could do  
to make your sorrow  
lighter in some degree. It  
is one of the tragedies  
that is hard to understand  
or to be reconciled to. He was  
such a wonderfully



He was in my mind constantly, and almost every hour during those days I prayed for his recovery. At five o'clock on Sunday morning I woke, and he came into my mind. He must have been needing prayer just then. You will be glad to know that there were people who were directing earnest thoughts toward him, <sup>during those days when we could help in no other way.</sup> His interest in the Parker School work as a boy always made me feel that I knew him well, because I knew what his training tended to make him, and his going seems a personal loss to me.

Mr. Vanderlip joins with me in sending you affectionate sympathy.

Faithfully

Harriett C. Vanderlip.

Extract from a letter of William T. Wendell from Paris.

Willard Straight died last Sunday after an illness of about two weeks. He had every possible care from the best doctors and nurses and had a wonderful constitution, but the pitiless poison of the disease gradually sapped his vitality.

It is pitiful because there was hardly a man in America of greater natural talent or the possibility of achievement through wealth and position, and one who would have made good use of his attainments. His funeral on Tuesday last was very dignified and solemn. Bishop Brent officiated assisted by Dean Beekman, who is temporarily in charge of the



American church, and Mr Billings  
of Groton. The church was  
well filled mostly with officers. I  
never saw so many or such  
beautiful flowers. The coffin  
was carried by eight enlisted  
men and was wrapped in the  
flag. On the top were his  
cap and his sword —

I regret him very much though I  
did not know him well, and I  
feel for the agony which his  
wife must have endured through  
the daily cables with the final  
tragic message. There are lots  
of things in life which its  
hard to understand and  
Willard Straight, one would have  
thought, was among those who  
should have lived —

Extract from a letter from  
Major Francis R. Appleton Jr.  
Headquarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Army.

— Since then poor Willard  
Straight has died. Every one felt  
terribly about it, ~~he~~ had made  
a great many friends in the  
Army and had done exceedingly  
well, and he was universally  
admired —



Though some return in his  
brilliant powers were in  
the ~~line~~ of realization. He  
had been expected to go to France  
with as few known, to France  
with Mr. Martin Egner. I have  
liked few people as much  
in the space of my long life  
I have never met a man as  
rounded & brilliant minded.  
He indeed was regularly from  
France. Letters that merit  
publication I have seen post,  
but on the whole, they came,  
went me a great merit. His



564 PARK AVENUE

Sunday —  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
1918

Dear Brother Straight

I am writing to you to tell  
me in a letter that has given  
me anxiety & distress of mind.  
I recall that I was a friend  
of Lewis (William H. Lewis),  
affectionately called 'Bees',  
in the far East. I knew him  
in Honolulu & I saw him  
last year to surprise. I saw  
much of him. & it seemed as



111  
Last letter was dated Nov 12<sup>th</sup>  
August. involved & affectionate  
as though he were of very  
immediate family - He  
was a sad & lonely man at  
least. Reluctant - & uncommunicative  
He said my letters when were  
about the best thing in his life.  
Since his August letter. There  
has been silence. In a long  
time I wrote & at length a  
great fear that he was dead  
that it says often into my  
thoughts. Mr. Bruce of Manhattan

112  
Who was his lawyer, was gone to  
China. But his office was anxious  
for news & had sent him  
letters from Lewis. Telephone &  
Mr. Winter Eggs apartment to find  
He was in Europe. Finally I  
wrote a note to Mr. Evans! and  
three weeks ago I included a  
letter to Lewis. dated to his lawyer  
H. J. Evans. I was  
Willard Straight's death emphasized  
the apprehension, in my mind &  
I wrote to ask you: if you dare  
tell Lewis of Lewis. & where  
Mr. Evans is - & how I would  
set news.  
The the need of you over  
believing soon - I know you



General Headquarters

American E. F.

France Dec. 9. 1918.

My dear Mr. Straight-

While nothing that  
I can say or do can mitigate  
or lessen the insupportable loss  
which you have sustained  
in the loss of your gallant  
husband, it is probable that  
you may be momentarily  
interested in a line from one  
who saw much of him  
over here, and who had  
learned to deeply admire his

friendly character and achievements.  
His work was often under my  
observation and control, and he  
was a frequent and always  
welcome guest at our Mess.

To have been associated with  
him at all was to have deep  
admiration for him, and his untimely  
death was a real loss to the  
Army, and a great one to me personally.  
I trust you will accept this  
as an humble tribute to the  
memory of a true friend  
and splendid soldier.

Very Sincerely,

Avery D. Henderson  
Brigadier-General, Assistant Chief of Staff  
A. E. F.



with me a keen memory of all  
your many kindnesses; I want to  
leave with you, for your future, a  
most heartfelt God speed

Your sincere friend  
Norman Angell

Dec. 9/17/16  
420 West 116<sup>th</sup> St.  
Monday.

My dear Mr. Straight,

I cannot leave America  
without telling you how deeply I  
feel for you. Those of us who  
knew your husband even only a little  
knew him enough to find in him a  
very rare & precious combination: a  
"human" man of action & movement, &  
work-a-day <sup>affairs</sup> who had yet a ready &  
generous insight into appreciation of  
idealistic aims —

It was to him that I owed  
my introduction to the New Republic



and all that. That has meant to me of work & comradeship. I remember well how he found me up in London & insisted that I call upon him & the R. when I should come to New York.

This soldierly spirit will help you over the rough going that lies immediately ahead of you. For you too, I think, have that spirit: "The redoubt must be taken"; wherever falls. There are your children to be educated & equipped for their place in the country's future, and there remain all the big things for which

you stand to be carried ~~out~~ through. You are part of them, & belong to them! They claim you as the army claimed your husband. As a soldier, he put it before his love. As a soldier of another kind you will put your tasks before your grief, & ~~the~~ in that work will find anodyne. And never did the world need so much as now, ~~to~~ the kind of help that you have given in the past. That help is not your wealth; it is wealth wisely used; & that wisdom means work, & thought, & preoccupation.

This does not need reply, & I think you will appreciate why I write unreservedly. I happen too, to have paid my blood-tax in this war, & like you just at the end of it. In leaving for Paris on Saturday I shall carry



VIA CASSIA ANTICA 17  
TEL. 10529 ROMA

19/9/52  
He 9

He must have  
there seems to  
be no way in  
which I can  
tell you?  
All that we  
see for you  
is your great  
great - horror.  
Our thoughts  
are constantly



Wish you,  
our hearts ache  
for you, + yet  
wish we can  
do it to send  
you these words,  
our deepest  
sympathy +  
great understanding.  
B + I have often  
spoken of the  
happy times we  
had with you  
+ will ever.

Again, even  
though we are  
distant, we  
think of you, + I wish  
I were never  
to get those happy  
days in Scotland  
back. I am so  
glad you are  
so well. Love  
Chas. + Mary  
Will keep you  
as well as any  
one else can.  
I love you only



For weeks we  
a song to  
beauty to  
far away,  
I have letters  
are just  
like opening  
a house every  
time. But I  
know how  
longed for  
you have  
always been

VIA CASSIA ANTICA 17  
TEL. 10529 ROMA

Dec 9 1918  
All  
through your life  
I hope again  
you will  
have been the  
best of people  
to every one.  
The reason is  
that letters are  
how I wish  
me to see  
you, let at last  
be at sympathy







to New York after a years service  
with the Red Cross in Washington  
and I feel such a distinct personal  
loss that I know what it must  
mean to you and ask you to accept  
my deepest sympathy.

Gillards brilliant always unselfish  
service to his country to his  
Alma Mater will always be  
remembered and the memory  
of his friendship always cherished.

Sincerely

Chas. W. Blair

Monday

[12-9-18]

My dear Mrs. Straight;

There is little one can  
say and almost nothing helps. It is  
sometimes a slight comfort to know that others  
appreciate those that are dearest to us.

You can't hear it but I want you to know  
that on all sides and from many walks  
of life I hear sorrow expressed at the real



loss that has come to us all and deep  
sympathy that this sorrow has come to you—  
Whom so many have learned to love and  
love.  
You have been in my thoughts constantly and  
I wish I could express how full of love and  
sympathy my heart is.

Affectionately  
Flora Crawford

[12-9-18]

386, Locum Ave.

Dear Dorothy,

I can't tell you  
how awfully sorry  
I am for you. I know  
only too well what a  
loss like this means  
and how utterly  
useless words are to  
help. It is some small



consolation to know that  
Willard gave his life  
for his country as bravely  
as if he had lost it  
going over the top, and  
more than that, no  
man can do. With  
all my love and sympathy  
Very sincerely,  
Richard Lawrence

347 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December 9, 1918

Dear Mrs. Straight:

On my return I learn of the homegoing of your dear husband. I wish to assure you of my sincere heartfelt and prayerful sympathy. May the Heavenly Father of all comfort greatly strengthen you and sustain you in this great loss. I shall never cease to be grateful that I had the privilege of knowing your husband. I valued him as a friend and as a leader. His highly efficient and influential cooperation in various parts of our expanding work at home and abroad was a tower of strength to us. In his life and influence he constituted an inspiring example to young men. I love to remember him as I saw him last when I was at the General Headquarters in France a few months ago - abounding in vitality and hopefulness and confidence in the outcome of the great struggle. How we shall miss him with his wonderful capacities for friendship and leadership. It greatly increases the responsibility resting upon those of us who remain.

If I can ever be of the slightest service to you in any way in my power, I beg of you to command me.

Very sincerely yours,

J. K. Malt

Mrs. Willard Straight,  
1130 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City

M



# NEW YORK STATE WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY

MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT  
HONORARY CHAIRMAN  
MISS MARY GARRETT MAY  
CHAIRMAN

MRS. F. LOUIS SLADE  
FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN

MRS. MARGARET CHANLER ALDRICH  
SECOND VICE-CHAIRMAN

MRS. GEORGE NOTMAN  
THIRD VICE-CHAIRMAN

MISS ANNIE DOUGHTY  
FOURTH VICE-CHAIRMAN

MRS. F. ROBERTSON JONES  
FIFTH VICE-CHAIRMAN

MRS. THOMAS BUCKLIN WELLS  
RECORDING SECRETARY

MISS ADALINE W. STERLING  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

MRS. HERBERT L. PRATT  
TREASURER

## WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

### BOROUGH HEADQUARTERS:

BRONX—406 EAST 149TH STREET

BROOKLYN—342 LIVINGSTON STREET

MANHATTAN—3 EAST 38TH STREET

QUEENS—2377 JAMAICA AVENUE, RICHMOND HILL

RICHMOND—118 DAVIS AVE., WEST NEW BRIGHTON, S. I.

### CITY HEADQUARTERS

373 5th Ave—  
6310  
TELEPHONE 6311 MURRAY HILL



### BRONX BOROUGH

MRS. DANIEL A. PALMER, CHAIRMAN  
MRS. LOUIS WELZMILLER, DIRECTOR

### BROOKLYN BOROUGH

MRS. H. EDWARD DREIER, CHAIRMAN  
MRS. ALICE PARKER HUTCHINS, DIRECTOR

### MANHATTAN BOROUGH

MRS. CHARLES L. TIFFANY, CHAIRMAN  
DR. KATHERINE B. DAVIS, DIRECTOR

### QUEENS BOROUGH

MRS. DAVID R. RODGER, CHAIRMAN  
MISS ELIZA MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

### RICHMOND BOROUGH

MRS. WILLIAM G. WILLCOX, CHAIRMAN  
MRS. CHAS. SIMONSON, DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, Dec 9th, 1918.

The members of the NEW YORK CITY WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY feel

that they have met a great loss in the death of Major Willard

Straight and wish to express to you their sorrow. The feeling

manifested by so democratic a group is a genuine tribute to

your courageous and public spirited husband. They wish also to

assure you of their deepest sympathy for the grief and loss

that has come to you when they have learned to value, trust

and love.

December 8<sup>th</sup>



Dear Mrs. Straight,

When one makes a great effort in a good cause it is sometimes helpful to know that it was appreciated. If it can be any consolation to you, in this time of misfortune, to know that I was one of the many—some of them total strangers to yourself—who were inspired by your presence, masterful composure at the meeting the other night—then this inadequate note has not been in vain. Certainly such



courage could be nothing but the best  
example to many who have & will have  
their trials to bear. May I express  
to you my deepest sympathy & admiration

yours very sincerely  
Josephine Lee Murray.

ROBERT H. PATCHIN

~~7 HANOVER SQUARE~~

~~NEW YORK~~

Imperial Hotel  
Tokio, Japan, Dec. 6, '18

My Dear Mrs. Straight, -

How can I  
express the sympathy I  
feel for you and your  
beloved in the war was  
much in my thoughts  
always but somehow  
I never thought of his  
not coming back - There  
was so much for him to  
do that he could do better  
than anyone else - and  
so, when the Department's  
cable came to me in  
Yokohama just when I  
had begun to get a



me upon a footing impossible  
had he not been so thoughtful  
and assiduous. This I shall never  
forget but what most I shall  
miss is the friend whose big imagin-  
ation lighted up the things we thought  
in common. Willard was a wonder-  
ful man; no other could have  
made so much of his life. I hope  
the fact that this is recalled by many  
many persons will make your  
sorrow a little the easier to bear.

But here is sincere, wide-  
spread regret. Many have told  
Mr Willard's name is as well  
known in the Far East as that of  
any American. I send herewith  
a clipping from the Japan  
Advertiser, the largest newspaper  
of the Far East printed in the  
English language. The American  
Ambassador and Mr. Morris, Mr. and



texts of the East and  
liberally when I had  
been thinking how much  
he would be interested in  
some of the things I had  
learned, my sense of  
loss was almost un-  
bearable.

Willard's friendship  
was one of the finest things  
that ever happened to  
me. Just to know a nat-  
ure so generous was a  
great privilege. I loved  
him and will miss him  
more than I can say.  
And I owed to him a  
great deal in very many  
ways. When I came to  
New York he put me

[12-6-18]

[2]

ROBERT H. PATCHIN  
7 HANOVER SQUARE  
NEW YORK

Mrs Thompson Spencer,  
the parents of Willing Spencer,  
Professor Swift, Admiral  
Rodgers and many others  
have all spoken in the  
highest terms and all the  
younger men out here  
looked upon Willard as  
one who had done splen-  
-dently with his life and  
they deem his career one  
to be envied and emulated.  
Baron Shibusawa was  
most regretful and  
many other Japanese.

No details came; only  
a State Department  
cable to me with the  
brief sad news so



I know nothing more  
than my feeling that  
Willard gave his life  
to his country as he did  
his strength and enthus-  
-iasm to so many  
good causes and to his  
friendships - without  
stint. - and gallantly.

To be so far away and  
able to convey my sym-  
-pathy to you immediately  
only by cable and now  
only through this in-  
-adequate letter makes  
it all somewhat harder.  
From Custer you ~~part~~  
heard at home. I  
know how grieved she  
was. I can say no



more, ~~as~~ I never lost a friend whose  
going hurt so much.

Sincerely your friend,

Robert H Patchin

Mrs Willard Straight,  
94<sup>th</sup> St. & Fifth Ave.,  
New York City



## WILLARD STRAIGHT DEAD IN FRANCE

Man Who Did Much for Far  
East "Goes West" Serving  
Flag in Europe

### NEWS CAME YESTERDAY

History of Deceased One of Ser-  
vice and Duty Performed  
Along Broad Lines

News that Major Willard Straight, U. S. A., died of pneumonia on December 1, in Paris, was received by Mr. George H. Seidmore, American Consul General at Yokohama from the State Department yesterday. Major Straight had been with the American army in France since December, 1917.

The news was received with intense regret throughout the Far East. Few Americans were better known in this part of the world. Few had worked more constantly for American trade development in the Far East and for better understanding, not only between the United States and Far Eastern countries, but between China and Japan.

Simply as a personal accomplishment the career of Willard Straight who would have been thirty-nine years old on January 31st next, was unique and brilliant. The son of a college professor and a mother who taught in the Far East might have been expected to turn to the Orient, but Willard Straight, born in Oswego, New York, was educated at the Bordentown Military Institute in New Jersey, and Cornell University in 1901 to be an architect. At Ithaca he came under the influence and inspiration of Professor Henry Morse Stephens, then occupying the chair of modern European and English history, but who was closely in touch with Asiatic affairs. Through him Willard Straight obtained an opportunity to enter the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service in 1902.

#### Learned Chinese Tongue

He learned the Chinese language, passing his examinations brilliantly although his eye-sight was temporarily impaired during the period of competition. While the other candidates were busy with their written exercises, Straight roamed through Chinese villages incessantly trying to talk with the natives. The result was that his superior knowledge of the spoken language more than made up for enforced deficiency in the written language, and he passed Number One, later being assigned to duty at Nanking and Peking, where he remained under Sir Robert Hart until 1904.

#### As War Correspondent

Then the Russo-Japanese War disclosed in him a certain impulse toward the world's great events characteristic always of his subsequent career. He became a war correspondent in Seoul, Tokyo and Manchuria, assisting Mr. Martin Egan, then chief correspondent of the Associated Press and Reuter's Agency. At the end of the war Mr. Straight became American Vice-Consul and private secretary to Mr. E. V. Morgan, the American Minister at Seoul and observed many of the exciting events after the war in Chosen. Having been thrown in contact in Tokyo with Mr. Lloyd Garrison, then American Ambassador, and Mr. Huntington Wilson, Secretary of the Embassy, Mr. Straight found his way naturally into the American diplomatic service and accompanied Mr. Morgan when he was transferred to the post of Minister to Cuba. Returning to the Far East as Consul General at Mukden from 1906-1908 he was an enthusiastic and aggressive advocate of American trade development and investment.

#### Entered State Department

He there met the late E. H. Harriman during that great railroad magnate's visit to the Far East. Because of his great familiarity with the situation in this part of the world Mr. Straight was promoted to be Chief of the Division of Far Eastern Affairs of the Department of State at Washington in November 1908. About this time arose the question of the participation of the United States in certain Chinese loans. American bankers, absorbed in domestic affairs, had taken no steps to join in Far Eastern investment, the original Canton-Hankow railroad project, backed by American capital not having led to little else.

American bankers might have lost their opportunity had it not been for the activity, at this time, of the United States Government in which Mr. Straight at Washington and Mr. Henry P. Fletcher, American Charge d'Affaires at Peking, strongly supported by Secretary Knox, were the most active factors. The right of participation was gained and an American banking group was formed consisting of J. P. Morgan & Company, the First National Bank of New York, the National City Bank and Kuhn, Loeb & Company.

Mr. Straight resigned from the State Department and went to China in June 1909 as the representative of the American group and participated in the Six-Power Loan negotiations during the next three years dividing his time between the Far East and New York where he became associated with J. P. Morgan & Company.

#### Played a Strong Role

He bore a large part in that interesting chapter of Chinese history that came to a close when the Wilson Administration in 1913 declined to continue the support which the Taft Administration had given to the American banking group in Chinese government loan negotiations secured by certain Chinese taxes. Mr. Straight was one of those to whom Secretary Bryan communicated the Administration's decision but he lived long enough to see a modification, if not a reversal, of this policy.

In 1914, after the United States had adopted what President Wilson termed a competitive tariff, and after the banking system had been revised to meet the needs of the country's international situation, Mr. Straight was one of a group of American business men who formed the National Foreign Trade Council for the purpose of encouraging the development of a sound foreign trade policy on the part of the government and of business. The first National Foreign Trade Convention held, as a result, at Washington in May, 1914 adopted a program of co-operation among the financial, commercial, manufacturing and transportation elements in American foreign trade, and the subsequent conventions have given direction and force to the foreign trade movement which has been so strongly developed and which has brought the country to its present conviction that the overseas commerce of the United States must be sustained.

#### For Merchant Marine

In these conventions, Mr. Straight was a constant advocate of the encouragement of foreign investment of American capital, the upbuilding of the American merchant marine and the adoption of a flexible or bargaining tariff which would enable the United States to negotiate advantageous and reciprocal trade agreements. He stood always for a policy of fair give-and-take in international trade rather than for commercial imperialism.

#### Wed Secretary Whitney's Daughter

Having won his spurs in the business world, Mr. Straight married at Geneva, Switzerland, in 1911, Miss Dorothy Whitney, daughter of the late William C. Whitney who, as Secretary of the Navy, under President Cleveland, was the builder of the new American fleet that followed the decay of the Civil War frigates. Mrs. Straight accompanied her husband to the Far East—in fact, they had previously met in China—and thenceforth shared in every

way in her husband's interest in and fondness for all things Eastern.

They founded the Far Eastern Institute, whose collection of engravings and prints adorns the walls of India House, the downtown New York club composed of men engaged in the foreign trade. India House, well-known to many residents of the Far East, was, by the way, the child of Mr. Straight's artistic and commercial imagination. After a visit to Salem, Massachusetts, where he observed, in the East India Marine Museum, the relics of the glorious age of American clippers when American ships carried the freights of the world, and after talking to some of the old sea captains who mourned the disappearance of the American flag from the foreign trade, Mr. Straight conceived the idea of a club where foreign trade interest could be centered.

#### Foreign Trade Club

This, he felt, should be not in Salem, the abode of regretful, although brilliant memories, but in the very heart of New York City where men, men of the largest affairs too, were turning their attention from teeming home industries to the opportunities beyond the seas. At this time, W. R. Grace & Company, were abandoning for larger quarters an old, three-story building which they had occupied for thirty years as exporters and importers. It stood facing Hanover Square, dwarfed by skyscrapers. Before the Grace era it had been the New York Cotton Exchange, earlier the home of the Hanover Bank. Just across the street was the New Cotton Exchange. Cotton is the largest single item of American export. Hard by was the Coffee Exchange. Coffee is the largest single item of American import. An ideal place for a foreign trade club.

But the idea had come to Mr. Straight in 1914, in the spring. That was the time of business depression. Big men were resigning from clubs, not joining them. Mr. Straight knew his average New Yorker. He wasted no time in talking about the project. He leased the old building, called in the best architects, gave them his ideas of how this old building, surcharged with foreign trade traditions and atmosphere should be made into a club. The fewest possible changes were made, a wall knocked out here and there but the building remained a symmetrical old-fashioned house suggestive of an old-time merchant's mansion, holding forth a quiet welcome to the denizens of the surrounding cliffs of stone and steel. A few weeks before the old colonial furniture was moved in and prints of the "Ocean Express," "Dreadnaught" and old time flying clippers hung upon the walls and a round Japanese god of plenty set up in the port hole to have his "tummy" tapped for luck by hungry visitors, Mr. Straight, at a dinner following the First National Foreign Trade Convention at Washington casually—apparently—brought up the idea of a club composed exclusively of men engaged in the foreign trade, a sort of East India Marine Museum in New York instead of Salem and looking to the future instead of the past. The idea took. Others endorsed it. They said that steps ought to be taken immediately.

#### Everything but Members

"Very well," replied Mr. Straight, "the building has been found, it has been remodeled, it is being furnished, the club house is there, all that remains is to organize the membership and move in." This was done and the task was simplicity itself.

One visit and men forgot that they had decided to cut down their clubs. There were wonderful old ship models on every hand, deep leather chairs in the old colonial lounge. Everywhere the eye met some suggestion of the sea. Visitors from the Orient could get such a curry as was to be found nowhere else in New York.

India House became at once a center of the foreign trade interest of the United States. Its governors represented the big companies which were doing big things abroad but there were not lacking, among the governors also, representatives of smaller companies which had been hanging on in the export and import trade for many years unsupported by governmental policy or interest.

a link between the old days of the clippers and the new days to come. It is impossible to describe the peculiar charm of India House or the strength of the sentiment it has contributed to the greater foreign trade movement now just beginning.

The offices of the National Trade Council were located in India House and the two grew in importance and interest.

It was at the third annual birthday dinner of India House that Willard Straight made his last appearance in New York. Six months before he had dropped all his business activities and had gone to the colors, but he had been away from New York acting as adjutant of the division being organized at Camp Doniphan on the plains of Oklahoma. There, under command of Major W. M. Wright, U.S.A., well-known in the Far East, they had made a real fighting organization out of boys from the farms of Iowa and Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri. It gave a great account of itself later on in France.

Major Straight, however, preceded the command to France. His knowledge of languages his tact and adaptability, caused him to be in request for staff duty and he passed with distinction through the American Army staff college at Noyon, before it was taken by the Germans last spring. But he wanted service with troops and in October his friends in New York learned that he had been transferred from the Staff to the line and was a major of infantry momentarily expecting command of a battalion. Under what circumstances he developed the pneumonia that resulted in death is not known here, but it is known that some weeks ago he was "gassed" in practice.

#### Got Baptism of Fire

Major Straight got his baptism of fire even though the force to which he was attached was engaged by visiting the marines about the time of Chateau-Thierry.

At the time of entering the army Major Straight was vice-president of the American International Corporation, organized along lines of which he had long been an advocate, namely the association together of important manufacturing, merchandizing, banking and transportation interests in a strong corporation with large resources for investment of American capital abroad in such manner as to create a demand for greater American export trade. He was one of the organizers of the early business of the American International Corporation having charge of its Far Eastern affairs but after the entry of the United States into the war he put business entirely aside.

#### Founded "Asia"

Few persons in New York City have done so much in the interest of the relations of the United States with the Far East than Mr. and Mrs. Straight. They founded and have supported the interesting magazine "Asia," which is the publication of the American Asiatic Association, of which Major Straight was vice-president, and which by a high standard of artistic and literary excellence has brought the atmosphere of the East to the American reading table. Together they made possible the establishment of the "New Republic." Of what they have done for many individuals in the East it is not given to speak.

Major Straight had decided and outspoken opinions on Far Eastern affairs. He was a resolute friend of China and strong defender of Chinese rights but felt that this was not inconsistent with a certain measure of Japanese and American co-operation. This caused him at times to be criticized by extremists, but time vindicated many opinions which he had held. He was a member of many clubs and societies, a keen sportsman and a lover and patron of the arts.

Prior to the entry of the United States into the war he was an earnest sympathizer of the Allied cause. He underwent military training at the first Plattsburg camp in 1915, gaining the rank of lieutenant. While associated the firm of J. P. Morgan & Company he accompanied Mr. Henry P. Davison on a mission to England which resulted in J. P. Morgan & Company becoming the purchasing agents for England and France, the United States through which arrangement a vast munitions business was created in America and the nation's whole industrial strength put at the service of the Allies during the period of neutrality.

Major Straight is survived by his wife and three children.



letter might be slow  
in reaching you and as  
there is a steamer  
tomorrow and I  
want you to know at  
the earliest possible  
moment that my  
thoughts have been  
full of the great loss  
that has come to so  
many of us. I venture  
to send this note in  
addition and enclose  
also ~~the~~<sup>an</sup> article from  
The Japan Advertiser.  
Sincerely,  
Robert H. Pateh

TOKYO CLUB  
TOKYO.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1918.

Dear Mrs. Straight:-

I wrote, as  
well as cabled you, as  
soon as the sad news  
came on the second. I  
tried to say something  
of what I felt in  
sympathy for you and  
in loss of my dear  
friend, I wish I  
could have put my  
thoughts better into words.

The mails are so  
irregular that it  
occurs to me that that



AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Tours, France,  
Dec. 9, 1918.

My dear Mrs. Straight:

As one of the original members of the War Risk expeditionary party directed by your late husband I feel that you will permit me to extend my heartfelt sympathy to you in your great bereavement.

To know Major Straight was to love and admire him. His thoughtfulness for both junior officer and enlisted man endeared him to every member of his party as it endeared him to many thousands of members of the A. E. F. since severing his connections with the War Risk contingent. He was an inspiration for good to all with whom he came in contact and was a high example to all his fellowmen.

In his last promotion America sustains a loss which she can ill afford in these critical times.

Very sincerely yours,

*James G. Rider,*  
Major, U.S.A.

Mrs. Willard D. Straight,  
New York City.

N. Y. Dec 9<sup>th</sup>/1918

Mrs Willard Straight

My Dear Madam

Please accept my sincere sympathy for the sad death of your dear husband. I am deeply grieved for you and your dear children. I hope God will give you strength to bear your great sorrow for the children's sake.

Sincerely Katherine Quinn



December ninth

My dear Mrs Straight

Words are entirely  
inadequate to express  
the deep sense of loss we  
all feel in the death  
of Major Straight. I  
know what a terrible blow  
it has been to you, and  
I should like to express to  
you the sincere sympathy  
I feel. It seems as if  
something had been taken  
out of life which cannot  
be replaced.

It was my  
privilege to be in Paris

the last days and I have  
just returned here. Every-  
one was most kind and  
helpful. It seemed that  
everyone who came in  
contact with the Major  
loved him, and there were  
many evidences of their  
thought and care.

I expect to be re-  
turning to the United States  
about the first of the  
year but if there is any  
way in which I can be  
of service here in the  
meantime I hope you  
will command me.

Sincerely yours.

George Kennick

Captain G. A. Kennick  
War Risk Section  
A. P. O. #417  
American C. F.



the full knowledge and realization  
of the happy days of your  
married life and surrounded by  
devoted friends each one of  
whom will wish to do his little  
share to stand by and comfort  
you in these days of  
grief and unexpected trial.

Please count upon us  
who share with you in your  
grief and who truly appreciated  
Willard's worth.

With affectionate regards  
Ever faithfully yours  
W. A. Rosen

December 9, 1918

[Rosen]

35 West 54th Street

64 WEST FIFTY-SECOND STREET

My dear Dorothy

Words are difficult  
to find in a moment like this.  
I know and I know and feel what  
Willard's loss means to you, and  
what anguish you have had to  
suffer these recent days. We  
had hoped and prayed that he  
might be spared for you and  
your children and for our country  
which rightly expects great  
things from him. I know  
you will have the moral courage  
to surmount this great ordeal in



The memorial which Mrs. Straight  
erected to the memory of Henry Schoellkopf  
at Cornell and as well as the many  
other good deeds which he has done  
will make him always live in the  
hearts of all who knew him.

Please accept my heartfelt sympathy  
for your great loss.

Sincerely yours,  
Paul Schoellkopf

Dec. 9, 1918.

9 December  
1918  
GRACE CHURCH RECTORY  
804 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

My Dear Mr. Straight,  
I wanted

to get in to see  
you this afternoon,  
but I could not  
get away. I  
am sure that  
you know that

[Slattery]



Grace Church  
thought of you  
yesterday, &  
I said a prayer  
"In Memoriam"  
at the close  
of the morning  
service.

I am sending

you the words I  
said at the ser-  
vice on Friday.  
I wanted you to  
have the very words  
I read. I wanted  
to say very much  
more, but I  
felt it would  
be hard for you



if there were many  
words. And you  
knew the praise  
which went up  
from our hearts  
for a life so noble,  
so unselfish, so  
inspiring to us all.

I hope new com-  
fort comes to you every  
day. Very sincerely yours,  
Charles Lewis Patton

#### A Prayer for Patience

**O** GOD, our Father, who bearest with us though we bitterly offend; Grant to us patience with one another, that we may cast away all fretfulness and complaining and whatsoever hinders the course of brotherly kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

#### A Prayer to be Free from Worry

**O** LORD, who hast pity for all our weakness; Put from us worry and all misgiving, that having done our best while it was day, we may, when night cometh, commit ourselves, our tasks, and all we love into thy keeping, so receiving, as from thee, the heavenly gift of sleep; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

Grace Church, New York  
MCM XI

#### To Grace Church

*These verses were sent to the Rector of Grace Church anonymously in May, 1911. They may perhaps express the feeling of others who enter the Church.*

**O** HOUSE of God, which stands so calm and fair,  
Amid the turmoil and the noise and strife!  
Within thy doors are hope and peace and rest;  
Without, the struggle and the pain call'd life.

How wonderful it is to turn aside,  
And kneel before thine altar lost in prayer,  
Yet know that just outside lie tragedy  
And strangely mingled laughter and despair.

Well art thou nam'd, thou stately Church of Grace,  
So calmly standing midst life's wild alarms;  
May we like thee wait trusting in our place,  
May we be folded close in God's own arms.



**A Prayer on Entering Church**

**O** GOD, who makest thyself known in the stillness; Let me feel thy presence in this sacred place; make me to be of the company of brave saints who have worshipped here in spirit and in truth; through the voices of men and the instruments of praise give me to lift my heart to thee; and so, O Lord, purify my life that, going forth into the world, I may go in thy strength and in thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A Prayer for Guidance in Uncertainty**

**A**LMIGHTY God, grant that in times of uncertainty thy Holy Spirit may take from us all selfishness and compromise, and guide us to the choice that is right; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A Prayer for Nearness to Christ**

**A**LMIGHTY God, who hast sent thy Son into the world to be for ever the friend of mankind; Grant to us the consciousness of his presence, that, receiving his power, we may conquer temptations and troubles, and rise with strength to do thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

**A Prayer for the Will to Believe**

**O** GOD, who hast taught us to trust in thee as our loving Father; Open our hearts to share that most daring faith which thou hast revealed to thy servants in all ages, till the littleness of our knowledge is lost in the greatness of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



IN MEMORIAM  
WILLARD STRAIGHT

We have gathered in this quiet church this afternoon to give thanks for a brave man who, in the presence of a supreme need, has taken no thought for his life and has made the most glorious gift which goodness and honour can make for the sake of man and for the sake of God.

Because I am sure that he would not wish to have his name separated from the names of all who have given their lives in this heroic year, I may not dwell upon the thought of him alone. I also know that you who love him have in your own hearts more grateful thoughts of him than can be uttered.

Let us then give thanks for the men of this Nation, who, all their lives long, have

like him, been alert to the call of duty, have gone, as he went, to the ends of the earth to serve the weak and the oppressed, and in wearing the laurels which must be given to unselfish service, have, like him, worn them with modesty, with self-forgetfulness. And especially must we thank God that our Nation had such men to give when the call of the Great War came; for it was our joy that our best stood among the best of all the Nations.

As we think, in this December twilight, of the gallant men whose faces in this life we shall see no more, we feel bereft. But when we lift up our heads and see the light which shines before us, we know that they are alive in the wide spaces of God's universe, and that in the mysteries of unending life their gift for freedom and for righteousness is perpetually offered. There-

fore with them as our unseen leaders we press forward to the inevitable victory.



1918  
S.L.

THE LINCOLN SCHOOL  
OF  
TEACHERS COLLEGE  
646 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK

My dear Mrs. Straight:  
May I send  
my thoughts for you in your  
great hours of sorrow? I speak  
not only for myself but for all  
the teachers of the elementary  
school, as well. Would we could  
be of some service.

Mrs. Harrison says that  
Whitney has been splendid and  
seems to understand.

Sincerely yours,  
Lida Lee Tall

December the ninth.

[12-9-18]

540 East 76<sup>th</sup> St.

My dear Mrs. Straight  
It was with  
deep grief that I learned  
you had been called  
upon to suffer a great  
loss. I am writing  
you because I know what  
a great comfort it is to  
feel that one's friends  
are thinking of one with  
great loving sympathy.  
Assuming you of my interest  
in you & yours I am truly  
Yours truly  
Wm. de F. Tremblay



TWENTY EIGHT EAST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET

Dear Brother

I am sending this  
with a few flowers as a  
token of my deep affection  
for you & my grief at  
your loss.

What a consolation it  
must be to you to think  
of your husband's great  
strength & beauty of character  
such a loss is never lost.

Your Affec.

Dec. 9 -

John Willard

118 EAST FIFTY-SIXTH STREET

Dec 9

Dear Dorothy

You have been so much in my  
thoughts that I feel impelled to  
write you a few lines to express to  
you my deep and sincere sympathy  
in your terrible bereavement. I  
know that Mrs. Willard will also feel deep  
sorrow and regret in the death  
of your brilliant and lovable  
husband. America loses a  
great son and many mourn  
him. I know that words are



so inadequate to express what  
we really feel, but - it may be  
some small comfort - for you to  
know - that his friends admired  
and loved him - and also -  
will miss him -

With deepest sympathy  
Affectionately your friend  
William de R. Hutchinson



4 AND 6 CYLINDER  
TOURING, LANDAUETTE  
AND LIMOUSINE  
PACKARD CARS  
FOR HIRE BY HOUR,  
DAY, WEEK OR MONTH

C. M. AND G. V. WILLIAMSON

SUCCESSORS TO FREDERIC LAUTERBACH

THE PACKARD AUTO RENTING STATION

204 WEST 43RD STREET

ONE DOOR WEST OF BROADWAY

TELEPHONES, 3530 BRYANT

NEW YORK,

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1918

Miss A. T. Bogue  
1130 Fifth Ave.  
N.Y.C.

Dear Miss Bogue:-

Enclosed please find bill for  
Auto Service rendered for November which we will  
ask you to take care of for us at the proper time.

It was with deep regret that we learned of Mr.  
Straight's death for we, with all others who knew him,  
respected him greatly and sincerely hoped he would re-  
cover from his sickness.

Our sympathies are with Mrs. Straight and all  
who had the privilege of Mr. Straight's intimate friendship.

Yours very truly

C. M. & G. V. Williamson



It must be a comfort to  
know what the world  
thinks of Willard & it is  
so sad that he could not  
have continued his  
brilliant career in this  
world, instead of the  
next, which I am sure  
he has already begun.  
All my love & sympathy  
my own dear Dorothy  
from Ann

DEC. 10, 1918.  
26.  
Tuesday  
LENOX  
MASSACHUSETTS

I was so sorry  
dearest Dorothy, not  
to have known about  
the Memorial Service  
as I certainly would  
have remained in  
New York for it. I  
only read of it in  
the paper and it



was too late for  
me to get down in  
time, as there is only  
an 8 o'clock and  
3 o'clock train.  
but I thought of you  
all through it and  
wished I could have  
been there. Mother  
wrote me how beautiful  
and impressive it

was. You do not  
know dearest what  
a wonderful courageous  
person you are and  
how much I admire  
and love you and  
which I could express  
to you all I think  
of you and what I  
feel for you in your  
great sorrow.



a heavy cross  
to bear.

I know so well  
how utterly blank  
These days seem,  
& how impossible  
to realize that we  
must now go on  
alone.

Long ago, before



1115 F. Avenue.  
Coronado. Cal.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec. '18.

Dear Dorothy,

I cannot bear  
to think your  
sorrow; That you  
of all people, who  
are always living  
for others, should  
now have such



I was married,  
I used to hear  
so much of your  
husband, from  
Fairman Dick;  
he was in Kau-  
churia with him,  
& his love & ad-  
- miration were  
boundless; I have  
always thought, just

That one instance, of his  
example & influence on  
Fairman's life. Most sure  
an index of his character.

All my love & sympathy to  
you; please don't bother to  
write; I have thought of you  
so much I had to send this  
line -  
W. affect. Nicolla Bacon



Brittany when you were engaged. I can never forget how he loved and admired you and how he was ever thoughtful of you and your comfort. I know how that continued throughout your life together.

It is a terrible grief that has come to you. You have given your greatest thing for your country. And he lost his life in its service. There is no finer death than that.

May you have every strength from Above to carry you through your affliction

Sincerely yrs,

*Cortlandt I. Bishop*

[Cortlandt Bishop]

15 EAST SIXTY SEVENTH STREET  
4593 PLAZA

Tenth December

My dear Dorothy ;

I have felt so much for you these last days. I know that nothing that I can say or do will bring back what you have lost. It must be however some slight mitigation for you to see in what high esteem your husband was held by every one everywhere. Never have I read more feeling tributed than were paid to his memory. His record is one that you and his children can ever look back upon with pride.

My own relations with Willard are confined to that motor trip we made together in



AMERICAN ASIATIC ASSOCIATION  
627 LEXINGTON AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December 10, 1918.

Dear Mrs. Straight:

I am enclosing a copy of a note received by Mr. Foord from Amos P. Wilder who was Consul General at Shanghai during some of the time Major Straight was in the East.

Yours sincerely,

*Levin D. Froelick*

Mrs. Willard Straight,  
1130 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

*[encl. Froelick 12-10-18]*

COPY

New Haven,  
5 Whitehall

Dear Mr. Foord:

Sorrow in the death of dear Major Straight - a clean, fine, strong soul. It interested me to find that in his early days in Nanking, he left his mark - "We never had anyone like Straight." He knew everybody and no wholesome interest of the place escaped him, native or foreign.

Yours,

(Signed) Amos P. Wilder



but I feel so deeply  
for you, I am so  
very very soon. I  
was all so, overjoyed  
and seemed to cry  
and weep. Only  
wish I could make  
you feel all the love

DEC 19/98  
56 PARK AVENUE

Dearest Dorothy  
I haven't written  
you before though you  
have been constantly  
in my thoughts, for  
I didn't dare to intrude  
on your great sorrow



and sympathy I have for  
you -

We all have lost a future  
leader, & with his wonderful  
gift of constructiveness united  
to his idealism he was  
doubly needed at this critical  
time of our history.

With my arms around  
you in deep affection

Yours ever

Edith Gray.

P.S.

Please don't bother to acknowledge  
this.

Dec. 10. 1914.

1817 H STREET  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. Straight

I hardly know  
what to say in the face  
of such sorrow as you

I have suffered so deeply  
myself that I do not  
attempt to offer you  
consolation. I only want  
to hold on to my hands  
to you.

Faithfully

Constance Gardner.



JUDGE LEARNED HAND'S CHAMBERS

Dear Mrs. Straight

I am much grieved at the death of your husband in the service. Please believe that you have in a very real sense my sympathy and, I hope, my understanding. I have thought of you often since I heard of it, and have tried to realize what it has been to you. Perhaps I got some

intimation of what it would be a year ago when my wife was very desperately sick. At least that experience keeps me ~~with~~ imagination a little.

You have much of him yet to hold, the memory of his courage, his loyalty and his devotion to his country. His record in the war will be a pride to his children, they will have it for a high inheritance and an example. Perhaps that is the best thing he could have given them, firmly emphasized by his sacrifice. I shall always remember the constancy under what I know



must have been trying hard, with  
which he stood by my friends in  
the New Republic, so often against  
what he felt was the better  
course. This was a high  
quality; please believe that I  
valued him for it and  
understood that it cost him  
much.

I think I know that you  
will show fortitude and  
wisdom in your practical. I  
know too that you will keep  
a faith in life and in happiness.  
My belief in your capacity comes  
perhaps from small personal  
acquaintance, but it is absolute.

Sincerely yours  
Crawford

December 10, 1918.

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION OF THE ARMY

Depew, Pa.  
Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1918

Mrs. W. W. Straight  
Old Westbury  
L. S.

Madam.

Mrs. Will and  
I wish to express to  
you our sincere sympathy  
in your bereavement.  
Westbury has lost a man  
that it loved and respected

Sincerely yours  
J. M. Will



France -  
December tenth.

dear Mrs Straight:-

May one who is a stranger to you, but an old friend and comrade of your husband, and your sincere sympathy. In such sad circumstances words are but poor things with which to express the feelings of one's heart; however expressed, they cannot assuage your grief, but I hope you may be strengthened and fortified by them and in the realization that we, who were his comrades, share your loss.

For over ten years - in the Philippines, Washington, New York, and at the Staff College in France - I knew Willard Straight, and to know him was to love him as a friend and admire him as a man. We from whose midst he has gone must seek some consolation in the feeling that he died a Soldier-participant in the greatest Cause history has known. He will live upon the Nation's Honor Roll.

He was a Soldier and a man - a priceless heritage he leaves to you and his children.

Sincerely,  
Harry S. Howland

Willard D. Straight,  
New York.

little, what these days mean to you, because, just as the longed-for peace came, some word also that a very much loved brother & companion had been killed in action in France. These splendid, beautiful souls who have gone, have left to us, who must learn to go on without them, a great responsibility to "carry on" for their sake, that what they have given shall not be in vain.

Dear Mrs. Straight:-  
O'Brien, Webb came to see me yesterday and told me of the great sorrow that has come to you. Words are no comforters, but I do want to send you my deepest sympathy and admiration for the courage with which you are facing your trouble. I can at least make a

NINE EAST SIXTY-NINTH STREET

(12-10-1917)



Forgive me for writing in pencil this way, but I am not yet  
well enough for the dignity of ink -

This needs no reply.

My thoughts & sympathy are with you -

Very sincerely

Mary J. Jameson.

Tuesday.



not already written<sup>3</sup>

I am utterly uncon-

ciled to his going - he

was quite the dearest

friend. Altho for the

past few years our

paths were separate,

that made no difference

in the bond between us.

Conveg. N.Y.

12-10-18

My dear Mrs. Straight

Willard used to say

that my pen was

very facile but it

is not so now. For

what can I write you

that husband has



I want very much to see  
you and to see the children.  
I expect you in New York  
for a few days this week  
and will telephone you.

Please don't think me an  
utter stranger for not  
only I but all my  
family love your husband  
always.

With the  
most affectionate regards,  
I am,

Yours most sincerely  
E. Gray Jewell

My dear Mrs. Straight:

When Herbert first told  
me about the New Republic I was  
very sceptical. I had met Willard  
once, at Charles Norton's, where he and  
Mitchell were discussing Chinese affairs.  
Willard's mastery of detail and his  
disinterestedness left a deep impression  
on me, but when I heard about the  
New Republic it was not so much  
of these qualities that I thought as of  
his extraordinary energy and will  
and decision of character, things that  
nobody could miss, even at that  
first meeting. Could anybody live  
up to the spirit of the generously  
altruistic arrangement which he  
was proposing to make with the  
New Republic's editors? Nobody, it



seemed to me, except possibly some man  
who was not keenly interested in the  
questions the paper would have to talk  
about and take sides on. Least of all  
did it seem likely that Willard, whose  
convictions were obviously so strong, could  
proceed a spirit of tolerance that would  
live through the coming and inevitable  
differences of opinion.

No one knows better than you how  
utterly mistaken this forecast was. I  
mention it because I want to tell you  
that realizing the extent of my mistake,  
that getting to know Willard better and  
seeing his relation to Detroit and the  
rest of us through difficult hours,  
has changed my notions of human  
nature. Never had I suspected that  
one man could make such fighting  
force with such a deep-seated tolerance.  
Several times, as in the Browder's case  
and our President Wilson's reelection,  
Willard put up the stiffest kind of

fight for his side, but always, and immediately  
after the battle, I had a sense of the  
uninjuredness and sportsmanship with which  
he accepted, as if it were a matter of course,  
the terms of the arrangement - unique in  
journalism, so far as I know - that he  
had made with us. You know, I can  
only guess, how many times he has made  
no sign when we said in the paper, on  
less vital occasions, things which his mind  
rejected, or which galled in his back. This  
lesson in tolerance, this proof that tolerance  
and great energy and determination can  
live together, is something I shall never  
forget, and shall always be grateful  
to Willard for giving me.

I wish now that I had told him  
this, for he would have understood what  
I was trying to say, just as I know that  
you will understand.

Yours sincerely,  
Philip Little

December 10th



stay on multiplying their  
fruitless days without  
benefit to mankind  
and without joy to them-  
selves.

Words are nothing to  
a great sorrow. We  
wish that we could  
carry some of your  
terrible burden. I  
will let you know  
how Edith is getting  
on. Perhaps one or  
both of us can help  
some how some day.

Affectionately yours

Charles [Lindley]

Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D.C.

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dorothy

Edith has  
a light case of flu.  
She has not had  
a high temperature  
but her nerves seem  
to be badly tired  
so that a good long  
rest will probably  
be necessary. I have  
an excellent doctor  
and a splendid  
nurse. Vinton is well.



Edith has told me  
of the wonderful letters  
you have had from  
those who loved and  
admired Willard. I  
can't attempt to write  
how heart-broken we  
both are. I wish that  
I could properly express  
the most comforting  
thought to me. Perhaps  
you feel too that  
a man's life on earth  
is not made up  
of so many years but  
of the fullness of his  
days. The things

that count are the instants, the friend-  
ships, the affection and the ability to  
love and take the place of a man  
among men. Mourning Willard's days  
by these standards he lived longer  
and more happily than anyone  
could dare to hope so great was  
his heart and so well his humanity.  
The world is so small that the truly  
great are mixed up and the chance often



President  
MRS. CLARENCE BURNS  
3 West 92nd Street  
Cor. Secretary  
MRS. EMILIE VAN BEIL  
34 Gramercy Park

Treasurer  
MR. FRANK F. HAZARD  
Union Dime Savings Bank  
701 Sixth Avenue  
Accounts Audited by  
NEW YORK AUDIT CO.

### "The Little Mothers" Aid Association

Gives to small daughters of wage-earning mothers lessons in sewing, mending, dressmaking, cooking, laundering, and the hygienic care of the baby and home. It also gives Summer day and week outings; festivals with gifts at Christmas and Easter; maintains day nurseries or kindergartens; includes circulating libraries with mothers' clubs and business girls' clubs.

"Happy-Day House," 236 Second Avenue  
"Loving Arms Day Nursery," 746 Eleventh Avenue

"Pleasant Place," 66 Greenwich Street  
"Sunny Side," 71 South Tenth Street, Brooklyn

NEW YORK, December 10<sup>th</sup> 1918

Mrs Willard D. Straight

Dear Madame:-

The President & Board of Managers  
desire to convey to you their deep sympathy  
in the irreparable loss you have sustained.

The passing of Mr. Straight is felt as  
a public calamity in which all the people  
have a share; but for you, it is beyond  
words. May it bring a little comfort to  
know how truly & warmly, unknown friends  
in numbers condole with you -

With repeated assurances of sympathy

Yours very truly,

Emilie Van Beil

Secy.

Tours, France,

Dec. 10, 1918.

Dear Dorothy;

I'm no doubt Willard's letters gave very  
fully his varied doings in France, but  
since coming back from Paris I'm solaced  
myself with the happy thoughts of our war  
time doings to gether; every bit will  
be precious to you, and may  
piece out some of his own letters.

My own war record will be full of  
him. He found time to hunt me up  
aboard ship when the first convoy of  
veterans was setting sail from Hoboken,  
and spent my last home hour with  
me, full of eagerness to get over and  
into the thick of it; and sent me  
off with your Bon Voyage and  
his and the warm hearted thought  
of fresh reading, and noble boxes of



[12-10-18] [2]

Hubamas.

From that moment he never let me forget his determination to get into the fight as a line officer. It persisted in his letters and messages to Logan and me throughout the next year.

To get over was the first step, and he came with the holidays, and with bells. Logan and I found him at Ave 1718 Chaumont, on our return to lunch one day, surrounded by boxes and bags, full of home gifts, and he full of choicest, gayest news and messages.

After dinner that night ~~we~~ huddled round our amazing bit of a fire he out-lined his plan for starting the Wan Rish machine on its way with the full intent of then turning over to Lindy, and getting to the front with troops.

He broke out with me next cold winter morning for a ride round the scarpest hill of Chaumont, a grand gallop

[12-10-18] [3]

with Bert Williams scampering ahead, or trailing and panting behind, while I with local pride led him down the Marne, and up the Suisse, rousing his thoughts of sketching bits like an ancient chapel under the hill, the old mills on the Suisse, and the Tour d'Haute Feuille, as we wound up in the old walled town, and back to a gay 1718 breakfast with Larry Logan, and de Chaumont before the fire.

Already he had cast ahead and decided to take the hard road through Sangres, the Army Staff Class, to get the military parlance and back ground, but always the goal ahead of the fighting front.

We went up to Paris to -getter, New Year's Eve, and once more talked over the whole show. He was still afraid of committing himself to ~~confirmed~~ stable work, but shortly with Grayson Murphy was full of the coming course.



[12-10-19] [4]

and insisted on my out-lining a course of reading and preparation. When he found ~~there~~ for following I can't imagine, for his plans and organization of the War Risk program space and so successfully that finally in February, the C-C and C of S were so pleased and satisfied with his work, that they cabled to me as to that effect, and turned it over to Lindly. I didn't stop with him in Paris, as General Wood was there and I had gone up to spend the New Year's Day with him. But Willard took me off to his rooms to show me a charming picture, by Larla I think, of which he was very proud and some pictures of the children. Also a collection of war prints he was about to send home.

During January his work brought him to H.A. several times, and once en route to and from the front where he out-lined the War Risk work for the 1st Division,

[12-10-19] [5]

always in high spirits and the best of health. With him and de Chambrun in gayest mood, the year and the prosopopea was worthy of 1718 at its best; when King Filiberto came to town. I should like to have been amongst those present, with those three at the board to gather.

During February, March and April we saw each other frequently. Of course he and Gregory Murphy made a happy family, but a very intensely studious one; and there was no let up till Saturday night when we tried to be together over Sunday, usually at Chaumont.

One famous night after Logan and I had tucked into bed to get warm and read ourselves to sleep, Willard arrived from his clammy cubby hole in an Esquimaux line sleeping suit, sweater and topped off by Logie's dressing gown, and held forth



[12-10-18] [6]

between us on cubbyholes and knigs, and finished by a wonderful sketch of ancient of days in Longres, charmingly telling the story of Sabine and his love and the annals of that ancient fastness, Violet de - one couldn't have touched him. Logie played 'possum about 1 am. but when Willard cut it out, and gave his opinion of such an audience, both the possum and old dog sat up and begged for more. The lovely Longres set on a hill will always mean Willard to me. May a Saturday night we gathered round his mahogany tree there for any and no expense but the good company. Grayson Murphy, Henry Sturgeson, Herbert Parsons, Gordon Johnston, Dorey, Logan de Chambrun, de Marches and such noble warriors always gathered there.

Any other nights Grayson and Willard bespattered glared from a long map table when they fought hard and long on the map.

They were still hard at it when I left for the front in early May, but - took a night off and came up to farewell dinner

[12-10-18] [7]

sending me off as the lucky dog, and begging to be sent for on first chance for him.

I did not see him again until the end, but as always the 1718 touch kept us through letters, Logie, Cheney, George Marvin and every other meeting of old friends. Several times he dropped into my P.C. but by hard luck I was always out. We missed Jim in Champagne and later on in July when I was hard at it on the Europe he tried to get in to me but was held up by the Div. Com. so that night up came his message, a box of cigars when I was out of all smokes, with a lot of cigars for my soldiers which was received and passed round in the 'firing line with cheers.

During August I was out of touch, with the 10th French Army (Mangin) north of Soissons, but was in his neighborhood with George during the fight between the Argonne and Meuse. The first Sunday we were out of the line, I ran over to socially to see him, but he had gone and that same day George saw him at Albi 1718 in Chaumont. I always had the family pride when I met any of his



[12-10-18] [8]

chiefs. General Bjornstudd told me he made the best performance in his class at Langres, while General Wright always spoke of him with particular interest. I shall always think of him with my boyish happy warriors, Bayard of France and Bayard of our cavalry, Sydney of England; Douglas MacArthur and bloody and glorious of our war.

I loved him better than a brother.

Faithfully and Affectionately

Frank McCoy



Prince George Hotel  
Fifth Avenue 628th Street

December 12th - 1918

Dear Mrs. Straight:

Words seem futile, almost an affront, in the face of sorrow so deep.

There is no comfort - unless it lies in the knowledge that others, too, feel that in the cutting off of such a life the world lost something rare



already heard. It will carry  
you through the blackest hours  
ahead, I know, but I wish  
with all my heart that you  
had not them to face.

Sincerely  
Wm. L. Phillips

and greatly needed, and that  
they also wish to cherish and  
further all the fine purposes  
for which it stood. Such  
comfort you surely have—  
and the added sense that  
from a thousand hearts  
there flows out to you, sincere  
and affectionate, a stream  
of sympathy and blessing.

Of your courage we have



these last four years,  
that I think we all  
feel more deeply each  
others' sorrows. I wish  
there were some way  
in which I might help  
a little but as that is  
not possible, my  
sympathy is all I can  
send.

Please, dear Mrs  
Straight, don't answer  
this. I know you  
will have many letters

648 Park Ave  
Westchester  
Dec 10 '18

Dear Mrs Straight -

A few days ago I  
read of your husband's  
death in France and  
have wanted to write  
to you and tell you how  
deeply I sympathize  
with you in this  
great trouble.  
So many have suffered



and just wish to add  
my sympathy to that  
of others.

Sincerely yours

Elizabeth W. McKim

JOHN F. SINCLAIR  
MINNEAPOLIS

My dear Mrs. Straight:—

I have just noticed in the  
Minneapolis Journal of the passing of  
Mr. Straight in Paris and I want  
to take this opportunity to express  
my deepest sympathy to you and your  
family at this trying time.

Ever since I read Mr. Straight's  
position in the 1916 Presidential Campaign  
as published in the New Republic, and <sup>saw</sup>  
his liberal treatment of the attitude of  
that paper when it expressed opposite  
views I've had the greatest admiration  
for him and have watched his career  
with unfailing interest. The world is the  
better because he lived and the unmeasured  
increment of his great influence will go on.

Sincerely John F. Sinclair

Dec 10 - 1918



out in the East - We can  
consequently do of no sym-  
pathy with you in your great  
loss or our one regret is that  
so far away, there is nothing  
we can do to help you in  
your trouble. I only hope it  
is a slight comfort to you  
to think that your husband  
died for his country, for he  
did, just as much as any  
soldier on the field of battle.  
Hoping to see you in very very  
long I remain now as ever

Yours sincerely  
Mary Scott

4, AVENUE MALAKOFF  
TEL: PASSY 13-65

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dorothy

Words mean little at a time  
like this, never the less we  
want you to know how truly  
we feel for you in your sorrow.  
I had not seen much of your  
husband of late years but  
I can never <sup>forget</sup> his kindness to  
me in China just a short  
time before your engagement  
was announced & as you  
perhaps know he & my husband  
had been friends for ages.



met in London but I have  
not forgotten those days.

Please accept my  
condolances which are offered  
with the deepest sincerity  
He was such a splendid  
fellow.

Very sincerely yours  
W. Howard Smith

Copenhagen 10 Dec 1918.

Dear Mrs Straight -

I cannot tell you  
with what regret I have  
just this afternoon learned  
of your husband's death.  
and how sincerely my  
sympathy goes out to  
you in your grief. It  
is many years since we



managers  
of three acts

48 EAST 50TH STREET

My dear Mrs Straight  
At the last  
meeting of the Board  
of Managers of the Three  
Acts a resolution was  
passed expressing the  
sympathy of all the  
managers in the loss  
of your husband

Sincerely yours  
Margaret Gilbert  
Secretary  
December 10<sup>th</sup>



[12-10-18]

1919 California St.

My dear Mrs. Straight:  
I have only  
just heard of your  
great loss, and I know  
only too well of what  
little avail words are  
to bring you any  
comfort at such a time.  
The deaths of my dear  
ones have taught me  
the futility of such



attempts to console.  
But I would like you  
to know how very sorry  
I am that such a  
loss must be yours,  
and to believe me,

Yours in sincerest sympathy,  
Phyllis de Young Tucker.

December tenth.



#2112 Los Angeles Ave.  
Berkeley, California.

My dear Mrs. Straight:-  
We were shocked to read in the  
news-paper this morning of the  
death of your husband, and I  
can not refrain from sending  
a note just to tell you how  
deeply we sympathize with you  
in this great bereavement.  
I saw him in Washington  
shortly before he left for France.



to you well know, he went  
full of enthusiasm, just as  
he went about everything that  
interested him.

He has died in the service of  
his country and that is a  
splendid heritage to leave his  
children.

I shall always remember with  
pleasure many happy evenings  
spent with him - in the Western  
Hills and in your quaint and  
beautiful Chinese home.

Mrs. Williams joins me in  
sympathetic remembrances.

Very sincerely  
L. J. Williams