

Monday Feb. 6, 1967

Dearest Folks, I am taking the advice of Lena and writing a little bit on this letter all through the week. Today is a good day to start. I was over at a dinner party last night at Joe and Mary Spencers' I stayed rather late and Joe would not let me come home by myself. By the time I left there was quite a snow on the ground. Joe and Mary would not allow me to come home by myself. I am certainly being treated like an old and decrepit man. Guess that is what I am. I did not like them to come over with me as they had to walk back through the snow. George Hunsburger was also a guest but he left before I did. When we woke up this morning there was quite a snow on the ground. All of the schools for miles around were closed and were being announced as closed. The police were warning that driving was very hazardous. George and I decided that we had better eat here even though our food stock was very low. I phoned Charlie Burks and asked him to plow me out as soon as the snow stopped. The prediction is that the thermometer will go down to ten tonight. About eleven o'clock George was anxious to get down to his office at the church so he backed his car into my barn (That is what Johnnie McMurray named it and it has stuck) He got out with out any trouble. After I got my lunch I thought that I would try it down to the store and get some food. Had no trouble so I phoned Charlie not to come with his plow.

Here is something that I must get in my letter before I forget it. At Xmas I sent each one of my children and one of my grandchildren a ham. When I saw Virginia the other day she told me that she had not gotten hers. I looked up the receipt yesterday and took it down to the post office. The clerk was not a bit glad to see me. Virginia, he suggested that the ham might have gone to your former address. Wish you would inquire but of course he is making an effort to trace it.

This morning I got our Mother's old diary which she kept most of 1913. Lena and I were talking about this diary when I was out in California. It gave me much comfort to see how she felt during those months we were separated by such a distance. You remember I went out to Memphis the summer of 1913 and supplied the Evergreen Church which has since grown into one of the big Pres. churches of Memphis. It did me good when she recorded getting my letter in which Dr. Crowe, the father of Mack, wrote me that he thought he would be able to get this church for me for the summer. The officers tried to get me to promise that I would go back and finish my course at the seminary and then return as their pastor. How different our lives would have been if I had done so. I went by and took a look at the church building. Evergreen now has a very large Ch. and the Mormons use the old building. Here I have a half a page already when I had intended to write a few lines. But I must quote the last entry of that diary. July 11, 1913 has only this written on the page, "Gr. asked me to marry him and I said I would. We are now engaged." That was the end of the diary but it is not the end our wonderful work together. I must mention in closing for today that something else very important happened on July 11 now a little over three years ago. Mother and I were together over in our little church at Amherst when I pronounced that Graham Gilmer, Jr. and Gloria Miller Pratt were husband and wife. I have just lived in the wonderful home they have established. One thing that I liked much about it was that Gemmie let me help get breakfast and lunch. Yes, life is very wonderful here but it is going to be much more wonderful all through all eternity as we labor together in the work which Christ is now preparing for us. He Himself said, "I go to prepare a place for you."

Friday Feb. 10, 1967

I should have gotten back to this letter several days ago. There is always something to write about and I love to do it. I was getting my lunch just now and a lady asked to speak to George Hunsberger. I told her he was not in. Then she said, "I would like to speak to the lady of the House." I said, "The lady of the house is in Heaven." "I beg your pardon," she said, "I just got your name out of the book." Then she hung up. I wonder what "the Lady of the House" could have told her that I could not?

On Wednesday I went over to The Shamrock Restaurant to take dinner and to meet with our School Board. The purpose of the meeting was to interview a young man by the name of Gilliam, whom we are considering as the head of our school. We talked with him for about two hours. He appears to be a very earnest Christian and to know school work thoroughly. He is getting about \$12,000 in his present work. We did not feel that we could offer him that much, being as I do not know that we have a red cent. He told us that a good part of his income was going into Christian work. Jerry Falwell agreed to let his Church take over part of this work. The motion was made that we offer him \$9,000. I made a motion that we make it \$10,000 and there it stood. We are paying on a piece of property of about 100 acres in one of the best parts of town. I do hope that the Lord will guide us in this work.

Easter and a meeting in the Rivermont Ch. are getting me mightily mixed up in regard to my trip to St. Petersburg, Fla. I finally called William up and we decided that I would fly down on Monday March 27, the day after Easter. I will get back in time for my Sunday service Sunday April 2nd. I do not like to miss