

Dearest Mother.

Your very sweet letter has just come. I am afraid I have at least as much to be guilty of in the matter of writing letters as anyone - if not more. Time travels so very quickly when we travel quickly ourselves, that we seem to be always lagging behind our today when we are in reality treading upon the heels of our tomorrow.

We have now been here at the great Conference of Genoa, for more than one week. In spite of Mr Lloyd George's affirmations that "God is in his Heaven and the Conference is going strong", it is really not going so strong, ~~strongly~~. It was called as an economic conference; but it is of course mainly political. It means to bring Russia back into the family of nations; but Russia doesn't seem very pleased over the abstract terms "peace" etc. It means

also to bring about an agreement among the nations of Europe not to attack each other during a given number of years; but the signing of a special Treaty between Russia and Germany, has upset the morale and confidence of the nations assembled here, and the thing which is most necessary now is to build up, not tear down, confidence.

We are becoming more and more enthusiastic about our trip, and our studies. The whole world knows that great changes have taken place in the social and economic structure of that same world, many movements and tendencies are going forwards, either towards a better or a poorer world. If it is to be better, then men of all nations must understand each other. That, really, is the essential thing. At and I are trying to prepare ourselves for - better understanding. And that necessitates knowing not only our Western Civilization, which, after all is a recent thing, but also other civilizations, mainly that of the East.

Whom we have seen four or five times,
dined & taken tea with, & who
has been very kind to us — men
like Dr. Roberto Assagioli, Italian
psychologist who is very inspiring, & who is
the leader of a center of studies in
Florence where we hope to be able to spend
a month. It would help us immensely
to get a good background for our trip into
the East, & to absorb some of the
inspiration & spiritual feeling with which Doctor
Assagioli is bubbling over.

Both Al & I wish many times that
we could come home immediately — for so
many reasons. If we were to return
at once, our task would be only half
accomplished; whereas, if we wait a few
more months, perhaps we may be in a
position later on in life to be of some
service. America, especially, needs
knowledge & understanding; & it must come
through Americans. The way in which
we can serve will be pointed out to us

There is a spiritual movement in Italy today, which is working for a union of Western with Eastern (Indian) civilizations, taking the best of each, and producing out of the marriage a universal mankind. There are

many thinkers who think that our Western civilization is rapidly degenerating - that it has become utterly bankrupt spiritually -

that a condition of chaos and starvation, with anarchy, will result, and that here

and there across the earth's surface will

remain lights, torches, flaming up, ~~they~~

in spite of the material decadence everywhere

abounding, the light the way onwards

ultimately towards a better life. It is

inspiring to talk to men of this belief,

and to the men whom they believe to be

capable of bearing the torches. We have

met and talked with some - men like

Prof. George D. Heron,

Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip,
National City Bank of New York,

P.S. Did you get
Ender's Safety Razor - in your letter from time to time? I am all out
of them - can't get them here. Many thanks.
CONFERENZA DI GENOVA for several months in advance - thank you also for
I paid my insurance for several months in advance - thank you also for
being so good as to keep it up. See GENOVA able to pay it myself
without having to give it a thought as of these days.

we have no fear. In the meantime,
we must fight constantly the wish
to return, and the knowledge that our
families need us. You and Daddie must
never say or think that you could have done
more for your children than you did!!!! It
is absolutely not true. You have both
been constant sources of the greatest of love
and inspiration, of kindness and
generosity of heart, of self-sacrifice and
Christianity to us all, and the more we
go about the world the more do we appreciate
you. I only wish that I could be
of more direct help to you now; but
I know also that you wish me to
show that I appreciate your affection in
some other way than making money, or
making what society fatuously labels success.
Since I am not married, I am still in
a position to try - with the knowledge
I carry with me always, -

with us always - your understanding
and your great desire to have us
happy and useful.

We shall get along alright - stopping
to work for a month or two if necessary -
but keeping our health, our honour,
and our confidence in a better future
for mankind.

We need understanding -
we ~~are~~ are only arriving ourselves at
a realization of what we must do slowly -
and we need inspiration.

Both I get
from the love and affection of you all.

Marian must finish school - please -
It means so much, and she does not
understand. She must finish in the spirit of
really wanting to learn, to improve her mind
and keep her sweetness of character. I
do hope that you are all in good health - that
you are happy and not worrying - and that
you will prosper sufficiently materially to be
entirely free from care. I send you
my warmest love and affection.

Meloni.