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 are are in reality treading upon the heels of our tomorrows.

We have now been here at the great conference of genova, for more than one week. In spite of \_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ affirmation that “god is in his Heaven and the conference is going strong”, it is really not going so strong. 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 exorbitant terms “offered” her. 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 Russian 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, than men of all nations must understand each other. That, really, is the essential thing \_\_ and I are trying to prepare ourselves for \_\_ better understanding, And that necessitates knowing not only our western civilization, which after are is a recent thing, but also other civilizations, mainly that of the past.

There is a spiritual movement in Italy today, which is working for a union of western with eastern (ordain) 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 ulteily bankrupt spiritually- that a condition of chaos and starvation, with anarchy, will result, and that here and there across the earths surface will remain lights, torches, beaming up in spite of the material decadluce everywhere abounding, to light the way onwards ultimately towards a better life. It is inspiring to talk to men when they believe to be capable of bearing the torches. We have met and talked with some-men like Prof. George D. Herron, Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, former President of the national City Bank of New York, whom we have seen four or five times, dined and taken tea with, and who have been very kind to us-men like Dr. Roberts Assagioli, Italian psychologist who is very inspiring, and 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, and to absorb some of the inspiration and spiritual feeling with which Doctor Assagiolli is bubbling over.

Both Al and 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 and understanding, and it must come through Americans. The way in which we can serve will be pointed out to us 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 daddies 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 constand sources of the greatest of love and inspiration, of kindliness and generosity, of heart, of all \_\_\_\_ 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 thank making money, or making where society fatuously labels success. Since I am not married, I am still in a position to try- with the knowledge and conviction I carry with me always,-you understanding and your great service to have us happy and useful.

We shall get along alright-stopping the work for a month or tow if necessary-but keeping our health, our \_\_\_\_, and our confidence in a better future for mankind. We need understanding-we are only arriving ourselves at a realization of what we must do slowly-and we need improvtion. Booth I get from the love and affection of you all.

Maria 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 nationally to be entirely fee from care. I send you my warmest love and affection-

Melvin.

Same Address

P.S. Did \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Enders safety razon- in your letter from time to time? I am all out of them and cant get them here. Many thanks. I paid my insurance for several month in advance-thank you all for being so good as to help keep it up. Ill be able to pay it myself without have to give it a though one of these days. Mel-