

LOT 3



H. J. Rockwell & Son,  
Proprietors.

1896

HOTEL  
KENMORE

Albany, N.Y. Dec 17 1896

My dear Ralph:—

The deed is done! A charter  
has been procured for a "Lyceum  
Museum of Fine Arts", to be held  
for two years any way, and to  
lapse at that time if the  
Museum has not acquired  
property to the amount of \$25,000.  
This pleases me very much. It  
gives me a lever to work with  
upon the people of Lyceum.  
I wish to raise the amount

within a year, perhaps within  
six months.

There is danger that the  
reporters will get hold of the  
item and announce it as  
news. All precautions have  
been taken to prevent this,  
but it may be done.

I don't regret this for  
three reasons: -

1) The assignment matter is  
not yet cleared up.

2) This may serve the Unionist  
people as a pretext to force me  
out of the department.

3) I hope to announce the  
movement in a grand way about  
January 8th.



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However, we must meet the emergency  
as well as we can.

I shall tell Mr. Kunt to tell  
the credits that the Museum  
is only a hypothesis yet, and  
I think he will trust to his  
very best, to get things through.

If it comes out, tell Mr.  
Davidson & Brown that <sup>whenever</sup> ~~there~~  
is called will be called for  
a prætorian, and that the  
Museum must jump to pull

me away from the Museum  
before the Museum is well  
under way.

As far as a preliminary  
announcement affects the Museum  
I shall manage that as well  
as I can.

I have done the best I could,  
I lost two weeks by my illness.  
The winter here has to wait till  
March 20, for another meeting  
of the Reports, that winter has  
too late. The season winter  
is gone, and I must be  
three months behind hand  
with it.



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Please write me that you think  
it all right which ever way  
it may turn out. Write so  
that I can get your letter  
Saturday, to smile your  
mother, who will be greatly  
disturbed and upset by the  
proposition announcement of  
the Museum.

Our woman! She is getting  
very worn nervous with all  
that has been upon her mind?

Mr. I sometimes fear that  
she will not hold out much  
longer. The strain has been  
very great on her, and for  
so long.

With your & Drednie  
wonder lay yourselves out  
writing each of you a grand  
letter, praising her for her grand  
qualities, especially as shown  
during these last two years.

Let her get your two letters  
by Sunday morning. Tell Drednie  
to eclipse himself this time.  
Ask Helen also to write an  
beautiful letter to your mother.  
Tell Helen that it will do



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This train be especially helpful,  
Tell Theodore & Helen not to  
attend to her for to borrow  
\$100, on your mother's account,  
more to any specific business matter,  
but to praise your mother all  
the ~~can~~ (as a mental tonic);  
Your mother does not pine  
by to relieve, but she sinks,  
is pale, is fainthearted and  
her heart almost stumbles still  
at times, she is getting physical

symptoms of nerve exhaustion,  
This is a most critical time  
with me & your mother, and  
she needs spiritual tonic,  
and letters from you & I would  
aid her to the best of all. Let  
them be words of love, devotion,  
admiration, and everything,  
tell her that you will soon  
have to take care of her  
(if ~~she~~ should die), and all that,  
- say and everything to cheer her up -  
not by moralizing upon the sadness  
of her, but by concrete praise  
of her. I see that this is  
her great need at this time,





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I hope to keep her heart from  
sinking for my two months,  
and then I think there will  
be comparative fun sailing.

Oh kiss your little ones  
and over, Oh! kiss the lives  
of our Frederic!

I hope she has been able to  
come to my rescue this time.  
& I hope it will be the last  
time. I hope to make the  
Museum carry me aft Jan 1<sup>st</sup>,

I wish Mr. Mead would see  
what he ought to do for you, —  
to make you pay \$40 or \$50  
a week, I presume he will make  
it \$30, he satisfied and  
cheerful, whatever he makes it,

In England, when there are  
no schools of architects,  
men pay less prices to get their  
names into the office of leading  
architects, so, cheer up, Ralph!  
No matter how things go, you  
will get your desert some  
time, I think within a year,  
— and I'd advise to, I think,  
I'd advise you to wait



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till Mr Van der Bunt's return  
before he asks for a raise, if  
he makes a splendid record,  
as you did during the Meads  
absence, it will help him.  
Tell Frederic again if you  
think I thought he did a good  
thing when he took a vacation  
before Mr Van der Bunt left.

Over mine, my dear Ralph,  
let me admonish you with respect  
of my ability, during this period

of great strain & get plenty  
of sleep, or you may not hold  
out. It would be a great  
injury to you to have a break  
now, by illness or by a quiet-  
nervous prostration.

Mr. Deaf should know  
how much you have worked  
over time during his absence.  
I am so glad that N.Y. & the  
people praise you so to him  
at his return. You gained a  
great victory!

You are really a remarkable  
young man, but you get qualities  
& begin with, and you have improved  
in opportunities, and you have spirit  
and resoluteness.



WEDGWOOD PHOTOGRAPHIC ALBANY

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Mr. Smith & I cannot go to  
New York now, on account of the  
influenza & because I must be  
in Ipswich. I shall go to  
the Museum work with all  
my might, now that we have  
a charter. Happily I am  
feeling much better and I think  
a turn has taken place in my  
graph. I have taken some  
Kolar today, with good results.  
The weather is fine, and I am

determined to win this battle!

In your letter to me, write  
(what I think is true) that the  
announcement of the Museum,  
if it should come out, will  
help Mr Davidson & Row  
my behalf. The opponents  
can no longer say "Empire is  
doing nothing, it is working  
down, & the old, Ste, Ste."

If they want me they can jump  
and save me from the  
Museum & the University.  
Tell Row about the Charlie,  
and if it does not come out  
in the papers, it will never  
mind. I will increase this



WEEK-PARTICULAR OF ALBANY.

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subject for me & will give  
him assurance to us  
in my behalf, I think  
I have said this one half  
a dozen times already in this  
letter, but that will not  
matter.

God bless you!

Yours truly

W. A. H. H.

[GEORGE F. COMFORT]

Q. S. C. & R. Committee  
a draft, the one of  
chief importance is the  
Archbold, it will give the  
names of the others in  
case I was in error in  
my telegram.