

Holmden, S. N.

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I feel all my old wishes
and desire that these lean
may give place to full and
fruitful ones -

I hope it is not egotistic to hope
that you will be glad to receive this
letter - I remember your

Pierce's kindness with warm
gratitude - My wife joins in
kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

J. K. Holmsted

23 Spring Road,
Hampstead N.W.

Dear Dr. Pierce,

I am writing to tell you, with
deep thankfulness to God, that I
am once more quite well - You
know, I dare say, that after leaving
your care, I attempted at the end
of three months to begin my old
work, & broke down again in about
a fortnight. This is nearly five
years ago. How these years have
passed I cannot tell - they have
been very miserable & barren years.
My dear wife who has been an
angel of patience & faith & hope had
to undertake everything without any
aid from me, & I seemed to myself
as if I resented continued life.
I am now evermore regretting that
I had lived to see the light again -

physically sore from beating
as if I had been beaten - lethargic
free of lassitude - word of indecent
life in news of my own relations with
I rarely communicated with anyone
When I did it was a very dreary
business - But now for about two
months all has changed - By the good
hand of God I am feeling quite well
again, and although in my 71st year
am longing for any service which
may open up for me - It is like
life from the dead. I will give you
a little sketch of what seem to be
contributing causes.

Certain little internal matters wanted
doing in this house, & my wife, who man-
aged everything had arranged with the
landlord to do them in association with
that annual ordeal "Spring cleaning"
workmen were coming in & visits
to friends arranged meanwhile -

On the very morning of our going away,
when it was too late to alter anything
my wife received the news of the death
in America of her only brother, indeed
the only surviving member besides her-
self of her immediate family -
The shock of this & the stimulus it created
to do what I longed for my wife in her
deep sorrow, for her brother & herself had
been devotedly attached & constant
correspondents - coupled with the
most tender & sympathetic loving
kindness of friends - magnificent
weather which continued for weeks,
brilliant sunshine, lovely scenery,
no rain & delightful places of
Spring all round us in Dorset &
Devonshire & Hampshire acted like
magic on me - I seemed to personally
experience a kind of desolating
view - in which all that had been
depressing & morbid & unlovely gave
place to joy & thankfulness & praise.

was brought about. I
cannot at all tell
He has been gradually
improving for some
considerable time,
but the terrible walking
still continued, and
he often had times
of extreme despondency.
He was sometimes
in such distress in
the morning, that the
neighbours next door
could hear his groans
& cries. All this wore
off as the day ^{went} on,
but returned after
the night sleep.

28th of April I had
sad tidings of the
death of my only re-
maining and dearly
beloved brother in
America. He fell very
suddenly for me, and
we went away together
at once on a round
of mail ships to France
by Marseilles & Bordeaux.
He greatly improved
during his voyage,
& seemed most anxious
to cheer & help me. This
I think drew him out
of himself, and he
regained much of
his old cheerfulness,
but said nothing to me,

All we grow is "London Pride".
It is well perhaps to have
this always before us, to tell
us what to avoid.

What a Spring it has been!
We have over three weeks
of uninterrupted brilliant
Sunshine - at Seapoint &
Dorchester - we went
over by steamer one day to
Pembroke to visit the dear
Spence-Watson who had been
there since February. Poor dear
Doctor Spence Watson looked sadly
feeble - Why do such men die?

My wife thanks you for your kind
message & we both thank Mr. Pierce
for hers. Thanks too for your warning
and prescription - "Only lie long enough
and bed becomes a bed of time" says Hood.

23 Denning N?

Hampstead N.W.

19/1/1909

Dear Dr. Pierce,

Many thanks for your
delightful letter - I quite
agree with Stevenson - whether
he seems or not - and among
the "number of things" one of
the most precious is the sym-
pathy of friends - one of my
chief joys just now is to be
once more in touch with my
kind. The world is full
of mystery - but it is quite
worth living in as long as
there are Joshua Ronchies
about. He is a lovely man.

Isn't Lucerne lovely? and
Grindelwald? My wife and
I walked over the Reichenbach
at Meiringen to Grindelwald
years ago - a lovely walk, &
and an old Orpheus was
stuck at the top - who blew
an alpine horn in a divine
way - and the angels came
trooping down in shoals from
the top of the cliffs - but melted
"into air, into thin air" before
they had finished their song.

Have you ever been to Piesen
Wengen? It is in meadows
reached from Wengen station

on the cog & pinion railway
from Lauterbrunnen up the
Wengen alp - It is just
the place for such a party
as yours - The Mitteln alp
which is within an easy
walk - is certainly the
prototype of the Delectable
Mountains.

I am very glad your new
home is so comfortable and
pleasant - Ours is not
half so pleasant as our old
Cambridge home - but it is
close to "The Heath" which covers
a multitude of sins.

And you grow flowers! Happy man.

waking up this week,
though always low &
sighing in the early
morning. One night
he had a bad night
was, and ^{soon after midnight} ~~was~~ ^{with} his screams, ^{but}
it passed all over,
and he has slept.
Quite quietly since.
He goes off like a
child, almost as soon
as he lies down -
I got him to be weighed
one day this week
& his weight is 11 1/2 lbs
in his light summer
clothes. He weighed
12 in his winter
garments, so that I
hope he has not lost much.

It is not unusual
for him to be ~~so~~ ^{so}
the matter is ^{so} ~~so~~
about taking his
Indeed he will do
anything I ask him.
It is just a year
I had to part with
him, and as I ~~come~~
back, I feel I ought
not to be discouraged
or impatient -
What burdens him so
much is the feeling
that he is leading
an empty, useless
life. The problem is
just how to get through
each day easily, &
this seems to him so easy.

Dr. Percy Smith, if
you think that best-
skill I have a feeling
that you would be
better able to gauge his
real condition by a
plain talk with him,
than any stranger could
by one interview. I would
of course place him under

Dr. D. said got chestnut; if you advise
I shall The Smith.
I want another
is Is it safe
for go to buy
The little door.
Some more of
the work.
I am going to
being so much
some. It is all
because I believe
you so much.
I am not at home
at present.

On Friday evening,
I thought my husband
had one or two bad
paroxysms of extreme
nervousness over the
packing etc. He bore
the long journey very
fairly well, & has
been extraordinarily
better since he came.
Yesterday he went
on the top of the train

into the city with Reudel
Harris. & resided in
the Art gallery. In the
afternoon he played
a remarkably good
game of Croquet on
Woodbrooke grounds.
I slept beautifully
both nights. He looks
rather troubled yes-
terday, but perfectly
cheerful this morning.
Still his nervousness
has been so bad
lately (though not
lasting very long) that
I went to Newhall &
to consult Dr. Harey
Wilson about him

Yesterday morning
But the Dr. had
left for his holiday
I will not be back
Sep. 24. - Do you advise
me to see how I
feel on for that time
or do you think I
would be better
for you to have
talked about the future
with him for myself, as
you proposed?
He guessed I was going
to a doctor and im-
plored me not to do
it, saying it was no
use at all. All his
trouble proceeded
from his conscience

Could he be followed
out at home? He is
unquestionably in a
highly nervous condition
& yet he is perfectly
amenable to any
gentle influence brought
to bear upon him. He
is neither in the least
excitable or obstinate.
Of the three names you
mention at Birmingham
I incline to Dr. Macey
Wilson, but I suppose
he or any other physician
would require a more
exact history & diag-
nosis of the case, than
I could give. Would
you give me an intro-
ductory letter to Dr. Wilson

[illegible]

Canada. Then he suddenly
ran down again to
a very low point.
and for three days
could scarcely rouse
himself to interest
in anything, and
he was full of vague
senseless fears.
Still he slept & took
his food, and now
he is a good deal better
again. All is now
arranged for our
going to Chetwynde (then
Lelly Oak) Birmingham
on the 26th. If he bears
this excitement quite
& settles down fairly

well, I do not fear that
is ^{scarcely right} fair for me to ask
you to come. But
we shall not be more
than three or perhaps
four weeks at the
harrier, and I feel
I must have a
specialist's advice
about our next step.
Must we still go on
trying change? or
would it be more
respectful for my
husband if we had
again a home of
our own? Also, is
there any mode of
treatment which

TELEPHONE.
1298 PADDINGTON.

36, QUEEN ANNE STREET,

W.

Sept 28 05

Dear Bedford Perce

I saw Mr. Holman a
few days ago. He is undoubtedly
very depressed & pessimistic
about himself but he sleeps
well & eats well ^{has no constipation.} His wife is
against having any special
nurse at present but she is
going to have a third person
(changed from time to time)
with her to help occupy
him & take him out etc
Of course the prognosis is not
too good at his age but he
seems to have no loss of
memory. He has marked
viciis senilis & his muscles

are flabby but his arteries do
not seem much diseased.
His wife said that the day
before he had been much
brighter as the result of a
visit of some friends. I
rather think they have
been moving about too
long & it would be better
now to settle down somewhere
for the winter. I do not

think he has any active
suicidal feeling. I tried
to cheer him up, said he
must have food or walking
up early when he feels
most distressed & advised him
a tonic. If he gets worse
he would be best under
care again.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely
R Percy Smith

quietly and saying
one fell. That on the
whole he was fairly
grounded, & that I
need not apprehend
serious danger. Dr.
Perry Smith & Dr. Milne
Bramwell whom
I also consulted ^{with}
Dr. Conner. Indeed
he gave me the name,
both thought he would
be much more settled
if we were again
in a home of our own,
and all my personal
friends strongly
urged me to take a
house here, where we

have old family
relations. About
two months ago,
persuaded ^{my} husband
sign a preliminary
agreement for the
house. He did it
quietly & I thought
but. The next morning
he woke in an agony
of terror and distress
at what he had done
& was so excited that
I cancelled the
whole thing. He
seemed relieved, but
a short time after
said to me "You
must not take any
notice of me and my friends

as before, giving
a comfortable
room to himself &
making the nice man
attend to him.
I do
feel as if I could
stand the strain
bringing him up
I did before.
I earnestly trust
it may not be needed,
but if a crisis comes,
want to know if
I can wire to you
& get help. I am quite
alone with him. I should
need the papers filled
in just as before as
it would be a re-
surrection
Yours sincerely
Wm. W. Hudson?

It was impossible to ¹⁸²¹
draw back a second
time and I got his letter
to stay at the lodgings
with him while I
managed the money.
But he has been
very excited till
since he came in
ten days ago. Last
Monday I wired for
Dr. Porey Smith to come
free him, at his
command. was so
thoroughly irrational
& he seemed losing
control of himself.
Dr. S. kindly came, but
my husband was
quieter then, & he died

not think it would
be necessary to
remove him as I
feared. He ordered
two pounds of Veronal
and this gave him
long sleep for two
nights, but I am
afraid he is not
better really. He
sleeps quite fairly
without medicine,
till about 3.30 in
the morning & then
we often have a
very bad time.
But what distresses
me most is that
the melancholy seems

deepening and the
slightest thing
& distresses him
till I have been
to wonder whether
absolute rest &
from the home
surroundings would
not give him a bit
chance of recovery
as it did before.
You know I would
do anything in the
world rather than
part with him, but
if it is absolutely
necessary, & I only
write to ask whether
if it becomes so,
you could release