My dear Jim —

Don't throw a fit —

I have often thought of doing this rash act and really never got at it. So you are becoming a lusty Westerner — Soon be a regular cow-boy or a "Virginian". We have your letters sent on to me in a while and in that way hear how the world is treating you and how you are liking the new life. I am sure it must be fine and you feel better in both mind and body. Rudd doesn't

say much but I think down deep in his heart that you are living. You see he overlooks the great joy he has in possessing a family and forgets you cannot have the fun and the fine cuts too. Which do you think he chose - it must have been the fun —. We had Lib and Esther for a few days and it was awfully nice. The weather behaved itself so we could go about and one day we went out on the trolley to Smiths farm. We went back into the woods and gathered chestnuts. My first experience. Mrs hands were a bit prickly but it was worth it. Lib is quite grown up. I think you would see a great change in her. Then what do you think of our Ann: Another infant for you to be uncle to. Both Ann and Fred have a great time with the little wiggling morsel. I told Ann if Isabelle came up here and put on any New York airs her country cousin would take care that out of her. Bob is a regular boy, free of all kinds of impudence

he minds fairly well and Herbert makes quite a fine father. Spot is in his new house and expects Ross right back. It is really awfully nice and cozy. She has shown good taste in decorating her think. She has talked house for so long I wonder what he will do now. She has another girl on the string just now so she may give the bee. There isn't any thing new or startling here. No one seems very excited over the elections which come off pretty soon now. The newspapers are so free of parliamentary literature there is no space

left to speak about the
barns that have been painted
or the horses that have been
sick. I have just been
writing to Reg. poor old kid
he really must find it
terribly monotonous sometimes.
We are hoping he can
come home for Christmas. It
seems such a long time
since you went away. You
boys are too far distant to
look to our pinks ears. Rudd
is very busy getting the bits
ready for to-morrow so that
sounds like bad time to me.

I am glad you like the book so much and hope you will add pounds to your weight. We are all so well here and have so much to write with the wood.

Budd and the boy join me in love — Your Jean.

Oct. 13th/08
"The Castle"