

June 1st 1921

My dear Cousins

My first out today is
this Effusion - as I enjoy the veranda
at 10 am. on a perfect morning.

I will attempt to describe the Concert
of birds, the Tableau of green in sun &
shadow & the general peaceful
charm of the scenery you know
so well. But I started out
to ask Catherine not to send Ena
the book "The 4 horses of the Apocalypse"
as she so kindly offered to do - as
I find I had got it from London
some months ago, but was hidden
in the library! I am reading
it with interest.

Dora's good letter gave us
the greatest pleasure, & as
Artemus had said - I wish he
"would do so some more." ³!

I wish you were here now - I see
a trifling thing that in our quiet life
has importance for us - only the friendly
visit of a beautiful little bird, a "pink" - which
comes regularly at "Laps" & tea time in the
veranda for the crumbs Eva dispenses - It
comes at her call & has no fear - I do here
as I write. The pigeons at times are its rivals.

I think I mentioned our friend Lewis
Miles Roberts - (of Boston U.S.A) whose dear
little wife is Italian. A wretched cornes-
pondent, he neglects me for many months
& then sends a lengthy downy type-
written, wth Apologies.

Such as one has just come - saying
they want to leave & try a little
place near us in the country - with
a view to buying & settling down
near us. We are looking about
with the hope of finding them.

I may even send you the letter
I refer to for this a Curiosity.
He is a dreamer, an artist in
thought - & a most cultured man.
- Certainly not very practical, I fear,

We have at last a good Cook - & so
far - we believe she is a treasure -
May we not meet wth Chiappinetti.

This certainly a great comfort
for Eva, & how Enjoyable are the
good though simple dishes she
produces. An American Rice pudding
made the Body to host the Stars -
& styles! & daily we have surprises -
for she appreciates the vegetables fresh
from the garden - & the dairy produce
- of which she makes the most.

I am now getting my strength
back steadily, but I must not ex-
pect to be a youngster at my age -
as my habitual activity has led
me to count upon.

Aix fills up, & if need be, come up
here daily for tea - impromptu & other-
wise.

I feel troubled over the
position of things in Silesia - The
Germans & Russia (Bolsheviks) against

The Pales = I fear the legacy of Lloyd George
& Wilson is trouble ahead, & serious.

Perhaps the French Government may act
alone, & in time to save us from wars &
trouble.

Now as to all my W.J.
books (autographing) & the Leslie portrait -
voice my proposition -

I want them to stay in the family -
& if possible essentially at Swingside?
which I believe would agree with your
wishes.

Therefore I propose to leave
them by my will to you - (after Ena & I
have done with them.)?

I will complete the papers &
send you a copy when done.

Very respectfully
Amos Van Hook

June 1-1921
End of letter: wishes portrait & autographed
books to go to Swingside (after Ena)
by his will.