

Crary [ND] 18th November 1904

Dear niece Emma,

Thank you very much for the letter we just received, but brought us the sorrowful news that your brother Petter and his little daughter both were dead, and they followed each other to the grave. It was real sad to read. Death doesn't spare anyone. Soon it is the old man, soon the man at his best age and soon the baby in the cradle which will be taken away from here.

Unfortunately your last letter brought us the sad message that dear mother was gone. She carried us when we were kids, took care of us when we were sick, and comforted us when we were sad. Many times she was working hard by poor circumstances providing the support of all their children. She didn't get the appreciation that she deserved. We are sorry because we didn't do more for her, but now it's too late. Mother is not needed here on the earth any more.

I can see that father is still alive, but is bedridden. Poor father, he has had many hard days since he went blind. Please tell him that I'm thinking of him very often, and excuse us for the late reply of your letter which we received this spring. It was not nice of us to act such careless about that. Regarding our promise of sending money to Mathea Langsethaugen, we haven't sent anything yet, but we'll do now. Enclosed you'll find a check in the amount of NOK 125. It's written out in your father's name. NOK 5 is a tip for you, because you are so clever and don't get tired of writing to us even though you have to wait 6 months for an answer. My brother Christian may have NOK 10. Then NOK 50-60 to my sister and the rest is for my father. This should have been done a long time ago, but we hope you'll get it before Christmas.

I still have some problems with the rheumatism. My fingers are so stiff that I can hardly bend them, but it doesn't hurt as much as before. Last summer Christian and I went to Fargo (about 160 miles (?) from here) at a cure bath for the patients with rheumatism. I was there for two weeks and the cost was 80-90 dollars. For a while I was much better, but soon the pain came back. Today I returned from a trip to Grand Forks (80 miles from here). I went to see a famous doctor, who promised to cure me, but the costs will be 125 dollars inclusive of the medicines, and it will take a long time, at least 6 months, perhaps a year.

Hereby I have to finish. Hoping these words of mine will find you all well.

Lovely greetings from me and my family to you, your parents, your siblings and the rest of the family.

Give the best regards to Matea and father from us.

We wish you a Happy Christmas!

Your devoted aunt Sedsel Dahl