

lieved *my* Alice to be.

“It was arranged that I should only stop at the larger cities, where I should try to build up a wholesale trade with some of the leading houses. My first stop was Cincinnati, and there I received my first letter from Alice since I had left her two days before. It was not like her customary letters and yet I could not find anything about which I might complain. I spent three days at Cincinnati but no more letters reached me. I began to feel worried and when I left for Louisville I was extremely particular that there was no mistake in my new address to which all mail was to be forwarded immediately upon its arrival. Everything is so vividly impressed upon my mind that I remember the smile of the clerk as he handed me two letters, both from the firm, and I asked for another from my native village. No doubt he perceived from my eagerness that I was expecting a letter from my ‘best’.

“At Louisville there was no letter awaiting me as I had hoped and none came while I was there; only two days but it seemed to me an age! A week came and went and I was in St. Louis. There I received a letter; in what haste I broke the seal and—read my doom! That letter which I had been longing for so long politely informed me that our engagement was broken and my hopes were shattered! No reasons were given. My head reeled; I saw the room go round and round, and it seemed to sink from me and take the whole earth with it. Oh, God! it is a punishment for me to go over those few hours. No one can imagine the pain! It is beyond understanding! My whole life became from that moment a vacant wandering with no goal but death and no hopes but the grave!

“I was at my wit’s end, when I looked at the matter, to know what to do and in desperation I wrote to Alice’s father asking for some explanation. His letter was sent to Denver and upon my arrival there I found it awaiting me.