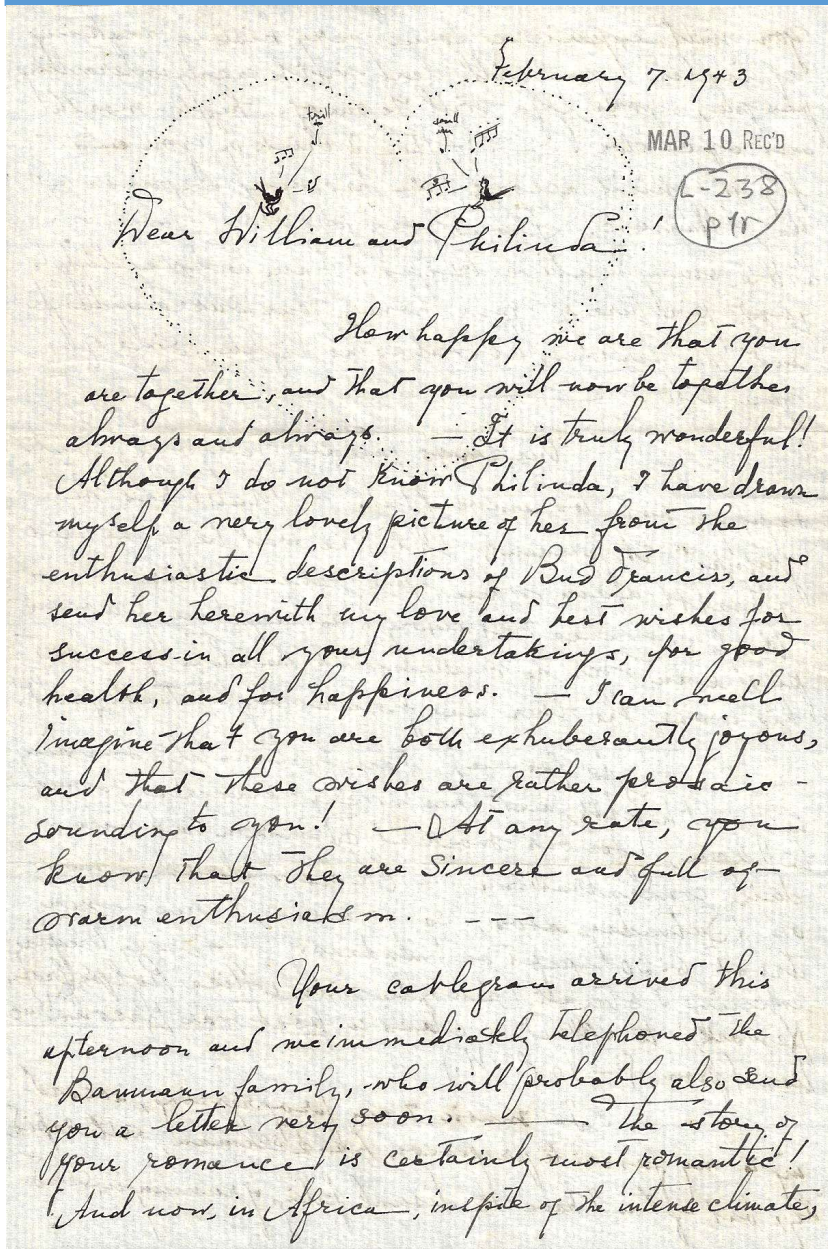


February 7, 1943

Dear William and Philinda!

How happy we are that you are together, and that you will now be together always and always. - It is truly wonderful! Although I do not know Philinda, I have drawn myself a very lovely picture of her from the enthusiastic descriptions of Bud Francis and send her herewith my love and best wishes for success in all your undertakings, for good health, and for happiness. - I can well imagine that you are both exuberantly joyous, and that these wishes are rather prosaic-sounding to you! - At any rate, you know that they are sincere and full of warm enthusiasm. - - -

Your cablegram arrived this afternoon and we immediately telephoned the Bauman family, who will probably also send you a letter very soon. - The story of your romance is certainly most romantic! And now in Africa, inspite of the intense climate,



you will experience some very history-making episodes, you will deal with many interesting people, your life will be one of high worth and of color! — Often I think of you and fly in spirit across the heaving expanse of the Atlantic. From your photos & from my little imaginative trips I have an exceedingly good picture of your home, your surroundings and the serious, as well as the lighter, side of your life. —

Our lives here are very busy, quite happy, not too uneventful. — Mutti has "the grippie" at present, but she will be in the best of health again when you receive this. — Uncle Lawrence has enough to keep him preoccupied even over the weekends at the store; he lost his voice the other day from a slight touch of cold!

As for me, I am fortunately abounding in good health, and this is very necessary for me to have, for our work at Denison requires daily concentration. — We have classes now on Saturdays too, so you see, I arise every day at 6:30 except on Sundays. — Every Tuesday evening I stay at Granville with Alice Rolph, (from Newark,) to attend a class in post-war Reconstruction (from 8 - 10 P.M.)

In music I am progressing, according to my favorite professor, Dr. Eschman, with rapidity, but often I have the dismal feeling of running in sand.

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II. Although my other subjects are a "B" average, I wonder if ever I can make an "A" average like you, William, did! --- It requires extreme application & I am afraid that my mind flits about too much, from international problems to music, to farming, and back to music.

Now, as perhaps you have guessed, I have become a Tri Delta. At first the seeming superficiality of sororities annoyed me, but after the initiation I altered my opinion somewhat and see now that some aspects of sorority-life are very good. (L-238 P 25)

Meredith Newton, the senior who is writing a Concerto for organ and piano and wants me to play it with him in his recital of May 12 is almost finished with his masterpiece. --- Although he is quite nice as a friend, he is also a nuisance (at times,) because he takes me far more seriously than I do him! There is a great need for Diplomacy in such cases!!! ---

Besides practicing Meredith's Concerto with him I am memorizing Mozart's A Major Concerto which is shorter by ten pages than the C Major one I know that is 55 pages long. --- But Mozart is easy to memorize because he wrote so lucidly & in such simple, beautiful melodic patterns. --- Dr. Eschman says that when I learn it perfectly he will let me play it with the orchestra! --- And he also says that I may do the dancing in the ballet of the opera he will give in spring, "The Bartered Bride". --- Aside from this there are no more news from school.

Soon we will be going to the farm again, planting our garden & drinking in the sun! --- How

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I love the Sun! - Of course you have plenty of it!!

From Carl at Staunton Military Academy I have not recently heard, but know that he is in fine health and, although active every minute of his waking hours, is enjoying tremendously his life as a cadet, and as a future officer in the U. S. army. - He wants to be a doctor, and I fervently hope that he can enter the medical corps so that he may pursue such a humanitarian profession. - This summer he will continue his schooling, as will I. - It is highly important to learn as much and as fast as one can.

William, your letter, so interesting and quite long, overjoyed me! Thank you exceedingly. I appreciate genuinely your trouble in sacrificing the time to describe the landscape of Africa and of your life there.

Well, this letter must conclude itself. I am afraid it has been very uninteresting, but I am so hard-pressed for time that all inspiration is stifled. - Tomorrow morning early I must arise with a few little sparrows & start off to school while the stars are yet laughing from their crystalline realms of music in the sky. - When I look at these fiery planets & think that they have traversed with their lights all parts of this earth, then I think with longing & compassion of Africa, of India, of bleeding Europe and of the Eternal. - And so, this thought I send to you both, that with you always will be the transcendent beauty that emanates from the stars, - where God speaks.

With affectionate greetings, your melody,

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Your Melody ♪