

Santa Paula

Jan 3 - 1900

Mr. T. A. Harding:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you, who I have never met; but trust that the circumstance will be thought by you sufficient excuse.

Your daughter Florence has told me that she has written you about me, so of course you already know who I am and why I write.

Although I have not known Florence very long, I love her with all my heart, and I know that she cares for me, but of course it would be unfair to expect to be loved at first as I love her; the fact that she cares a little is making me a very very happy man. I am going to do everything in my power to make her as happy as I now am because of her.



I do not feel as if I were altogether a stranger to you, for I know that Mrs Remick as well as Florence has written to you in regard to me; of course I do not know what she has said, and anything I might say for my self would simply sound like bragging and have no value; but I ask very earnestly that you will have faith in me till I can prove to you that it was not misplaced, and that you will trust Florence to me til then.

I fully realize how much I am asking, and how much it means to you, for I have a sister, and I know how much my mother thinks of her, and how she would feel in a case like this, but at the same time I know how much it means to me, and I await your reply with a great deal of anxiety.

Now standing, I faithfully promise that if you will give me Florence, you shall never have cause to regret it, and that



I will be as tender and true to her as a man  
can be to the woman he loves.

Hoping to hear from you as soon as  
possible, and that you will say yes, I am.  
Yours respectfully,  
Fred. C. Stewart.