

Thurberin

Nov 31-89

My dear wife: I was greatly annoyed yesterday at receiving a letter from Rayton informing me that you had telegraphed him to go on making engagements on the West coast. I knew it was just a trick of his writing to you to telegraph as if the whole world depended on his hearing in an hour, and knew the sole purpose of the trick was to get you to commit yourself before you could hear from me - or consult me. Of course, it annoyed me that you should fall into such an apparent trap - just as it did when he got

got you to telegraph me to go
to Potsdam, as if I was not
competent to decide what I could
do or wished to do in the prem-
ies. Of course he knew and
you knew that I had all the
facts in the matter which ex-
ceed you or he had and it
ought to have been presumed
that I was quite as well a-
ble to decide what I was
able to do. Of course, I saw
through the whole matter
and your telegram had
no more influence in
determining my conduct
than a feather in determining
the direction of the wind.

It did irritate me, however,
for I thought you ought to have
seen through the "trick and in-
formed him that I was quite
able to decide what I could
do or ought to do.

So of course, I was annoyed
yesterday and wrote you
a long scolding letter
which I burned up before
I slept recognizing that it
was nothing that I should
make you feel bad about
I know you mean always
the very best and sweetest
Darling, but if you would
only think how easy it is
to consult me before de-
ciding such matters, affect-

ing me, I am sure you would
be very careful how you
do it. I am human and don't
like to be or seem to be disposed
of like a bale of merchandise.

The half dollar you saved
by neglecting to telegraph to
me was very poor economy
when balanced by the loss of
half a day's work yesterday.

You could have telegraphed
me and I could have wired
him. It would have cost half
a dollar more but I would
rather have lost a hundred
than feel the annoyance it
brought. It does not help this
at all to say I "ought not to
feel so," that I "ought to have con=

fidence" in you, &c, &c. You know
I do feel so and it is better to con-
sider what I would wish you
to do rather than what it is cheap-
est to do.

In this case the result
was that you said one thing
and I another and so gave Day-
ton an advantage besides put-
ting us both in a ridiculous
attitude. I didn't telegraph
for I saw that his sudden
haste was a mere pretence
to get a decision without let-
ting ~~me~~ me know the facts.

You did and now he says
you have authorized him
to go on and make the en-

gagements.

I know you did not mean it so but I have no doubt that your anxiety to have him make more lectures engagements made you send a telegram that might be so construed.

Don't you think you have had experience enough of the unpleasantness resulting from such things, to take the very simple and evident method of presenting them? I don't want to blame you nor scold you but you well know that such things annoy me and may be easily avoided. Don't be troubled or annoyed, only remember

that the trust and confidence I
repose in you by making you
the shiner of all my plans and
purposes instead of making it nec-
essary that I should be effaced
and you act quite alone for me
only makes it the more import-
ant that you should be as
frank with me as I with you.
There is nothing but trouble to be
gained by your trying to act
not as my agent or part-
ner but as my director.

When I cannot be consulted,
it is all right for you to act,
but when I can it would
be better if you consulted
me or at least let me

what you have done that I
may not be put in the humili-
ating position of negotiating
your words.

Now, don't rush off with
any explanation, ~~se~~, to Sluy-
ton. You will only make matters
worse if you do. I am not go-
ing ^{on the present showing} over there, and if he tries
to come back on you for the
expenses of his agent, ~~se~~, which
was what he had in mind when
he set the trap, you will have to
fall back on my refusal. Keep
still now and let him kick
at me. Next time a man wants
you to telegraph acceptance or re-
fusal of a matter he lets
you know nothing about, just

Let him sweat. Stop and think of =
ways who would gain an ease and
whether you know enough about
the matter to decide.

Slayton is like nearly everybody
else — a man who thinks sharp =
ness, indirection, little trickery, is
sagacity. He knew nobody but a
fool would take that trip for what
he had to offer: but "he said to him-
self — if I can get her to say "go ahead",
she will be bound — the judge
will go and if he don't make a
cent I will get 15 prob on
\$600 or \$800 —. This means \$100
clear gain to him made by
just saying "Telegraph at once!"

If he gets a reasonable
list of course we will go but

we will not be bulldozed into
going by any such cheap
trickery.

Yours
A. J. Lawrence

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