

To: Alice Ruth Moore [Dunbar] (1)
Brooklyn, N. Y.

From: Paul Lawrence Dunbar

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Washington, D.C. Jan. 31st 1898

Department.

Dear Little Lady - Bird:-

I have been trying to write to you all morning but haven't had spirit enough. I am still a miserable sick boy, though your two dear letters this morning were like medicine to me.

I was going to write you last night, but Ella came down and stayed three most awful hours and before she left, I was taken violently ill and compelled to go to bed.

We had such a pleasant, quiet homey time, and I did wish for you. I was going to write and tell you all about it as soon

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as I had taken her home and
then I couldn't even take her.

Dearest, how I love to hear you
say or - see you write - that you
love me. It is better than gold
to me, sweeter than the praise of
the world.

I had already written two little
bits for you and to you, a sonnet
and a Rondeau, but since your
name must not be seen in print,
I will write you some thing else
that shall be your very own al-
ways; I do, darling want to take you
into my confidence into my
very heart life. But it does seem
that I am so self centered already,
and talk too much about myself.

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Department of

State, War, and Navy

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D. C.

February 1, 1900

General

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the

proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Yours very truly,

John D. Long

Secretary of War

Washington, D. C.

Enclosed for you are two copies of a report

of the Committee on the General Land Office

relative to the proposed sale of the

lands in the State of Texas.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Yours very truly,

John D. Long

Secretary of War

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The book of verses will be entirely new, gleaned from my magazine pieces and other unpublished things. But you will know all about it, for I expect your hands to help me prepare it for the printer. It will be over before that time.

Dear Kate, I felt so badly I had to stop here Monday. Well Monday night I started, sick as I was and with a good deal of success. But yesterday I was unable to work at all so I came out in the morning and got excused.

I am back on duty again this morning but feeling far from well.

Doctor says I must give up working at night just when I am finishing up the things I ought

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to get out, too.

Now, there are times when I feel that just must break away from every thing and come to you. But think now there are only nine days between us, unless Librarian Young should happen to kick up and refuse to let me go. I wish you would find out some thing about that meeting on the eleventh. I really know nothing about it.

Now, dear I don't think my sickness comes from not drinking, but I do believe a good deal of my weakness does - now don't laugh. I drank since yesterday and am going to continue to take a little stimulant and in the house behind closed doors.

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By the way, Bob and Mollie are both angry at me for never having called. I really must go in and see them.

Dear, the paper is again divinely dancing. I must close.

Write to me often.

Your loving husband

P.S. I answered Tobias' letter and I think he will feel like an ass when he gets it.

There is a poem of mine in the February Murray.

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