

them wanting ⁽²⁾ for me. Well it
was quite a reunion. He has grown
wealthy and thinks that I have
grown famous, so we were each
satisfied with the other. He is now
only his way to South Africa act-
ing as the special representative
of about a dozen firms. Oh,

darling, if we just had one-
tenth of his money, we get married
tomorrow and live happy ever
after. About the lactin clause,
I have no doubt, have you?

You know I just got your
Friday's letter this morning. Fil!
Lady-bird, getting frightened in two
days, why week before last I had
to wait five. Nevertheless I would
not have kept you in suspense
even in revenge for that, if I
had been fit to write. But dar-
ling even though I thought of it,
I could not trust a message of our
love to any other hands know ever
sympathetic. It seems to me

To Alice Ruth Moore (1)
Brooklyn
From Paul L. Dunbar Washington, W.C. Feb. 28/98

Dearest Wife:-

I am back at work again, a
little worn and very nervous, but
beside that none the worse for wear.

I had a very kind letter from
the superintendent, so I needed
not to have come today; but
every day off cut down a fellow's
record so, and I found my color-
"friends" so anxious that I do
not come back until I am en-
tirely well that I concluded
to surprise them a little and
be on hand.

Doc says it may bring on a
relapse, but I ain't sheered, so,
I'm here.

Well I've just stopped here for a
long time and better called down
stairs for a big surprise. One of
the old home boys whom I haven't
seen for twenty years was down

(3)
too sacredly our own in its privacy.

I have just stepped here again and had a long day
dream about you, and it filled me so full that for
awhile I couldn't see my paper for - for - well some-
thing, I don't know what. And you have any fears
as to whether I shall remain true to you or not?
Why, sweetheart wife, it's absurd. There has been
nothing in my life like this love of mine for you,
so pure, so uplifting, so strengthening. Give you up.
No. Not even if you should beg it, now. I would be
reluctant. I would marry you by force and over
though you hated me, I would win you back to your
allegiance by the very force and the desire
of my love for you.

Wife, I never like to get started in a strain
like this, because I always write in a such a
foolish and extravagant way that one is prone
to quote, "head on nose," I do declare, thou dost pro-
tend too much." But I cannot help it. I love
your heart and soul, and now mad that my
pen gets into collusion with my heart and goes
on writing things to you that my head might
not approve. But poor head isn't consulted.

Now this is very foolish, isn't it. Well, burn
it up, but kiss me, my own darling - my wife!

Your Adoring Husband