

arms, fold you to my breast
and kiss you until you forget
all your woes (either in anger
or pleasure, more likely the
former.) Then I should
sit down and hold your
hand (or play with your fingers)
and let you talk to me, and
what better balm does a wom-
an need for all the ills &
wounds of life than just to be
allowed to unburden her
heart to some sympathetic
and attentive listener. I
should be so gentle and good
to you that you couldn't forbear
forgiving me all my shortcom-
ings even to the silliness of
this letter.

To Alice Moore
West Medford, Mass.

From: Paul Dunbar (1)

Washington, D.C. Oct 18th / 1896.

My dear Alice:

You could have told your woes
to more sympathetic listener than
myself. You have been sadly
deceived and mistreated, both girl
and what you need above all
things is a champion. Then
too, you are in bondage and
you need to be emancipated.

You want to be loved and
coddled, but you don't want it
done by a brother-in-law or a
sister, and I really don't sup-
pose that there is a man in
Boston with enough warmth
about him to treat you as
you should be treated.

If I were there, I should
simply take you up in my

Alice Ruth Moore I say that you did propose⁽³⁾
Platonic friendship to me and I don't want you
to dispute me again. Bully your family, all
you want, drink absolute neat like the dissi-
ipated devotee that you are, whenever you please,
but don't, don't use your life monkey with my
statements.

I wanted to get of that little unclay and expres-
sion on you, to relieve myself, for oh my I am
being so nice here, trying to live up to my reput-
ation. Trying to look mysterious, and far away
as if my mind never dwelt on mundane things.
But its hard, and I am convinced that Paul Keenan is a
gigantic "fake." I tried to slip in here quietly, but lo, I
fell among friends and verily I have been
snatched up and carried away in the whirl.
I may be off my feet but I haven't lost my
head, be sure of that (of course I can't lose my
heart, when you have it there with you at West
Mudford. By the way don't let it lie around, it
might get dusty or some one might steal it.)

Now isn't this enough of this? Anyway Joe he is waiting
for me to go driving so I must away - au revoir. Let me
hear from you within the week. either at 609-"7" st n.w. or
2348 "6th" st n.w.

Yours as ever
Paul