

June 22,
1964.

Dear Emily:-

It is very hard to know just how to answer your letter so that there will be no more misinterpretations. Never in this world did I ever say that Betsy was not paying her share of the house expenses! I cannot imagine how you could have thought such a thing, and it was I, Emily, who answered your question. I believe that your illness and the long time since you were here has made our conversation confused in your memory.

It all began when you asked me about B.'s social security. It was then that I told you that I would take over the balance of payments on the house when the insurance money came to the end. This I have done. I believe I repeated this in my letter to you as well as Betsy telling you, but it was from me that you first heard it. Then it was you who asked me if \$80. every other month covered half of the household expenses, and answered "well, no". That was all either of us said on the subject. What has this to do with Betsy's share? ~~Share~~ you must know that my expenses are greater than hers. I never said, and never for an instant have I ever dreamed that she was not doing her share.

I am bewildered that you could have interpreted it that way. So may I add that why should Betsy pay anypart of the telephone bill, for instance, she ~~never~~ uses it, and there are other expenses that fall under household expense, that are my expenses and not hers. I keep a regular set of double entry books on all my accounts. Everything is there. I have separate accnts for household, repairs, improvements, taxes, insurance, etc. etc. so that I have everything accounted for.

It was very evident when I got home that you were upset over something. I thought at first that it must be the purchase of the dishwasher though you assured me that it wasn't. But I still feel I must tell you something I did not want to tell anyone. I am sure that you can understand the necessity to Betsy's morale to want to give it to the household, since she can no

longer help with the work in the kitchen. I let her do it, yes; and she wrote the checks for it. But Emily can you really think that I could let her do this? It was very easy for me to take care of other matters without her knowing it. She forgets when some things are due, and I substituted by taking care of these myself. I do not want her ever to know this, so I ask you please never tell her.

As to Betsy's gifts:- I do not remember three or more years ago and the Christmas I was away. I only am quite sure that any gift to our neighbors came out of the household account, so that a good part of it came out of my check. As to Mrs. Pennington, Betsy sent her some cakes of a very fine soap that had been given to her. I know, ofcourse, that you are making great sacrifices to help Betsy, and I hope that before long we can alleviate much of this. The deal on our sale is not yet complete owing to the fact that we have to get signatures from out of town, but this week will see it through, I am sure. In the meanwhile, as we have some expenses on this, some of which are already paid, we have to sit tight until it is all finished up. Betsy will, I am sure return you the extra money you have sent since March, just as soon as we are all square and sure of where we stand. She tells me too that she asked you to deduct \$50. from the \$165, which so far you have not done. This will come back to you shortly. Insurance policies and taxes have come along, but those are behind now.

There were at least two topics of conversation, while you were here that showed me so plainly how extravagant you think I am, but Emily, it doesn't seem to have occurred to you that perhaps you don't know all the facts? If you did, I assure you that you would not have thought the things you did. I could elucidate on all this, but it seems pointless by letter.

So please Emily, try to have a little more confidence in me. And above all I tell you most earnestly that this letter is written and intended as an effort to show you that you mis understood me, and all I want to do is to relieve your mind of worrying doubts.

From all we have read and seen on the weather charts, I am hoping that the relief of rain has come your way, and also that it has been enough and not too much. So many terrible floods, earthquakes, and eruptions,- it is a very disturbed year weatherwise. We are still very dry, but then June generally is hot and dry. I am only glad that it is possible for you to irrigate, which certainly makes a vast difference. Tell Gerald that I still hope I can show him the Hopi corn fields where the desert Indians raise corn with no sub-moisture. There just isnt any.

I have not shown your letter to Betsy, nor will I, she would be very upset. She would send her love if she knew I was writing, but I am sure you will hear from her shortly.

I hope you are regaining your strength and that the weather has brought you good rain. Certainly some parts of Nebraska have gotten rain, and I hope it was your section.