

341 Westgate
St. Louis 63130
12-28

Dear Pa --

Thank you very much for the check. We divided it among the kids and they were very pleased. You should be hearing from them soon, if you haven't already.

We did indeed get the Antarctic prints -- some of them are on the wall in Anne's room. I thought I wrote you about that but I guess I overlooked it. Intimate Landscapes arrived just before Christmas and is very popular.

About Kent and Tony, the ~~xxxx~~ enclosed letter arrived just after yours. I had written to her about the same time and your letters must have passed like ships in the night. I've written since as well.

One of the odd things about this in many respects odd business is Kent's apparent utter lack of curiosity about what Tony actually did and whether he is still being hounded by creditors, and why. She avoids enlightenment about details as though to be informed would require some action on her part she is not prepared to perform. I've made repeated attempts to find out the nature of Tony's current predicament -- whether he's still in debt, to whom, why, for how much -- but his answers are evasive and Kent has no information at all. She seems to like it that way and I don't know what to do about it. She's not entirely sane herself, in my opinion.

Christmas was very agreeable here. All the kids were home and acting like their old selves -- full of mirth and consideration for one another. Jane's mother was also here. She's been widowed for more than a year and is remarrying in the spring. A man named Howells -- grandson of William Dean, I gather -- who lives in Kittery, in an uncomfortable but handsome F. L. Wright house. Perhaps you or Aline know him. She's very happy and girlish about it.

two

Only dark cloud, really, is Jane's and my separation, but the kids are verr accepting. Jane's spirits seem to be fine -- better than mine, I guess. Twenty-four years is a long time and one acquires a good deal of emotional dependency one ^ever really realized one had. People keep telling me that at some stage in a separation-divorce one inimitably feels angry, but I haven't noticed it in either myself or Jane. Just a bit ^{of} sadness^{ness} (E)

Love to Aline and Pat, and please tell us more about the China trip when you know your itinerary. Would it be possible to have the use of your house on the Island sometime next summer?

Love to all

B.