

Royal May 25th 1925

Dear Walter,

I have just reread your letter of Apr 20th — Thanks very much for the Rand article by B.L.R. I wrote him a few words of congratulation and I believe credited him with sending it. We ought to have done so but I evidently ran it to you. It is a well balanced and well studied tribute but I do wish it had been a little more human shall I say. It is too cold & precise & fails to convey the charm and buoyancy of his Rand's personality when he was at his best and before disease and affliction saddened him.

B.L.R. seldom gets out of the professorial tone — he does it awfully well though & we must be thankful for what we have got. Its very interesting to get the bits you give about the Club. After such a long stay ^{abroad} as ours, one gets so out of touch with things at home, that correspondents seldom realize what pleasure they give when they let fall such choice bits as you weave into your letters.

Keep on doing it — Mrs Fairbanks wrote Blanch that she had seen the death in Milton of a Mrs. Kennedy & wondered if it were our friend — She unfortunately did not investigate further so we are in the dark. Could it be Hal Kennedy's wife? I wrote him in early April but never had no reply. My last letter to you was I believe

on March 29th - just after we had reached Pau. - We stayed there till April 28th almost six weeks (from Mar 20th) and during the whole time it rained almost incessantly. I don't believe we had six days of some sun and not over four without rain. This interfered a good deal with sight seeing yet as I look back I am surprised at how much we got in between showers or even in pouring showers. It was thus we went up to Luz St. Sauveur and to Cant Chaudes & Cant Bonnes. These are valleys running right up into the Pyrenées to passes which lead one into Spain. The snow mountains were beautiful and the cascades and waterfalls at their best and the valleys are so beautiful they are worth seeing in any old weather. We had better luck going to Oloron Ste. Marie and Mauléon and that day took in a number of other most interesting old towns in the Basque Country. Another wonderful drive with Blanches friend & daughter: Mrs Wright and Virginia (of Plymouth) was up another valley to the abbey of Saint Bertin de Comminges. Never have I seen such wonderfully carved stalls & choir screen & altars as in this little out of the way place in the Pyrenées. It dates from 1535 - the church is older. We returned by way of Bagnères de Bigorre and Lourdes where we struck the river going to Pau - the Gave de Pau - and we followed it home through many old towns of Béarn, much the same

2 As in the days of the good King Henri IV — At last on April 18th we left Pau going to Bordeaux. We left with the most glorious view of the mountains that we had at Pau. Before reaching Bordeaux it was raining — the hotel was cold & chilly and not a room to be had with a fire. The steam was out since April 1st and no amount of cold made that fool landlord relight his boiler — So we saw what we could of Bordeaux in a two hour trip in a taxi and the next day went to Brive where we were told by letter that they had a fireplace in every room. The steam of course was out when we got there & a feeble sun warmed us a little but the fireplaces which were there some enough had been stopped up when the steam plant was introduced, so we spent there another chilly night & moved on to Clermont. Here the steam was out since Apr 15th and the chimneys not having been used for ten years were considered unsafe to light a fire in. The next day we drove out to Ruyet & found at last a hotel with steam on & two rooms & bath one of which has a fireplace that "marches" I have a fire in it even today and it is still raining with rare days of sun at intervals. We are paying dearly for the fine sunny days we had in December & January and are beginning to fear that we shall see little

brushing until we get back to America. When it sets in
for rain over here it is not a matter of 3 or 4 days or a
week but it rains right along for a month or more. I
admire the endurance of the French for standing cold & I
envy them but not having been brought up to face it
I suffer & curse most heartily and never if you please
shall I ever attempt a winter again in Europe. There
is no comfort to be had at that time of year except
in exceptional places and one can't stay put happily
anywhere but at home. Bordaux is a beautiful city
and there are fine old churches there as well as parks
museums &c. &c. Brie is headquarters for lots of fasci-
-nating drives to old towns & abbeys so we missed a
good deal by pushing on but we also missed pleurisy
or pneumonia or both which was lucky. We came
to Royat to see if the cure by baths & waters there
would reduce my blood pressure - and it has. When
I reached here it was pretty high 215 high + 120 low
now it is 175 high and 90 low. I have still a few baths
to take and treatment to follow so I may get it
down still further. Meanwhile on my day of rest
which comes every four or five days we make very
fine trips by auto in this wonderful country of

3 Auvergne It is so beautiful that neither words nor photographs can describe it - it must be seen. Naturally it is now at its best with fruit trees blooming in all directions, vineyards sweet with delightful odors, the meadows alive with gay blossoms, the houses with vines creeping all over them & the most abundant clusters of wistaria literally covering them up. Great fields of Hungarian clover make a red blanket against hillsides mustard makes yellow patches and every where on the tremendous hills, deep valleys and gorges, castles & ruins & picturesque little towns clinging to the steepest places imaginable. To the westward the Mt Dore mountains are covered with snow - It is beautiful !!! -

Before long we pack up & go on to Burgundy then Paris about July 1st & we sail for home July 29th in La France.

Good bye my dear Walter, Blanche & I send our love & a bunch of postcards which give but a feeble idea of what we see. Hope you and Miss Brown are well and preparing for Shelburne with high expectations

Affectionately Yours
Emily

Dear Walter. Eunie has told you about all the news, but I'll add a line to fill in the chunks. We feel well repaid for coming to Royal, for Eunie has certainly been benefited & I have had a fine rest. My brother Alan & his family (from Newport) spent ten days with us here on their way north from Italy & we had a great time having them here. We have taken beautiful drives into the mountains & have seen many wonderful things in the little villages. It's quite thrilling to see houses that have been lived in since the XIII century & still going strong! Many towns about here have houses as old as that, & the streets are so narrow you can almost shake hands across them. Do write us soon again & tell us what you are doing & all about the numerous weddings that are taking place.

Before long now we shall be getting ready to sail for home. It seems a long time since we came over.

Please remember me to Miss Brown.

Affectionately yours,

Blanche E. Williams

The Carruths are in Italy. Sail for home June 20.



Williams, Emile Francis. 1925. "Williams, Emile Francis May 25, 1925." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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