

XVIII

Beautiful essay on water
manitaws. More about quilting DC.

DENVER
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COLO



VIA AIR MAIL

Dr. O. D. Christmas
Surgical III

Boston City Hospital

Boston, Massachusetts.

Monday.

Can you stand another essay on the West? The
one reason you have to bear the brunt of so
many is not merely the change in locale - it is
because my sense of time and space ~~also~~ have
been made plastic. I am confused by the
fact there is so little sensation of season. After
I've been concentrating, huddled for a while and I
look up and out into the bright sunshine of
the afternoon, with the brown backs of the mountains
in the background, like a Permanent Fireproof
curtain, I can't remember what month it is, whether
it is spring or winter.

Yesterday I again took the ski train, accompanied
by a very nice girl whom I had talked to slightly.
She's from Leekness, a former Phy. Ed teacher &
turned out to have all the ideas we share about
recreation in general. The train wound out
across the plain or had just started its climb
along the cliffs & gorges when we ground to
a stop. Derailment ahead, we'd have to wait.
95% of the passengers stayed on the train, with
indefatigably reading the multicoloured paper, which
the newspaper trade fills Sunday. ~~with~~ It was
too beautiful for that, so we clambered down
& struck up the mountain - straight up

2.
These open fields, barren, jagged with piles of
pink complement overgrown with green lichen and
stunted, gnarled jack pine and cactus. So warm
we had no jackets - I rolled my sleeves up.
We climbed for nearly a half hour & turned
to look at the plain stretched out below us -
it's so like the ocean, Pan, changeless but
infinitely varied. And then we dropped
down onto the ground - it was the first
time in years, I think, I've lain on the ground.
It's always too wet in Washington. This was
hard, with a wonderful brown smell to it -
and the wind from the mountains passed thro'
the tops of the pines - and I lay, feeling the
hardness of it and watching the intensity of
the sky and wondering at man's initial
mistake of putting first his religion, then himself
under roofs.

After a while we went down - we scoured
a little rabbit on the way and it ran very
fast. Eventually they put the freight back on
the rails & we were off - three hours late
but they held the return train so we could
ski. And so we passed from midsummer to
winter - the hill was, of course, hard
packed since the crowd had been there all
day. The sun was all it by the time we

3.

arrived - it was glass ice. I never worked so
hard in my life - my legs would be tired about
half-way down but I love it that way - when
it requires every ounce of energy & control you
have. I did abominably but I did stay
under control.

Going up on the tow one time I sat by
one boy who was obviously an eustace. He turned
out to be ~~the~~ ^{attending} the Navy language school at Boulder.
I asked him ~~if~~ he didn't find the
country magnificent. It was, he felt, adequate. I
roared inwardly and said, very politely, "You're
from Harvard, aren't you?" He was - class of '40.
One of the nicest things about you is that you
aren't a typical Harvard man.

It invariably happens that when I make
a request a second time our messages cross,
however, it would be helpful to know definitely
when you get that and whether you want me to
be available. Mr. Miller ^{will} ~~would~~ be out here
a week from today & I ~~should~~ ^{will} ~~request~~ ^{request} am
planning to discuss my plans for leaving, the
job with him then. I should let him know
whether I plan to leave right at the beginning
of March or not. I, for one, think it would
be far more sensible to pull out immediately

4.
I finish here - since there's no point to sticking in
with anything new in Washington.

It's foolish for me to say it but please
don't overwork too much -

Therese.

