

Dec 18th 1920.



My dear Cousin Aurora;
No doubt
you think it very strange
that I have not answered
your beautiful and comforting
letter, received shortly after
Papa left us. For months,
in fact ever since that time
I have been unable to assemble
or collect my thoughts enough
to write. For every mention
of his name brings to mind
his awful and intense suffer-
ing, which lasted up till
five minutes before he was
taken and he was conscious

of his intense pain - and none of us
able to lift a hand to help him in
his supreme hour of agony. I have
tried to forget - not my dearly beloved
Father, but those many months and
last hours of suffering and ~~distress~~
course bring it vividly before me.
And I feel we did Papa an awful
injustice not to tell him the
nature of his trouble. Her thought
it best not to + some of the others, but
I felt it was his right to know.
Of course for a long time it was a
much discussed question by most
prominent & learned physicians of
the country, but was finally decided
to be that dreaded disease, cancer.
No outward showing of the disease,
but the awful pain; when the doctors
pronounced the case cured by radium
the ~~major~~ malignancy still in his
blood attached the sciatic nerve in
his left hip. I could not ask him back
to endure such pain. But if ^{depth} it could
have just come to him some less awful
way. He said he could see some good
that had come out his suffering tho. both

of the boys, went into the Church with
him & it brought out such tenderness
and love from the boys to him, they
were like gentle & helpful as angels
of mercy - particularly Ken, who was
with him most.

I do hope cousin Harry is recover-
ed his health in Germany. He little
realize what a wonderful gift health
is until we have so abused it, that
life is a burden.

Cousin Tom sent such a beautiful
tribute to Papa, to be read at the
memorial service.

Loving greetings and sincere good
wishes to you and each member
of your family circle -

Lila Aurora Russell -
The children wanted to decorate the letter
with "Xmas" stickers.