

a bean on the string, but had no idea that she intended to close in with the bargain on so short notice. But as it is better late than never, so perhaps it is also better early than late; and anyway "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Mr. Childs certainly writes a nice, gentlemanly sort of letter. I didn't have to do it in writing, but I don't think I could have put up a better one on the subject myself. I was glad to hear that he was not a Baptist, a Methodist being a shade better. But if Hermine can convince him of the truth and make a Lutheran out of him it will be best of all. When they are married, there will be two birds right at the start, so I guess there will be no doubt about their being children. Inclosed I return the letters. Bonnie and I extend to Hermine our hearty congratulations over her engagements. Tell her to write to us and give us an account of her future man. I suppose her wedding will be a swell affair. Bonnie says it is with her and Jennie Lee, as it was with herself and Meda, one in the Church and one at home.

Whittle writes as though the marriage fever is sort of epidemic down that way. He seems to feel like a fish out of his element. Every girl he goes to see is either married or on the verge of it, leaving him, as it were, all out in the cold. But tell him I said he needn't be in such a stew or rush. Girls are plenty and they grow up as fast as weeds in a garden. And if