

Army & Navy Club,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Walsh,

I don't recall the village of Oradell, although I lived a few weeks at Hackensack and "biked" all over that region ten years ago. I should think it would be good fun to seek you in a canoe, but my canoe is now a sailboat and rather cumbrous for transportation by rail. So if ever I visit you I shall expect you too meet me with yours at Jersey City and we will paddle up together—if there are no mosquitoes. For you must get a canoe—The "Morris" is the best sort. Teach Mrs. Walsh to paddle it and she will rise up and call you blessed.

No, I did not need to be told that chemistry and pharmacy are two things. I don't know how you got the notion that I did, unless from some jocular remark of mine. Or perhaps I could not understand (I can't now) why you should study chemistry, when there are so many better things to study, unless you were going to utilize the knowledge—and a pharmacist ought, I suppose, to be a chemist first of all. Study of literature would have made you something a lot better than a chemist.

I've remained in Washington all summer and find it a good health resort. Next time I go to New York I'll let you see how fat I am.

How the devil did you learn about that book o' mine? I hoped that you'd never know.

With best regards to Mrs. Walsh, I am sincerely yours,
Ambrose Bierce.

November 15, 1906.