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12-2-1898

### Letter from Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) to Joseph Twichell, December 2, 1898

Samuel L. Clemens

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Vienna, Dec. 2/98

Dear Joe -

I will not try to talk about it, it breaks my heart. Ned Bunce was very very near & dear to me, & to all this home-circle of mine; & he was always that, from the beginning.

They have begun to fall! The charm is broken, the others will follow, now. While we are trying to imagine a Hartford without Ned Bunce in it, we are reminded to prepare to imagine a Hartford with the rest gone that made

it Hartford to us & not Water-  
bury or some other mere  
geographical expression  
— & that can arrive before we  
see it again, short as the interval  
may be.

You have our love,  
dear Joe & Harmony, &  
you & Hartford & ourselves  
have our commiseration.

Mark.

We are keeping it from  
the children — & shall, as long  
as we can.