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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 Bruce was very very near to dear to me, I 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 Bruce in it, we are reminded to prepare to imagine a Hartford with the rest gone that made
it Hartford & us & not Waterbury or some other more 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.