

COPY OF LETTER FROM MANUEL PEREZ TO HIS DAUGHTER ELEANOR.

Calle Larco # 756.

Miraflores, Dec. 10th. 1934. ¹⁹³⁴

My dearest daughter Eleanor:

Your letter dated the 14th of March last announcing the sad news of mother's death arrived in due course, but was not handed me until the 5th of this month on account of my recent illness, following the Doctors instructions that no news either good or bad should be given me in my present delicate condition as well as on account of this recent prostration that kept me confined to my bed for nearly sixty days.

When one has been three times during a year at death's door, as I have, any news however bad they may be, does not cause the same moral distress as when one enjoys perfect health. Such has been the case with me in the present calamity. I have been waiting patiently for some time my Makers call. It seems that it has been a race between Mother and myself as to who would be called first, it shall not be long however, before I will join her.

Eddie, my good but selfish brother was in good measure to blame for our separation. Had he had any children of his own he would have never insisted on mother's stay there; but his influence over her was so great that it overcame her desire to come here.

On two occasions I sent Eddie funds for you all to come to Lima, but in his reply confirming my remittances he urged me to come back to New York and that he would hold the money sent to enable me to live until I could procure a situation. He always gave futile excuses such as colds, influenza &c for postponing the date of your sailing to Callao. It seems that both Eddie and Mother ignored the idiosyncrasy of our race; thinking that by insisting on my return I would at last comply with their wishes; but I had made up my mind not to return until my financial condition improved; unfortunately these remained stationary.

Many years ago Mother wrote me that she was about to sailing alone in order to bring me back to the States, but immediately upon receipt of her letter I cabled her as follows: "Welcome if you come with children". This message seems to have caused her discomfiture, as from that date on her correspondence ceased to be so frequent.

I must acknowledge however, that Mother deserves great praise & credit and my eternal gratitude for having taken so many pains in caring and educating you all. God Almighty will reward her for her good deeds.

The life long separation of over forty two years (April 1892) between Mother and myself, was bound to bring eventually fatal consequences. After 13 years of loneliness (1905) I fell in at last with my present companion and now we are in the 30th

year of mortal life.

On account of the delicate condition of my health I hastened to legitimate my five living children by marrying my companion according to the civil and catholic rite; God has granted me this grace before ending my peregrination on earth.

The names and ages of the children are as follows:- 1934

Manuel Jesus	born XXXXXX May 23/1907	age on Dec 1/1934	27 Yrs.	3 Mo
Blanca	" Jan/1/1913	" " "	21 Yrs.	11 Mo
Margarita	" May/1/1914	" " "	20 "	7 "
Emma	" Jun28/1915	" " "	19 "	5 "
Cristina	" Aug11/1919	" " "	15 "	3 "

They are all good and comely children-- Manuel Jesus is working with a contractor of pavements and highways. Blanca has completed primary school and commercial education including stenography and expects to secure a good position shortly. Margarita is in her fifth and last year of high school education and will enter the University to follow the profession of Apothecary. Emma has finished the second year in the high school and is practicing in a primary school in order to obtain her diploma as teacher. Cristina is coursing her second year at the high school and is a very bright intelligent girl. Should you care to have their pictures let me know and I will send them to you. I should love to have all my children and grand children photos. Try and collect them and mail them to me.

For the past three years I have been placed on the retired list of A. & F. Weise S.A. (Successors of Emilio Wagner & Co.) at a reduced salary which barely covers my living expenses and Doctors fees. I hope that with Manuel and Blanca's help I shall be able to balance my living expenses.

I must come to a close as I feel very tired; the least exertion puts me out of breath. It has taken me two days to write this letter. I am also suffering of cataract of my right eye.

Write me at length and tell me how all of you are getting along.

With my love and blessings to you all I am your loving papa.

Manuel