

Louis To Fenya, New York, September 18 Finances, Pogrom Worry

New York 18 September (18 Sept.)

Dear Fenichka!

I received your postcard just now and am answering immediately. It is strange to me, my dear, you ask me not to forget to write and Roma, too. I have to know here what's going on there. I only know that I wrote to him at the address of his employer and have no answer that he left and so I don't know. It's their own fault and they blame me in the end. But why go on about it – that's not the point of our correspondence. Fenichka, I received your photograph and first letter, very happy. You're right, the photo is really something special. I've been telling my friends and relatives all about you

[2]

and now, having seen the photograph, they've all realized and are much in agreement. Now, for example, my brother-in-law is pestering me, saying "write her my regards." And with what joy did he shout as soon as I came in from work "You got a letter from Fenichka!" I am all the more happy and pleased that they all like you. Every last one of them said that must be a nice smart girl, judging by the photo.

Fenichka, dear, I'm terribly worried about what's going on in Kiev now. Here there are nasty rumors about Kiev.¹ The newspapers keep writing that a pogrom is inevitable because of the [Black] Hundreds. In this letter I'm sending you a newspaper article.

[3]

When will this letter be received [?] Until I find out what's going on no end of worrying.

Fenichka, you want to know how I live here, so I wrote you a little about that in the last letter. I'm working, settling in here and the main thing in life is whether there's work. Now the season has begun for us. We work overtime from 5:30 to 8:30 and that counts as a shift and a half, so I'm making pretty good money now. Everyone is surprised that I found work so soon. Many of those who arrive go without work for 2 to 4 months, but thank G. I've managed to find [it], so while I'm getting used to everything I wound up with a 10 dollar a week job. But now I'm working overtime and I'm making

[4]

15 dollars a week. As a beginning, that is, for having just arrived, not too bad. I'm paying my sister back for the Shifscard, besides paying for room and board, but I'm also saving

¹ Possibly he refers to coverage of the blood libel trial in Kiev in 1913 (before and after Mendel Beilis's acquittal, anti-Semitic activity & propaganda intensified).

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up for the future, though I'm only putting aside a little bit now, but I have to pay [her] back for the Shifscard since my trip cost my sister a good deal, but I'm paying her back well. When I arrived I owed her 148 dollars. Now I have paid back 38 of those for the Shifscard since I started working. In a word, Fenichka, I'm settling in not too badly, but I'm worried, now that there's a mess with our parents.

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[Address in upper left corner of page:]

66 E. 101st St.
For Louis Battalin
New York City. America

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