

1028/67/4

CUS417/67.4

(From Miss Jennette Osler to Mrs Osler)

Box 67, Montreal.
January 16, 1871

My very dear Aunt,

You must have been quite busy with all your Christmas work & if I am found West next December the Font will have a double dressing to make up for its unadorned beauty this time. So you & Dydimus & that Chattiepats have been keeping house alone: who made most noise? I know that my Thomas cat pranced around, & that the Fire-hang bird has never mended her dressing-gown yet. I cut out Marian's pink one today on the same pattern, omitting the rent. I hope Uncle's Mission tour was successful & that he has come home without a cold this time. Our love to him & tell him I think boys are getting quite common in the family. Oh for a girl! is our little song. Of all the noisy, violent, rollisking, destructive babies going, Daddy Dum is the wickedest. Nothing that he can pull, tear, break, dash to the ground, or stuff in his mouth is safe with him for a moment. He is goodtempered: that is our blessing; thwart him & he howls with passion & grabs me by the nose & ear-rings, but it is over in a moment & he is a dear old jolly boy at most times, but when I think of what Percy was! - Moloch wakes! farewell. We were glad to hear by Willie's Sunday letter that dear Nellie's baby is improving; he may pick up strength fast under his new diet & then his mother will be more than repaid for all her care. I hope to write to her on my next spare evening. I am very sorry that Mrs Williamson still suffers.

The book you sent never reached me; many thanks for it all the same. I will enquire at the General Delivery place tomorrow & may perhaps hear of it. I shall be very sorry should it be lost. Josh Billings says "Most Post Orfiss is made for the convenience of the public; the Montreal Post Orfiss is not so. Most Post Orfiss is reasonable safe, but the Montreal Post Orfiss is more oncertainer than a young woman's behaviour."

Willie shed the light of his face on us this evening with the English letters to ensure him a double welcome. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to us to have the dear merry fellow coming in & out & to look forward to our Sunday treat. We hear his praises on all sides & from those whose good opinion is hard to win & well worth having. Your Benjamin is pronounced "thoroughly reliable," "as good as he is clever," "the most promising student of the year," and finally, from a learned Professor slow in approbation "a splendid fellow!" Now little Mother, purr over that; we did! Willie says nothing himself & does not put on airs at all. He took me to church last night & we got well drenched in coming home; then frost followed & the milkman had to crawl up the steps like a four-footed beast or a creeping thing. Our love to Carrie and say how sorry we are to hear that she is suffering; tell her that this is a beautiful bracing climate & that change of air will do her good; we all have our hands in for nursing & only wish she would give us a chance. Tell her too that Freddy is going to a party on Tuesday in a beautiful new suit of violet velveteen, ravishing shoes & a white silk necktie! There's grandeur for you! It is made on the pattern of Percy's Christmas suit, which is very pretty. How is Tattie Byrne? I hope she has recovered her health & spirits.

If Hennie is with Carrie please give her my love; & say I would have answered her kind letter had we not been so much occupied. - All our Montreal friends ask for Chattie & send kind messages. We had long Christmas letters from all the Bath party & Leila sent me lovely coloured photographs of all her children. She hopes to get a silver cradle in May; you know her husband is Mayor this year. - Enclosed is a scrap from William Henry's^{*}last.

Marian sends her dear love to all, & with the same from myself,
Believe me,

Your very aff^{te}niece

Jennette Osler

** This Osler's brother - died in India the following year.*