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83 Wellesley St. Toronto  
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My dear Willie

You'll make all reasonable excuses for the old Mother not writing as often as she might to her dearly beloved, some days "the grasshopper is a burden" and then I do as little as possible.

There is a hum of Xmas-tide in the air now--children are on the alert making their little plans and having private converse with the old Santa Claus as to presents etc.--the elderlies are aware that they too must wake up and bestir themselves. I asked the boys the other day if I might be excused making the mince meat and the Xmas pudding but was not allowed to think of such an escape and as I want to give each of the grand-children a small gift there is no time to lose. I shall fall back on books for those who are devoted to them, and for Gwendolyn I want if possible to get "Little Wanderlin" I tried to unearth it last year but it was not to be had in Toronto. Nellie will make enquiries for it next week but I want you to enquire for it at Wanamakers as well for even if I have two copies I shall be able to find devourers for them. It is such a favourite with children.

You will be glad to hear that May is improving I know they send you word, Jennette was here last evening and said they did not think her quite as bright through the day as she had been for two previous days still there was improvement through the week. Gwendolyn is to dine with us tomorrow she is a most amusing child. Hennie has asked to have Herbert and Campbell for part of the holidays then H will go to Annie's. Carrie will have two little girls one of C's and one of Annie's with her the others being at Rosedale. We can take in the two C's and other small chicks with them as Alec will be at Deer Park--of course we shall have room for you and hope you will be able to give us longer than last Xmas. We get little clippings from the papers telling of your removal to Baltimore with a great flourish of trumpets you sent the Montreal paper which I clipped and sent to Chattie, another version was in the Empire. BB is in Ottawa will be away for a fortnight. Carrie uses her crutches with great ease now and her general health is very good. Amy is better and looking the sweetest of sweets. Geortie has been at the Trews at Stratford for the last fortnight. Father you will think much as usual if he keeps as he is till you come.

Now Alec and supper come in and as it is 10 p. m. I think I had better finish my scribble with our best love to you.

Ever your loving Mother  
Ellen Osler.