7-XII-'17.

Mus guya

Dearest Chattie:-

What a blessing to burn down the old house: so you will say when you move into the new one and get it into good order. It must have been a bit of a heart-wrench all the same to see it go up in smoke. Grace will have kept you informed of the life here. We are very desolate at heart, but keeping up the old ways - as there are so many to help and make as happy as possible. She is splendid and has stood the trial so well. It is a great thing to be busy.

'Twill be a sad Xmas for us all with our laddies lost and gone.

Your affectionate brother,

Willie.