

Feb. 24th 1914

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 upon him - & don't let him
 get too interested in "Africa"
 I know he is a little nervous
 of the money, & must order

Dearest Lais,

We were so relieved to hear from you yesterday, & to know you had Mrs D. in charge. She sounds nice & pleasant, & if she is clean as well. & tells the truth you will at least be comfortable for the time being. I enclose a letter from Jessie L. Sharpe about Mrs Kessel - which is sad & makes me feel she must be considerably on a lower plane than last summer. The letter was to Ida Beerewash - & she says Mrs K. must be well past 75. I never knew her age - except that she was older than Jessie. She certainly is in the best place with her only sister & in a perfect climate. I can't think why she sh^d. like to stay within doors. She does not like that at Metis.

I don't want you to be forced into a scrutiny of the unknowns - but if you can look forward at all to the summer it would be of great assistance to us. Aunt F. is calling to know if she can count on us to be at Metis. She wants some one to cling to. I think she fears, had never parted & much W. is always so far away.

Of course I mainly go to Metis to have the children there. & I don't want to compel Clare to have to go. Private - She has given up tempting war opportunities just to help you and I to care for me. I know it does seem to me she sh^d. be free to choose at least that is one thing - but I think Eva w^d. like to count on a few weeks at Metis - later in the summer - but - she sh^d. come wherever I was.

I do think a little sea-side w^d. be good for you, & we w^d. try & make it as much of a holiday as possible. I see you cannot well make a whole summer - but perhaps Mrs C. might consider the sea-side a chance

& you could leave the children with us for
a time when you go home - or send them
on ahead - & come for 2 weeks or so, later
This trip might settle Mrs C. with you till
autumn, & then who knows - In any
case study Mrs C - & find out her real merits
& de. merits - I w^d rather have a clue to
what you can do before talking to her
both Mr & Mrs F. have been ill, & she
Mr. has had rather a hard time running
over to care for Bob, & care for the Sherbrooke
house - apparently Mrs F. finds the children
rather too much for her at St Agathe - &
this tempers her desire to have her
May, having a young baby - will not be
very helpful to her either - No one has in-
quired about the houses this year - but
Clara's former tenants have the refusal of Mrs
& I suppose won't decide sooner than they
have to -

I intend to try & think out this sum-
mer affair as soon as March comes in we
have had plenty to do in Feb. Eva got some
very good reg^s at the sale 1 large Bokkara
of a curious gold & brown colour - really
beautiful - Two smaller ones - & a little one
just like sun-light on the floor - It will
make a lovely foundation I think, she
also, almost by accident - bought a round
mahog. dining table for \$30.00 - It is quite
handsome one - she has two green chairs for
top & bottom of her table - a pretty little round table
& 10 little carved chairs. An umbrella stand
china - rich-colours. a dinner set - very pretty - &
lots of plates - 5 saucers - 12 2 handled cups
cups - 9 10 tea cups - 1 muffin dish - & only 1 platter she
will have to try & supplement that. A quaint
little gilt-mirror, & I forget what else.

The sale lasted 10 days, & the things were most
attractive - we wished we could get things for you
so many nice chairs - sold mostly 2 & 2
sold from 7 to abt 12 dollars each. & that is
very cheap compared to the shops - The arm
dining chairs she got were 9 & 11 - the same pattern

of 18.00 was the price for similar ^{cheap} ones (2) in the old furniture shops = However no doubt more & more people will have to sell their old treasures as the effects of the war crush more heavily upon us. Stephen Leacock who was lecturing upon prices - told us they could not decrease, but would maintain for years to come. This is very discouraging - but doubtless the war loans must be paid off & we must make good all that we have destroyed & wasted in the past = but we are coming to a certain willingness to accept more plain living & less costly clothing. I see people at least considering this. Tho. much gay plumage can still be seen & the new styles or the ghosts of them still occupy a good deal of interest. If we all determined not to talk about clothing, it would make quite an improvement in the atmosphere. It used to make me sick, to hear the girls talk & talk of clothes, & 2nd class play - & what they had for supper - with giggles & awfully & dreadfully & dying of laughter - & being crazy over - that that etc. It did not seem as if they should have been undressed with speech - a bark, or a bark or a mew, would have been quite sufficient all the matter they had to communicate =

Sunday -

Still a very wintry day, though sunny but no thawing - In the afternoon lady & Alice came in. They are house hunting & wanted to see west door (847). The Feds has not yet given us a decided answer as to its intentions. & they are much better than an empty house - but they are only giving us 50.00 per month. We pay almost 20.00 for taxes & have spent a large sum on repairs - putting in a new furnace & taking up & padding under the floor & wainscot of the little room over the porch - etc which cost us well over 100.00 I forget the sum - so that does not leave much income to divide amongst 3 parties - how they say all sects are feeling -

all my cash at present goes into coal - We have
purchased our big supply nearly a month ago &
& we are receiving about a ton a week & it
is \$9.25 a ton - I do think our furnace man is
at last trying to be careful when he sees such
small quantities on hand - but surely we
will not have much more severely cold
weather, tho' March usually is reckoned a
winter month -

Do try & teach Alice verses, & hymns some
of the finest are quite simple to the understanding
you were singing today that one of Muller's
which each verse ends about - God being King
& speaks of the "watchful welders" - I can
well remember that impression dwelling
in my young men, as very tremendous
& I thought of it as sand that grew nothing
& consumed rain & sun, decaying but
yielding nothing - a child's mind has her
great & beautiful thoughts engrained in
its first memories - like a rich mosaic
patrimony - as the base of the superstructure
& if you can talk or read or teach her, at an
certain time it is more impressive & less easily
forgotten & a good quarter of an hour is
enough - think of the verses - & small poems
etc at one a week that 2 or 3 years would
make hers - & you have the gift of the illus-
trative mind - I can give her the meaning
& point these big trees beautiful things
as her daily duty - to Johnnie, & so on - see
your nice soft voice, & with your love
sheltering her - & give her her inheritance
you can never do this later - & you are
a living soul, & have no right to live & not
make her sure her father's God is hers also
Try & make the most of your spare
time, while Mrs D. is with you & I hope
she may stay - I take fresh air not to our
fatigue, & some drives might help.
W. really settled with a
new boarding place. He sh. not hang on
you - I hope will practice regular
by himself - Do get Dr G. to impress this

to work into her little mind & soul, the
great things, that are so simple to a child &
give her the wisdom, that God gives to babes
She will never really forget them & even if she
turn away in the future - bewildered by the
temptations of life - she will turn back to the
old & everlasting - if you root & ground her
in them - She will help & shine along. & be a
guide to him - Let nothing part you from
her now & dear preciousness in these coming
years, it is the most important thing -

Such a lovely little moon - is shining
& I have just finished reading the book you
gave me - It was most interesting & gave
me many little glimpses of Keesler. I got
also the attitude of those students, both
men & women who tried to help & dispel
the gross darkness that hung over the
poor masses - Alas it also made me
to know how much lack of spirituality
there is amongst the clergy & the
people - I trust the War will do much for

both - The scriptures have been freely circulated
amongst them. & have been welcomed -

Dear little Johnnie is well I trust &
this new change in the household - I earnestly
trust will be, the beginning of a really settled
& comfortable era.

We will miss our little guest very
very much, & you will need to handle her gently
at first, as neither nurses or brothers are very
likely to be as considerate, as Grammie & the
Aunts - who all love to play with her. By the
way - I discovered your old doll a few days
ago & Alice is charmed with her, she only
gets her nose & then - & a very much troubled
us - - Eva's doll was also there - can you
remember his name - rather sad, I think
Alice calls the doll g.p. gave her Beach
Blarson - & loves her devotionally

all love

Mollie