

Kidean Clark

Ottawa

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My dear Mother

I fear it is a long  
 time since I wrote last to you,  
 & there is nothing particular to  
 relate even now. Still I suppose  
 you like to hear from the people  
 in this part of the world now &  
 then. I was down in Montreal  
 for a few days about Christmas  
 with Anna. All were quite well  
 at the time of my visit, & comfortable  
 save for the outrageous conduct  
 of the baby, who made it a  
 point to cry nearly all night,  
 keeping its fond parents awake

& generally acting in a diabolical  
 style though well enough & always  
 smiling & happy during the day.  
 Since I left I am sorry to hear  
 that Anna has been rather unwell,  
 but believe she is all right  
 again now, & Florence says

has had quite a rest while  
 Bernard & some of the youngsters  
 have been up at St Andrews  
 for the new year. Florence is a  
 very pleasing child & extremely  
 grateful for any attention shown  
 to her. William & she appear to  
 get along favourably, & he looks  
 well, though generally worked  
 with long hours to his fullest  
 capacity. Here I have been  
 plodding away at last seasons  
 work with all sorts of odd jobs

let in. Have been out to a  
very few drives parties but  
care less & less about deranging  
usual habits for such purposes.

There was a tobogganing & skating  
party given by Mrs Lamsdowne  
at Rideau yesterday afternoon,  
to which I was asked, but as  
the day was extremely cold & I  
had other work on hand, did not  
go. Today the cold weather  
continues. The thermometer being  
away down below zero somewhere,  
though I have been unable to  
learn the precise figure. Parliament  
meets now in about ten days  
& I suppose we shall soon see  
a few new faces about the

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sheets & Club. I wrote to Fother  
some time ago at considerable  
length in answer to some questions  
of his about western rocks & hope  
the letter reached him safely, though,  
owing to your wandering habits  
there appears to be some uncertainty  
about letters finding you. I hope you  
enjoyed Rome & Naples, the last  
direct news I had from you was  
a note from Florence. On the  
way back from the East you  
might suggest to Fother that he  
might find it interesting to take  
the route from Venice (either via Trieste  
or Verona) to Vienna. In the  
Geol. Survey Museum there is by  
far the best collection of fossil  
plants from the Carb. upwards  
that I saw in any of the continental

Mercurius. From there you could  
 go back via Munich to Basle  
 or other point on the upper part  
 of the Rhine. The route I took  
 (though in 'the inverse sense)  
 was to Prague, Leipsic, Dresden  
 Berlin & Cologne, but there is  
 comparatively little to see on that  
 road taking into consideration  
 the distance travelled over.  
 Don't forget to go up the tower of  
 St Mark in Venice first thing.  
 The ascent is very easy if you  
 take time to it. There is a great  
 discussion going on at present  
 in the Toronto papers as to  
 the desirability of giving more  
 money to Toronto University. All  
 the duncery sectarian rounds

are out-yelping at that  
'godless' institution. There  
was a slight flood in Montreal  
a few days ago, the ice gorging  
somewhere & falling up quite  
a number of cellars. No other  
news of special interest. People  
generally appear to be eating  
& drinking, marrying & fixing  
in marriage much as usual.

Yours affectionately  
Tom

George