

S. Swalts.  
Grahamer.

New Year's Day.  
1886.

Mrs. Armstrong.

My dearest Lady Dawson.

I am sure you will be pained to hear that we have been in great trouble. Our darling Baby has been most seriously & dangerously ill - & until today I have been unable to send off a single letter or Card. altho' yours & others were all ready directed in proper time.

Even now I must ~~not~~ not stay to give you particulars. I hope to write more fully to Mr. Hanning but I could not bear you to think you were forgotten.

We thought of you many many times & wished you & yours every possible good wish.

It was so nice: your lovely Remembrance arrived on Remembrance-day morning. Many many thanks for it - it is so Canadian & reminds me freely of many scenes in Montreal. It hangs in the drawing room on one side of the fire-place & the yellow-satin looks so well on the peacock-blue wall.

I must congratulate you too on Mr. Hinington's excellent & good recovery. It was so good of you to send me the paper.

Dear Baby began to improve the day before Remembrance-day. God was very good to us, & gave us a little hope & brightness for that time. He continues better & we hope now all danger is over. But for 9 weeks it has been a hard to hard fight with death, & I do believe but for the devotedness of Nurse & his Father - we should have

lost him. As it is, he is fearfully  
weak & warm & will require the  
greatest care & watching for a long  
time. It has been a fearful ordeal,  
but we cannot dwell much now  
on the past. We are so thankful  
our Heavenly Father has seen fit  
to give him back to us - & so hope-  
-ful for the future.

I need not say what a comfort  
it was to have my Mother with us.  
'Oh dear!' she has been so self-  
-less & good. & taken the entire  
charge of the two children - no  
easy matter. In the weather was  
bad & they had to be in the dining  
-room & as quiet as mice!  
And now Goodnight. & please  
accept much love from both of us

together with every possible good  
wish for the coming year.

Our kindest remembrances to  
Sir John, Eva, & all the rest of  
your circle.

Believe me as ever  
very affectionately yours  
Margaret A. Armstrong.