

MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL

AND

MONTREAL NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

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Mother
June 1921 to
March 1922



Cloister of the Glenwood Mission Inn, Riverside Cal.

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THIS SPACE FOR ADDRESS ONLY

Mrs W. G. Bayfield

106 Valencia Lane

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New York City

THIS SPACE FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Dear children:
we are all starting for
Herrmann for the day
with the Mac Quain
Scottie & Aunt Addie
Dunigan but Ruth & Dad
I hope your vacation has
done a heap for you both
mother

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Van Nuys California
May 3 1921

Dear Wilder and Helen and Babies:

And so soon you will be on your way to America, but not to me!!! I have been so terribly homesick for you all the past few days. I think I need the strong breeze of your "understanding hearts" to give me a little lift. No, I do not actually need you, I suppose, or else you would be here, but I do long for you. The lovely blouse is here, but I have not had time to try it on yet. I mean to do so before I go to bed. I just know it fits beautifully, it looks like it. Oh Helen dear, those little flowers are darling!!! How did you ever do all of that work with all of the things you have to do? How I do thank you for all of those stitches. I want to hug you good and hard, yes I do.

And Wilder, I want to talk to you about Ruth and I want to talk to you about my eczema, hearing etc. The etc. means the horrid pain under my shoulders that bothers me, yet I know it will go away in time. It does not worry me, only sometimes I have to stop doing things a little before I am ready to stop. And yet---bless your heart---I am as strong as can be or I could not do all I am doing now and really enjoying much of the doing. I have to very carefully plan my days because I have hard work deciding, sometimes, the most important thing to be done. I am enjoying having a home, a place of my own. Every one says, in tones of great surprise, "And do you live here all alone, Mrs. Penfield?" If they should stay here a few days they would understand how I do not feel alone.

Saturday morning, about six-thirty I was sitting down to my breakfast after working in the garden a bit, and Bobs came strolling in. "There is nobody up over at my house". Saturday mornings they indulge in a later breakfast as well as on Sundays. So I asked to know if he would not like to eat with me. No second hint was needed. Their oranges are all gone and I had already given him one. But I put on more toast, squeezed the juice of an orange into a glass, put on a glass of milk and passed the Shredded Wheat and the cream pitcher, and brought out the ginger cakes. He ate until he was so full he could hardly navigate. Left a part of a cake to come back for when he could eat it. Sunday he sheepishly slid into the kitchen again just as I was sitting down. Ruth always has lunch with me except on Saturdays and Sundays when the family are all at home. I have dinner with them.

Yesterday Mr. Mac. came down from San Fernando where he is at work to look over some lumber I want to return. I had asked him to have dinner with me when he came down. I thought it would be much more pleasant to have Ruth and Jack eat with us, so I made the table just as pretty as I could with pretty dishes, flowers etc. I had very little but it was all right tasty and I know tasted good to a man who lives

at hotels and restaurants. After we sat down to the table he told us that it was his birthday and he considered he was having a beautiful birthday party. He was seventy-two years old. I was delighted that it should have happened so. Herbert and Mame came in for a little while in the evening. Mr. Hutchcroft still lingers.

Ruth is slowly getting better. I mean she is getting more "pep". She goes to bed immediately after dinner, sometimes before. She sleeps all night. Dreams a great deal, and does not get up until after the children have gone to school. Then she gets her breakfast, takes care of the baby, and washes the dishes. Sometimes she does not even wash her own dishes or sweep the kitchen. The confusion and the dirt makes her discouraged but does not give her the ambition to change things. Yesterday she managed to get a good woman in and the kitchen had a thorough cleaning and with every bit of dirt that disappeared she grew more animated, and last evening and today she has been more like herself. She seems utterly unable to do any constructive planning. The dressmaker comes next week but Ruth has not made a plan as to how things shall be made, or what shall be done. I am getting her to iron a few things when she comes over to lunch and I am ironing. She is willing to do it, wants to do it, but not for long, nor does she want to plan to get the ironing things out and do it. But the extreme listlessness is going and she is getting more animated.

It won't be long now before I can write you and hope to have an answer inside of two weeks! Won't that be fine?

You recall the article on Charlie Chaplin you sent me? it was copied in Living Age. Next Sunday is Mother's Day and I know you will be thinking of me then, as I shall be thinking of you. Oh I do want to see the babies!!! But I am so glad grandmother Kermott is going to see them before many weeks. I do not envy her at all, for I think she deserves to have her arms full with their dear little bodies. Tell me more about your plans-----why this is the last letter I shall direct to England!!!!

It is almost time for dinner and I must stop. I wish you could have some of these Cecile Brunner roses that grow on the big bush in Ruth's yard. Mame likes them better than any of her lovely roses, Mr. Mac. loves them and we have them in abundance in both houses.

The air is full of the odor of orange blossoms and they tell me it comes from San Fernando, ten miles or more away. Ruth has one little tree that has some dozen or more blossoms on I prefer to think it comes from there. I sent down for a dozen tomato plants this afternoon--I have not planted a single vegetable yet. Jack has taken my seeds and planted them and has a lovely garden coming on. I do not get the time to get them in.

Loving you oh so much--

Mother

Blouse fits fine--
Mr. Hutchcroft passed away
very quietly this morning.

Letters sent to Barter and Miss North at Hudson will reach them all right. Miss North was there the last I heard. I do not know any other particulars about Barter's trouble than what I wrote. You have doubtless received Ruth's letter about the booties by this time.
Don't forget to date your letters.

14233 Valerio St.
Van Nuys California
May 22- 1921.

My dear children:

Such an exciting busy time it is with you
right now! - Three days more and you sail -
and I am writing you a greeting to meet you
at the landing of your boat in New York -
I shall not send it immediately, of course, but
the days are so full I do not want to leave it
all to the last minute -

"It never rains in California in May!" - Two weeks
ago we had a furious rain that lasted two
days - Thunder, lightning, hail, and finally
cyclonic winds that went thru the Wilshire
district in L.A. (wealthy district) and unroofed
seven houses. It began to rain again last

Thursday evening and has kept it up ever
since - now Sunday noon, it is still raining
as though it meant to keep it up for a
week. My flower bed over the cesspool
has mostly disappeared. A great hole like a
deep cellar with two alleys leading to it -
show the size of the cess pool, and almost
its depth, and the line of trenches for the
sewer pipes - on the brick canmas and

This is so long I wonder when you will have time to read it - Read how all through
it: work - gals! - Jack will teach 27 weeks summer school - Holly would Ruth is looking
well - Betty gained 1 1/4 lbs. last week! He weighs 12 lbs. now and has lost 1/2 lb. - Crying
now about - he is getting
around 5
in.

Chrysanthemums are looking over in surprise
to see when their companions have gone -
and I am sure the stock and scabiosa
are trembling in their fastened-roots for
fear their turn will come next - The
cantorbung bells and gillardias are going
on the safety line and growing as fast as
possible in order to see what had happened -

The Jiminas and Calliopsis occupying a balcony
seat, as it were, next the house are interested
spectators - The other two lines of Chrysanthemums
farther away, the row of raspberries, Logan
and blackberries, and the still farther row
of holly hocks are growing without any seeming
knowledge of the catastrophe at the South of
them - even a part of the fern bed at the
West, being over the sewer pipe line will
have to be replanted!!

Another session of sewing is ended - From
Monday until Thursday afternoon we worked on
Mamas' things - Made a white-dotted Swiss with
plain double ruffles (three rows) and long sash with the
double ruffle all around it - for Jean and a plain

2 green and white striped muslin with for her - a blue
sort of muslin with sash, collar & cuffs bound with
& pinkish-red organdy for Pat - a pink crape
house dress with sash, collar & cuffs bound
with black for Mame and two suits for
Ford and four suits for Bert - new all
made in the four days -

Thursday ev. Jack took Aunt-Elizabeth and
Mrs Eastwood and home and me to Cousin
Louise - I spent the night there and in the
morning went with her to the Friday Morning
club and heard Aline Durr Miller in a bit
of Autobiography - she read a scene from her new
story that will come out in the 1st of next
month. The Y.W.C.A. are putting through a drive
for \$100,000 and we went to their headquarters the
Blue Triangle for lunch - I sat at the Executive table and
it was certainly interesting to see how the thing was being
managed - Cousin Louise is "high up in Council"
and so I had them leave me, when they started
out for calls at Graumann's - I did not recall
what was on the screen but it is near the
Station and it was raining - Fatty Arbuckle in
the Travelling Salesman - I had seen it before

But - the music is always good and the
program always good - I could have
gone home but - Herbert had promised
to take me home from Hollywood and told
me not to come before five - I reached his
office at 5:10 "Ch. Mr. Penfield went home a
long time ago" l. Humph - Well, I turned the
four blocks I must go to get the Van Keys car
must have just missed it - I did not have the
schedule so dared not leave my corner - I stood
there in the rain, partly sheltered by the roof for one
full hour - When I reached Palms St. it was
still raining - and the water was galloping across
the road more than ankle deep - One of the
"bachelors" who lives across the street from me got
off the car at the same time - We stood there not
knowing what to do when a good Samaritan
who was on his way to town saw our trouble - came
to our assistance and took us in his car and
brought us home - Bless him, I say - I have not
seen Herbert - I wonder if he ever has ^{recalled} ~~wanted~~ the
bad - that he gave me the slip! -

As you see my Corona is mine no longer - Will
leave Camp Lewis the ^{12th} of June and Uncle Sam's
property had to be returned - They are going to Palo Alto
in the Dodge - Hope to be there in time for the opening of

the summer being June 21st - They are looking forward to the summer with a great deal of trepidation will say "sometimes we think of the trip with a feeling of pleasure - but sometimes we have a sort of lonesome feeling - we saw some Cyprus go by the other day and their mode of living did not seem at all attractive to me." He does not know what is ahead of him, but knows if he is going to Utah in California he must have a degree earned - stands back of him as financier if he needs help.

When I get another typewriter I think I shall buy and get an L.C. Smith - I like it better than a Corona - Perhaps a second hand one may prove itself - Don't worry about my not having one for you read it more than I -

Helen I wore my new bloom in to L.C. and Cousin Louie thought I had bought it at some specialty shop - she, as others, admire it very much. So, I thank you again, dear daughter - Mrs Castwood put about a half hours work on it - changing the snaps on the velvet straps and fitting in a collar of my Dushers & Parrot - Law - I know you will be glad I am wearing that with it - she thought you were a wonder. I told her you were -

Tuesday evening May 24 -

You sail tomorrow, and oh how busy you are tonight! -
I am sending this letter tomorrow and on the envelope
I have put Mrs. Kemott's name and address so that if
anything should happen that it is not delivered to you
it will go to her and you will get it sooner than
if returned here.

Yesterday it was cloudy and threatening so I worked all
morning in the garden transplanting some of the dis-
organized plants. It is still threatening altho it has not
rained since Sunday night.

Bobby put on some red stockings that had been re-footed with
black and went to S.S. The black showed above his shoes. A
boy said "oh look at the stockings!" - "What did you say Bob?"
hit him and he did not say any more. - The Frohman
class was told to prepare a talk on the worth of forests - the
best one would be chosen to give the talk in Assembly before
the whole school. Elizabeth said she did not believe she would
try very hard for it would frighten her to death to give the
public talk. She looked up the subject however and when
she came home she said very sleepily "I was chosen - the
class voted on whom was the best and she received a very
large majority of the vote. She gives it Friday - Elizabeth
was playing on the piano and Margaret & Faith were dancing -
Ruth came in and watched them - "What a pretty dance, girls -
did you learn it in school?" - shrieks of laughter from the girls -
Faith had invented it. She is full of merriment and grace - most
feminine. Loves to cook, to sew, to adorn her pretty person too -
I had sent a big washing today and in the midst of it the sun
blew out and Ruth had to go to town for help. Several delays
made it four o'clock before I was through. I am going to
read & rest. Good night. And oh how I mail when you for
dear chitchin - Mother -

May 29-1924.
San Diego - California

Dear Wilder:-

For I suppose, if this goes to Boston you will be there without Helen. I mean to send her a letter to Richland Center, if I can, although she will not really miss it - if I do not. Just getting home and with her mother after so long a separation how much they will have to talk about! And how proud Helen will be to show off the two darling babies!

You think my being lonesome for you has the background of financial worry? - The background is there all right; I suppose but I do not think my - need of you and yours would be satisfied even if the hour was paid for and things going well financially with all of you. We all seem to have

our financial worries, do we not! - Will you do some errands for me in Boston? - Please get for me Mary Burrows's

Address - Give my love to the Halls -
Mrs Hall and Clarissa - Francis & Priscilla.
Give greetings to the boys - I did not meet
the youngest one - Give my very
best love to Abby and tell her I really
am not as unappreciative as I seem to be.
Give my love to Mrs Hunt - I owe her
a letter too - but is there any one I do not owe
Remember me kindly to the Finneys especially
to Mrs Finney if you get into touch with them.
Some way I feel that you will see them - But
most of all I want the address of Mrs
Blanchard. I have tried to get it and failed.
I have never paid the postage on the sweaters
she brot home & sent to Ruth. They came while
Ruth was in camp and the children never noticed
how many stamps it took. Tell me about my
one I like them! How is Mr Hall? How is
Vickery? - I know Priscilla is as usual - and winning
as ever. And Abby? How is she looking and what

of her work? What-are Mary and Elizabeth doing? Mary said once she was not going to live her life without-children- and she knew just-what-steps she was going to take to have a home of her own and children- when I saw this clipping in the Atlantic- I just-wondered It-is a darling girl who ever she was who put-in that advertisement- And so is Mary, you know!

Dear little Wilder had to find a companion who could keep up with him- The Jersey playmate is most-interesting- But-never mind, in a year or two Ruth Mary will lead him a race-

It-seems so strange that-out- here we always say Ruth Mary - you say Ruthie-a name our Ruth always objected to - But-put-in Ruth

Mary in your letters sometimes - I name said very pathetically - "I like to pretend the Mary is a little for me." Ruth has two namesches - you have three - but-Name has none - don't-you-see? Ruth Mary is such a pretty combination.

They call Bert "Derk" - or "Dearow". He is such a tiny little fellow. Small face, twinkling eyes - a small bundle of big mischief. He seems fully a year younger than Wilder. He won't be called anything but Dearow. "Dearow what?" - "Dearow Herbert" is his insisted - answer -

I am sorry you had the long anxious wait before the money came to you. - But think he won't worry, but there cannot help have been much anxiety -

My border of flowers along the driveway is getting quite to look like something. - Shasta daisies are so white, Coreopsis so beautifully gold and the Delphinium is well with them - The Calliopris + Jiminas and Carnes are coming on ready to feel it in later. The potatoes, the volucularis the food-lane, as well as the main crop look fine - all in bloom now. I dug up a little of them for lunch last week - pretty good ^{at 10} I wonder how American will seem to you, for you will find Champs -

I love you
Mother

May 29 - 1921

San Diego - California

I have just written Wilder and now I want to write you - I have written "children" for so long it seems odd to write separate letters.

Your father has taken a house at Devils Lake for the time of your visit - is that right? - What a visit you will have together! How much you and your mother will have to tell each other! - And how she and Dr. will love the babies! - and how Mary will enjoy them!

The new playmate - Jimmy - will she still be real to him after this long trip, or will he lose her? If I were not so very busy I should be wild to think of you in this country again and still so far away. But when your father and mother come I shall hear all about you anyway.

Dear Helen:-
I hope you will have a good visit
before you begin the move -
I want to hear about the
settling.
I hope you had perfect
with that thing - the
make out with your
mother -
I hope you will have a good visit
before you begin the move -
I want to hear about the
settling.
I hope you had perfect
with that thing - the
make out with your
mother -

I am learning to love my new home even more, in a way, than I have ever loved any home. Every other home I have had has been for and with my family. A sort of divided, combined love. But here - how shall I explain it - this home expresses me. I am alone a great deal and here I can rest - even though I am hard at work. I never come into this big room without a thanksgiving. It satisfies me, it welcomes me, and understands me. Sentimental? yes, but a very real one. I am my family now. The house fills a very real need in my life. From this house I can give to others as I could not from anything different. I never tried to express that feeling in words before.

Herbert, Mame, Blanche and six children have been here. I spent yesterday morning making ginger snaps, and they certainly dipped into them. Herbert, especially, loves them. Elizabeth said yesterday "Mame I believe you are establishing a cookie jar like the old-fashioned grandmothers we read about." Did I not tell you I would? - Bobby has tonsillitis so the Dr. tells us. Poor little kid. Blanche's children are beautiful. Ruth and the three girls had new clothes on today that we made. Fun and it was quite a satisfaction to see them. Your sewing is over for the summer. I hope and

Van Nuys California
June 1st - 1921

Dear Wilder:

I expect your four dear ones are in the
country right now. I have been saying that -
myself all day. And Helene is, perhaps, even now
on her way to Wisconsin!

Ruth has not been so well these past few days -
Yesterday morning she got up to look after the baby -
Her story is like this - "I just stood there at the foot
of the bed looking at Jack - I felt so funny - finally
he said 'what's the matter?' - And I did not know
what the matter was - He said, 'she stood perfectly
rigid with an unnatural look in her eyes and
grew very pale' - He did not want to startle
her by jumping for her so he said as quietly as he
could 'what's the matter?' Then after a moment
she began to relax and said 'I don't know - she
is suffering mentally. In trying to happen it she
says I feel as though I must get away from something
and when I can't do it - I just feel as though
everything stopped still and I was just waiting
for something terrible to happen. Today she said

"When I was taking a bath that same feeling came on me that I must get away and then I realized it was from myself I was trying to get away" - "Sometimes I feel as though I was out of my self looking back at myself, and wondering what is going to happen to that other self." That is real suffering you know.

Jack went to see the Dr. last night. She was out of the medicine Dr. had given her but Jack did not know it. Dr. says as long as she continues taking this medicine she will not have a hard spell. That she can be cured but this is the only medicine that can cure her and it will probably take two years to effect a cure - It is a great strain on Jack I know

for he has it on his mind all night - Ruth is often afraid to go to sleep - dares not let herself go for fear - "then I know that is not right and I just tell my Father that I know I am in his care and if he sends me anything hard to bear it will be because he wishes it so, and I want to wish it so too." Jack told Dr. Cauby last night that he would like Dr. West to see her again - I do not think anything would be accomplished by that - unless Dr. West should talk with Dr. Cauby about what he saw that night he was with her. Sometimes I feel I cannot bear it - but I can't of course - It would take six weeks to hear from you in answer to my letters now - Good night dear boy - Mother

Valens St.
San Diego - California
June 5 - 1921

Wilder dear:

Your ~~last~~ letter written from Healy-on-Thames
came a day or two ago. Your trip must have been
delightful and I am so glad you and Helen had
the opportunity to take it.

Of course my whole thought - today is answering
your letter about Ruth and asking you some
questions. Jack spent an evening with Dr. Conby
reading about this terrible disease from his books.
and now he thinks he knows all about it; or as
much as any one else knows. He means to go
and see Dr. West - again - He has told Dr. Conby
he wished to do so - as I wrote you.

Since beginning the taking of the medicine again -
bromide, yes - Ruth has been full of pep - Her eyes are
bright - and she is in fine spirits - Almost - too much
so, it seems to me. She feels well, she wants to go to
things

and thinks Dr. Canby wishes her to do so — But —
since she had that little attack I wrote you about —
early in the morning standing at the foot of the bed,
Jack is afraid an attack may come in public.

That came before she began again with the medicine
and Dr. C. says she will not have an attack as long as
she is taking the medicine. "But what does he or anyone
else know about it?" is his irritable comment — when I
remind him of that. He has forbidden her
to drive the car. He is in an agony of fear whenever
she is with people. Poor boy it is hard on him.

Ruth does not know the truth. "This kind goeth
not out but by prayer and fasting." I do not believe God
sends any such sickness. "Lord I believe, help thou my
unbelief." She must be cured. To have that dear child
haunted continually by that unknown fear? — Oh let us
pray for unlimited faith —

Now, as I understand it some troubles of this kind
are "sympathetic" — due to polypus etc. — some trouble
with stomach, bowels, liver, circulating system — are?
right? — Can we not find out if there may be such a
cause? Her bad breath — "due to the medicine" Dr. says —

but she had it before her first-attack in Glendale
and before the attack this spring when she was not
taking the medicine. Her circulation is not good
much of the time.

Was her first-attack, before she was married when
she could not move any part of her body excepting her
eyes and when she was absolutely conscious of the same
order? - Her heart-stopped beating with longer pauses between
the Dr. said - After that she had so much trouble with an
unknown fear. Indeed, for some 24 hours before that-attack
she was afraid to be left alone. Then all of the time
she was carrying Elizabeth she was subject to an agony
of fear of what she did not know.

Gradually she grew better of that. Then when Faith
was a baby she had that nervous attack of Erythema Induratum
Dr. H. called it. The next was when Robert was a
month old - Calafrey - Dr. H. called it. Jack says
she bit her tongue then but I am sure he is mistaken.

The nurse gave her the baby to nurse at four o'clock she
fell asleep and did not go for the baby until five. Ruth
lay unconscious with eyes rolled upwards. Limbs rigid but
when they were placed then they remained -

Nothing more until in Glendale.
first-attack. 1906 terrible fear.

June 1905 - the
July month of 1909

(Faith was born in June of that year) Eng. Tenn. — October 1913
Catalpa — March or April 1919 — attack in Glendale —
March 1920 attack in Danbury — April 1921 — the
latest-attack — There is the history by dates. Is there

Anything we can do? —

I believe Jesus will cure her — how I do not know.
By direct-healing? By showing us how to use known
helps? I do not know. But I do know it is our duty
to use all of the known helps there are — And we
must seek for them —

Will and family leave for Pals Alto Sept either
the 10th or 13th of this month — I shall have a
letter from you from this side now —

God bless you dear

Mother

Valens St. is all right for address you do not need to remember
the number — All Abby Elizabeth looks like her —

It must be that you will have a living salary -
And I hope you can make favorable arrangements
for time and opportunity. I hope
renewably work. I hope
you and Helen will
feel that - is a happy
plan - I get
until you can
see your way
Clear to continue
to Calif. -

I have not been
the Pacific this
week. Art. is living
with Blanche & her
mother. Has a room
there and get his
breakfast & dinner
there. Herbert says
we do not need to
worry about Art.
"Art. is all right."
It is not going to
be his business. He
like that. What he
has undertaken.

Long
2 - 1921
California

Your letter began in the boat - and finished
in the train to Boston came yesterday and I
was so thankful that - you were really in this
country at last. You see, you had never said
if you had received the money or not, and
while I was sure you must have done so, I could
not help but be a little troubled.

But I could easily understand how and why it
was hard to write under the circumstances. I wish
you could have a little bit of a time when you
need have absolutely nothing that - must be done.
You must not keep your brain fever on the stretch
dear boy - you will pay for it in time - How I
wish you could have gone to Princeton!! I told
Jack today this everlasting everlasting not-being able to do
the thing that should be done because of not having a little

money & saving it - was dreadfully nervous - maybe good for the character, but - not - pleasant.

How I wish I could hear all of the details about your trip - would you prefer 2nd class on a big steamer to a one class boat? - shall I tell you a bit of Jack's state of mind? - First: he is dead tired. The American Legion play comes off Friday night - and was a huge success but - it has been hard work. And the school work is very unfruitful - now as school closes this week Friday. And there are loads of exam. papers to keep him busy. When he had nothing coming in last summer he used the egg money for living expenses. An account of Ruth's health and his school work he did not get any baby chicks last fall nor this spring. The hens could not pay the feed bills and the living expenses ^(not enough then) so he has a large feed bill to pay and to meet it - must sell off the hens - gradually we are trying to find a way of putting in bush berries to take the place of the potatoes as it seems more odd. Neither one of us can seem to see when the money is coming from. He put manure on the ground this spring it cost me \$117 - and I know now that my feeling that it was not the best thing w^old was right - ^{it makes the potatoes scrubby.} To plant a cover crop to bring back the land will cause a loss of our paying crop that we need ^{to have} to saving the expense of buying and putting in the berries. And being tired - and worried, for he is afraid for Ruth every minute of the day and night - he feels humbled and abused - cannot see any hope any where - Coming up to the coming weeks with nothing coming in makes him fearful - Of course he will teach for six weeks - but then are six weeks when he wont be teaching. A big family is a joy but it is hard to swing. It will come out all right he will weather it - but it is hard. I hope you have found things in Detroit favorable for the living for you and your little family.

Grand is doing good work too - but George is not

stupid - but - Herbert - is not in - but some thing he is enthusiastic of April - He likes it - but - the line of least resistance - He wants to be as handsome as his mother - but his mother - but -

never visited on his being through and now that he is in a high school more than 2000 students - he is by - one of many and it is hard on him - Judge Nelson? Well he is just -

complete happy - go - lucky - but - is still happy with his rolling beams - I wish to visit - with a hand full of love for you - dear Helen -

Dear Helen - I wish to visit - with a hand full of love for you - dear Helen -

I have just written Wilder and I want to visit with you a bit before I do my duty and go to bed. I have a big day's work ahead of me tomorrow. The laundry has never been made acceptable. Trunks, stoves, all sorts of things have been piled in one on top of another so that I cannot keep it clean and ship-shape. Some of the boxes & trunks in the cellar should be in the laundry and some of the trunks in the laundry should go in the cellar. Some have never been unpacked. Some things I want - are under death and I am continually having to more things I do not want. I spent two half days last week pulling to pieces and getting things when I could sort and arrange them. And tomorrow I hope to get the laundry, at least, cleaned and in order. Oh for a man!! - A woman gets so tired pulling things about - she has no energy left to do the sorting and final putting in place. I know it - I should burn up a lot of things that I have here - for instance - I have one trunk full of things that the girls are always going to look over for costumes - nothing

in seal from Helen - she will be with you -

of any value in the whole trunk yet - a box for their many
little plays and "High Jinks" - I had - one trunk full of "old
memories" - the children's baby clothes - the big doll - my big doll -
etc. etc. etc. Will any one care for them? - Of what use are they? -
I have chests and trunks full of pillows - wish I knew of some one
who needed them. A big box of curtains - by the way, I
wonder if you could use some fairly new & nice curtains
- I bought them new for the house in Glendale - unless you come
to settle in your Detroit home. I would be glad to send them
to you.

If you get rested and have the time write me one of your dear
gossipy letters. It has been so long since you have been able to
write me one - I want to know about your trip - How did the children
stand the many changes - were they frightened? Did they enjoy it at
all? Dear little Wilhelmina won't be long before he will forget to look
forward to Kansas - and oh I don't know how to find me - yet it
will be impossible for him to do otherwise. How your mother
and father are enjoying the little darlings now.

I hope you will get right rested while you are with your
own people, for I know you have worked so hard getting
ready for the trip, and the trip is hard even without babies to
look after.

The girls are getting so tired with the extra school work than
last few weeks. Elizabeth seems to be developing an ability for
public speaking. The trouble is that she has been so complimented on
her ability to speak extemporaneously that she thinks she can keep on doing
it without preparation. She is also fine in athletics - Margaret gets 99 in the
most of her exams. Faith goes to Cambridge this week with their orchestra -
wonderful children, of course.

San Diego - California

June 7 - 1921

Dear Wilder:

I figured that you would write me on the boat -
so as to send it in the mail as soon as you landed -
I have not heard and I am worried - It cannot be
possible that the money did not reach you in time
so that you did not sail? - Ah no, that cannot be! -
You or Helen or the children were not ill? - I have
thought of all sorts of things that would prevent your writing,
but we are so far away even yet: we get no shipping
news from the Atlantic out here -

Yesterday was your double Anniversary - You have been
married four years, dear little Wilder is three years old
and Virginia Jeffers had her 20th birthday yesterday -

Cottie came out with one of her nieces yesterday -
they were here for supper. Jessie, the niece she is
with is planning for her vacation soon and Cottie

wanted to ask if she might come here and stay the
two weeks she was gone - Am I getting hick-bound that I
should sort of dread her coming? - Her being alone in the house
seems to be so delightful to me - I love my meals - my breakfast
alone - I need shaking love, I guess -

I did not answer your greeting about Ruth, here
this letter - to tell you what you wanted to know and
express my anxiety about not hearing from you -

No, she has no measles in hand, or foot - or any member -
No members - No trouble with her eye sight - she

never wears her glasses now - Her eyes look swollen
sometimes as though there might be ~~some~~ trouble - sometimes
they look as if she had been crying - She used to have very
severe headaches you remember? She almost never has a
now - except following her sicknesses - attacks

We are having real summer weather now - Pretty hot from
nearly noon until about five or six o'clock - Per usual
I am no good between those hours - But why should not
we stop work there? -

Hoping to hear from you and Helen soon -
your loving Mother.

I am most anxious to hear all about you two -

Talent Street -
San Diego - California -
June 19 - 1921

Dear Wilder - and Helen:

When you read this send it on to Helen if she is not
with you by now - Then I won't try and write the second
letter. You need not try and remember any long
numbers on Talent St.; for just - Talent St. is enough. You
see this street begins in Los Angeles and goes through
on the map - clear on to Leesmouth - but in each
place, like San Diego, Imperial, Joliet, Leesmouth -
etc. - the street - not being cut through all the way is a
short - street - easily identified, and in San Diego, at least -
it is in the country and so on the Rural Route - so at the
post-office the name & the street are known but not
the number - while in Los Angeles we are known by ^{number} -
that is, if we want to have things delivered or delivered - anywhere
then the number is needed.

Last night - I realized more than ever how much the
beauty of this home - aside from the house itself is in the view
of the future - It was a magnificent - moonlight - night - Before

going to bed I need - out - to enjoy it - for a while. You
knew the front - yard came up to volunteer potatoes - I let them
grow, and with them grew sunflowers & poppies, tumbler
and rag weed, pig weed and other weeds - The potatoes
are nearly ready to dig and I want - to put - in some peanuts - to
have a cultivated crop and a crop good for the soil before
pulling in a lawn. Friday and Saturday mornings I spent - in
pulling weeds, digging potatoes in about 1/3 of the front - yard
then I returned - As I looked out - there was a barolity
nothing in front - of my line of vision - but - ugliness - Even
to the row of street - trees - the one that - has been bent -
over and will have to be removed was the thing that
was most prominent - Opposite - across the road where
Mr Austin had his pig corral it - has gone up to
mountain etc. that - does not - look so unrightly - in the daylight
because of the color was ugly because so shapeless at - night -
But I went - out - to the road and turned to look - there at the
North East - seen the mountain shrouded with a misty luminosity
the house, lighted, so cozy and pretty with the pictures on the
walls & many vases of flowers every where - And the
shining border of Shasta Daisies leading up from the
entrance - And then I gradually had the vision of
the hedges of climbing roses across the front - the tiny
grass plot - & other flowers that - are so - and it - was beautiful -
then I went - to my room and saw the picture Mother

loved - Hope and Memory - do you remember it? she
said it always made her think of ~~her~~ herself & me. she looking
back to the past - I looking forward to the future and I smiled
and realized I am still living a bit in the future.

Faith had a birthday on Friday. She was so happy - school closed
at noon. And in the afternoon she had a real surprise party. Jean
and Pully and four other little girls. Ruth made a lovely Angel
Food cake - a bunch of pink roses - Creole Bismarck - in the center
and pink birthday candles. She had a raisin cake & a gold
cake, fruit-jelly with whipped cream and salted peanuts. I set
the table over here and made cocoa and opened the jar of
Candies I bought in Boston last August - & bring on the train
with me!!! In the evening Jack and Ruth & I took the
girls home and had a nice visit with Herbert & Mauna.

I have been too busy for words lately, but I want to get up
at four o'clock tomorrow if I can to set a lot of garden work
done.

Now that the family are home Ruth will not have lunch
with me any more. For the present, at least, I shall have
dinner with them.

You have not said a word about the Boston girls -
the Hulls, Abby, Mary, Elizabeth, Miss Hunt. - And I am
waiting breathlessly to know if it is to be Detroit?
Philadelphia? New York? - Herbert has never looked with
favor on the Detroit proposition and very much hopes it will
not prove to be your plan. But you will decide on the

right - me, I know. I wonder when you and Helen
would rather live? I wonder if Los Angeles will be
in a position to offer you an inducement? -

Winnifred is writing us postal cards along the trip. They
are enjoying it - so far and she says Will is proving himself
to be a splendid camper full of all kinds of expedients.

Helen dear, write me all about - yourself and the babies - Tell
me about - your mother and her health - your father and
is he contented? - And about - Mary. Willer write me
all about - the many problems you have to settle - I
think of you so much -

God bless and keep you all

Mother -

Jack communi by trolly - it is cheaper and less trouble. Hubert - drives into Hollywood every day. It takes him

of fifteen or twenty minutes.
I want to know how the babies are. How do they stand the moving about? poor little children. It is hard on them. Don't try to teach Wilder the very much. His brother is too active, he is too nervous - Wilder dear you must be very patient - with him. He said - stand the going out - little Pitt. Many love - I wish you called her that rather than Ruth. Ruth Mary is such a lovely name and is so weak. 50?

Valerie St. Van Ness - California
June 26. 1921
I suppose you have the privilege of calling on what you please - Jack and - but I am very sorry to say you are not.

It is nice to be able to write you again together - I am getting right anxious for a letter from Helen more.


We are all so glad for you that you have a permanent address. I can imagine the satisfaction with which Wilder wrote that word permanent:

You will always find, Wilder dear, as you have in the past, that things will come to you when you are ready for them. You will just naturally get what you want - because you know what you want - and are not wandering from one thing to another. The most of us want things to come our way all right - but we do not really know what we want. That was brought home to me years ago by this question - "If Jesus should stand here before you and ask what you wanted most, what would you say?" - And as I look about at people around me how many do I see who know what they want - and are pulling for it hard!

And that - reminds me of your question - do I have
not - get - found anyone who will lend me the money I
must - have by the first - of August. You also asked
about the regema. Do you wonder that - I have to fight -
hard not - to get - discouraged? A new form has come -
Boils shall I call them? And yet - they are not - boils for a
boil finally comes to a head discharges and gets well.
These swell, inflame, get - people and pus shows. I open
it - and some pus & more blood discharges out - of what - seems
to be a little sac held in the center of the boil. It only discharges
pus once, but - the sac is still there the boil becomes a
hard kernel. The inflammation lasts for weeks then it
gradually disappears but - the kernel remains hard
for weeks longer. When these boils comes near one
of the old spots they ^{seem} ^{to} ~~inflammate~~ ^{absorb} all of the
inflammation and that - spot - gets better. Around the
biggest - one on one leg I guess I have had a half dozen
of those boils. But - they come in other places. I have had
one under each breast - right - when the top of my corset -
would rub it - I have had them other places. But - none
of the regema ~~bothers~~ bothers me much except - the one
on the ball of my big toe and at - the side of my heel on
the other foot. The skin is thick and it - cracks and is very
painful. Often they wake me at - night by paining me

2
when they get so dry and stiff. The only relief I get is to keep
bandages with Carbolic varnish on them - but it is hard
to keep the bandages on them. For months I have kept bandages
on one leg at ankle and just below the knee. It is very
annoying.

I am expecting Aunt Elizabeth and the dress maker out - tonight -
I rather dread another sewing bee. I guess I am tired. I have
been getting up at 4.30 all this past week. I dress & have
breakfast and by 5.30 I am out in the garden. Digging is
becoming more of a pastime than it was. Let me describe
how to prepare for planting in California.

First you pull all the big weeds - dig up the potatoes - cart
weeds, potatoes, sticks, stones, etc away - Then you get the
Plough - J. plough - and plough up & down and across -
Then you put the rakes on and rake it all over. Then
you measure off your rows - three ft. apart. Go over it
again with the plough to make a wide furrow and
a narrow raised bed. Then you take the hand rake
and hoe and rake the row smooth - Oh I forgot -
before you make the furrows you must take the
hand rake and level for my front yard goes like
this  the hole in the center must be
filled - when the rows are made level & smooth they

must be patted hard with the hoe to make the seeds firm
then you plant the peanuts - Then you turn the water
into the furrows - (Oh I forgot - another important thing -
After the first ploughing - before the first raking that
ground has been saturated with water two days before
the rakes are used) - Then while the water is running you
keep working filling up the hollow places, hoeing down the
high places watching that the banks do not come in and
the first thing you know the water has disappeared - down
a gopher hole and you shovel, and pat & firm until you
make a hard surface that will last a few weeks
any way - well, of course, after a few weeks the furrows
become all smooth and it is no trick to irrigate -
But after irrigating the next day, if it has been hot, you
must not fail to go out and cultivate for if you do
not the ground will bake and seedlings will die
things grow - but oh!! - You know I asked the question
when I came into the house how we could be a
good housekeeper and a good gardener too? It has been
answered - You can't. If you keep your house clean your
garden suffers - if you keep your garden clean your
house suffers - I have only a small patch of
peanuts - about a third of what should be here in front
of the house but it has taken me about ten days to set
it in - The casing in over the cess pool has made the north
garden very ugly but I am going to set it filled up in time.

where will
many go next?
She is certainly
leaving to find
the world at
first-hand -
Dear Children:

14233 Valens St.
San Diego - California

July 3 - 1921 -

It makes me so happy to know that my little Wilder
has not forgotten his Nansen - I do get homesick
for him. Bless him, now perhaps he found that "green
very garrulous old lady" on the train was lovely lovely
and he probably gave her something beautiful & think
about-for weeks after the trip, by taking her along on
the walk with Dastlie. Perhaps he thought she was
"Nansen". Well, anyway, I wish I could get hold of him
and his sister Ruth Mary. The picture of the dingy
little pair playing under the trees and on the steps of
the hotel in South Forkers was a delight - to me.
I wonder if you are settled some where by now! -
Wilder knows how easily he is going to slip into his work.
in the hospital by now, anyway. You know you
always expect more of yourself than any one else expects.
Proud of him? I should say I am, Helen dear. I gloat
over him and his success, and yearn over my baby
and am so happy in his happiness. I am so in hopes that

you will soon find a good unfurnished house with a good play yard for the children when you can get - all of your own things about - you and settle down for years with a home feeling. I wish I could be with you to see your happiness as you unpack all of your many belongings. You will not need such a great amount of furniture will you? - Books and pictures - and you have so many of both - furnish as much.

Will and Winifred are well settled in Palo Alto. I will copy from her last letter - "A big, old-fashioned house in good repair near enough to the University for Will to walk and near enough to a school for the children" - They could not find a cottage - "There are fine fruit-trees, grape vines, berry vines, and a garage. John spends a good deal of time in a cherry tree. Birds, rosebushes, onions and a mop handle and some good clean rags! are among some of the joys Winifred has found there. Will has profited of a chance to teach in a night school in the High school building. Will is delighted with the University. "And it is wonderfully imposing and sort of ideal to look at. He is getting just what he came for and the professors are fine. - "He has never acted discouraged or in doubt since we left Camp Lewis." They had a wonderful trip. Oregon was so beautiful & green - "The mountains were wonders the roads for most of the way. He never had a real mountain before, such views of all sorts! - he is all well and we do like this climate in California" - etc. etc.

Ruth is feeling fine but the worst of this trouble we do not know how she really is - How much is medicine and how much is real condition? - she does not get row down before her attacks - They come so suddenly and sneakingly -

Jack begins his summer school work on Wednesday. he has been painting the outside of his house and Ruth is painting Elizabeth's bedroom. Aunt Elizabeth came out last Sunday with the dress maker and will stay until Tuesday - Mrs 2. - made it in one day. They made a lovely gown for Mame - made it in one day Mame coming out to help in it - a gown organically with a white dot. It is very becoming to her and makes her look very young and fresh. They made a dress for Elizabeth - my blue embroidered dress I had several years ago - do you recall it? - two bungalow aprons and two house dresses, a white and a lavender checked gingham for me - besides finishing up some other things for me and cutting over and fitting a yellow organically for Elizabeth. All of that in four days. Aunt E. finished up everything by the last snap on Friday. Is she not - a wonder the way she comes and works for me? - she is staying over to help and reduce the big basket of work that seems to

remain full no matter how many times I think
I have emptied it.

I think I am getting my work reduced to a system that
will in a score of years or so show results. Any way the
peasants are coming up. And I have some beautiful
sagebrush in the house now from my own - Scabiosa,
gailloardsias, nasturtiums, Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Calliopsis
and the deliciously fragrant stocks. And wild sunflowers -
an occasional bunch of pelargoniums and an occasional
rose - My arms and hands and face are as brown
as though I had been living in the sun.

Wisconsin heat? - New York heat? - Well we have some
pretty hot hours here. From ten until sometimes six it is
hot, very hot - but the nights are almost cold and almost
always sun in the heat of the day we can find a delightful
 breeze. The deal is the great big bear. It rolls in in
great clouds when any one goes by. And the Shastas
in front are thick with it. But in time I will have
a hedge that will help. An enclosed garden like the
English looks good here. We are going to Perth's
for dinner. Chicken and strawberry pie I know are in the
menu. I suppose Dr H. and family will soon be here? I
wonder if they read "West-Brookly" in the Post. Her description
of an auto trip to the west is wonderful. God bless my four
dear children in New York. Mother -

Van Dyke - California
July 10 - 1921

Dear Children:-

Moving, getting settled, unpacking and
arranging - cooking, washing, ironing and
getting into the new work of the Hospital -
and in the intense heat - that - is afflicting
the whole world! - you poor dears - But
you are young, strong, full of love, ambition
and hope and are working things out
together. So, while it is hard, I know, you
are to be envied.

Jack and Ruth are troubled by notes to
be met in the fall, Ruth's health, etc - Ruth is
working up to the limit of her strength but again
Love is helping them to keep hope alive while
they work together. They have lost the earlier
ambition and hope of youth - but they have the
joy of each other and the children

Last-Sunday it was announced at the dinner table that Margant and Elizabeth were to begin music lessons this week. Margant was taken wholly by surprise and it was very pretty to see the big blue eyes fill with tears and the color flame into her face as it grew into her consciousness - she wanted the home - and Herbert has loaned her his for the summer. She is the daughter of a young man in the Bank who is a fine player but has never taught. She went down to his home Thursday night for the first lesson but for some reason he did not appear. Friday Elizabeth took her first lesson. She had been told before that an effort was being made to give her lessons so her great-suspicion was that Margant was to take lessons too - and a great-relief was noticeable in her face. She confessed afterwards that it was all she could do to keep from bursting out crying. She is wild with delight and hopes to practise three hours a day. I suppose no one knows how much she has wanted the lessons. All these girls do accept the not having things very beautifully. Bob is such an accurate fellow! As an instance - Mr Sparrow came to learn and that he would tune the piano soon and it would cost \$5.00 - Bob gave the message & left with him as - Mr Robin will

come soon to time the period and it will
cost \$50⁰⁰

Gracious little Faith wears her black bloomers without
a skirt and with a middie these days - she looked like a
little Japanese lady as she swung out of her room joining
herself yesterday. ^{we read in stories of} "Smoky eyes" - I think
Faith has them.

Fourth of July evening Aunt-Elizabeth and I received a
summons to "come and see the fire works," and if we had
a stink we would like to put over please come prepared
Margent + Faith had it in charge - Roberts' skit -
was a song learned in school - Faith's two songs -
Margent's two recitations - one learned in school, and
the other a very long one "Mother's two bad days" (circum-
stances in day & the Fourth of July) that she had been weeks in
learning mostly while she was ironing - Elizabeth's
was butterscotch made that-day and slightly burned
because Baby cried at the critical time. It was
good enough to eat however - Then Faith & Elizabeth
played a duet. ^{the actuals did nothing but clap and enjoy.} Then the fireworks - not many, but
they were satisfied - The prattiest thing of the evening was
when the girls danced about the lamp with the
sparklers - What a joy and pure delight young girls are!
Aunt-Elizabeth went home Tuesday evening - How she did

work at the sewing while she was here! Is it not wonderful
for me to have such a friend?

This afternoon Jack takes Miss Leach & her sister who are out-
here from Ashland, Ruth & me for a ride. Miss Leach ^{is}
the nurse who cared for Father's death in the hospital
last spring. He was anxious Jack should meet her - Jack
called on her Friday eve. and made this engagement. They
will have supper at Ruth's so as to see the children and
be able to report to their grandfather.

Ben Bunker & his wife will be here for the Elks Carnival.
we expect to see them this week.

Jack will have to sell the Dodge soon, I expect - and
while he wants to use it a lot - before it goes the tires are
giving out and he does not want to replace them - so
our rides are not numerous and we will appreciate
this one today.

I get up early and work hard and fast - until noon -
a bath - and in night dress continue until dinner time
gives me a long time to rest - and I am apt to get in
a couple of hours' work before bed time. You know I am
not much of a success in endeavoring to heal.

I want to know all about your daily lives singly
and together, I wish I could hug & kiss those dear
babies - God bless you all your -

Mother

You know Anita
 with her in her
 bed
 the moment - Morgan
 is of child order but
 will - she did
 not - leave me
 little thing is
 any of it
 what time
 so good to her
 not a word
 about - her
 Personal property
 clothes, jewels
 etc must all be
 sold.
 The H.C. Baker home
 was well to me
 James and has
 now been re-vel
 for the tapes.
 Barber Bell is at
 home - better but
 for from a well
 man.
 I shall
 be glad
 when Helen
 joins the
 time
 and
 Rep 15 un-
 der - 104
 and asking
 about heat
 I am sorry
 to see her
 in writing -
 I love you all
 Mother

looked so clean & fine
 north died? Mrs Helen was
 counting home - and found
 her dead - in bed

I have been watching the heat-records in the
 paper and I see that New York is not as hot
 as other Eastern places now - I am grateful for that -
 It must be something like the infernal regions
 where we cannot get some relief from ocean
 breezes. It is hot here during the day but the
 glorious nights and mornings make even the
 San Fernando Valley, on the whole, very comfortable.

I am wondering why you chose the fourth floor and
 no elevator to the second and attic floors of the private
 house. I was said that the 5th place was good but had
 some drawbacks - The \$90. apartment - seems to
 have some drawbacks too - I know you chose wisely
 because you are both so cautious you do not
 decide hastily - but it seems to me the climbing
 of three flights of stairs with two babies is an awful
 drawback. Why Helen when and how will you
 ever be able to get out to market - or any other odd
 thing? And the babies with no green grass to play on!!

July 17-1922

Will you ever have the opportunity and the courage to
take them to a playground? - And the getting settled
during all of this intense heat! - How much my mind
has been with you - And whether I have been most
sympathetically following you in your efforts to get
adjusted to your new environment. I know it is hard
for you who know not the meaning of "bluffing", and
your high ideals of efficiency and your innate modesty,
to meet conditions as they are. But I do not fear the
out-come. Because of your characteristics that I have
mentioned you will succeed. You will also find
that you have knowledge and ability that the
other three men will appreciate and admire.
You will find that they have weaknesses that they
probably deplore as you do your lack of experience.
It has not been so long since they began to work
their theories into practice that they have forgotten how
hard it was for them. And because of your modesty
they will be sympathetic and helpful. At the same
time I think you will not be so self-deprecating
that you will allow them to overlook the things
that do and will make you valuable to the
hospital. Be sure and do not undervalue yourself.
For, after all, people do take us at our own valuation.

Be modest - but - not - too modest. Be generous but - not -
too generous in your valuation of your co-workers. Fine
men, I am glad you are to have the pleasure of working
with such men - but - do not - forget - that - you bring
into the work another fine man. A man who will
put all he has into the work. Cashing in experience,
we have but - one who will get and use all of his
opportunities for experience for the good of the whole
and you know you have a fine foundation on
which to build the experience that will soon be yours.
You say I have not said what I thought about this
New York opportunity. I certainly did show my enthusiasm
in at least - one letter. I wonder if you have received
all of my letters since your return. One week I wrote at
least - three letters - I do not know how many I sent
to Boston and to Detroit. I am very happy
that this opportunity has come to you even though the
whole continent separates us. You think Dr Whipple a
"chump" to make the effort to get you. I think him a
mighty wise man who will never regret this action.
Now I would like to give you such an awful jolt that
you will never forget it. For heaven sake learn that
Birth never means anything but the coming into this world
of life in some form. Emphatically that - I - I - I - I was born

I in birth means a bringing into the world. Every other time or in any other sense that the word birth is used it is spelled with an E. I wonder if you know that - you use the word often and always spell it with an I? -

I hate to jump on you like that, but - I do need - want - to make it so emphatic you will never make that mistake again, you dear, old, absent-minded darling -

I did not forget that little Ruth Mary had a birthday yesterday, neither did I forget the 6th of June. But - well, I hope to make amends some day.

I am almost living in bugalow aprons now. I have a white-crape one trimmed with rick rick. One that slips over the head as there are no buttons to come off in the wash. I thought - I was too big and too old to wear them. But - my family agree that they are really not bad.

Ben Bunker and wife came out with the Elks. We went to the train to meet them Sunday night - but the train came in ahead of time, so it was not until Wednesday that we saw them. Jack went into L. A. from school that afternoon and brought them ^{and Mrs. Dog} out - and picked up Ruth for a ride through the Tally. They got as far as San Fernando and had time troubles that kept them there until it was so late they could only turn around and come back. They stopped to see the children and my home and get me and me and - to Herbert's for dinner. Mame has a delicious dinner as she always does. And it seemed like so little work. She & Herbert & the children and the house and garden all

Van Nuys - California
July 29 - 1921

Dear children:

Does it seem possible, Wilder, that it was seven years ago today that Mother and I with Elizabeth and Jean came home from our visit to Spokane? It was the beginning of the end for Mother. In her Daily Food she has marked "The time is short." It was on September 1st that you and I went to dinner at Herbert's just before you started for school, and she found she was not strong enough to go with us. How she cried that afternoon - but that was the last emotion she showed and from then on to October 5th when she was released from her weakness she seemed to make no effort to get well.

It was so good to hear from you again, Helen dear. You gave me a good picture of the house and the dear babies playing so happily together. You say you need new furniture, Wilder? - Ah we packing boxes, soon. You won't mind the scratches then, you know!

How does my garden grow? ^{with} silver bells & corkle shells? - No - with silver tails and lumbler weed, and sunflowers all in a row. The lumbler weed - do you know what it is? a coarse, spreading, bushy plant - on a red stem - It grows dry, a wind - in the fall - pulls it loose and away it goes ~~so~~ rolling over and over like a huge snowball - Silver tail is different - It looks very like the foliage plant - Dusty Miller - I pull the lumbler weeds, I transplanted some of the sunflowers and leave the silver tail to catch and hold the dust - The sunflowers grow 8 or 12 ft. high and branch out - to almost that width the flowers are on long stems that wave in the breeze. They are lovely and make a fine background. Good for cutting, too - and combine with the red, yellow & brown Calliopis with its delicate foliage makes a most artistic bouquet for the house.

I have at last made arrangement for some money - I am to borrow \$4000 - at 7½ percent - with a two percent bonus to the agent - with that I pay off the mortgage of \$2000 - on the land and pay the Harwood lumber people \$1600 - They to take a second mortgage for the remaining \$150 - I owe them. I also have promised to put in lawn and beautify the place outside. ^{to make it more valuable as a loan.} That will cost about \$200 - and will take every bit of the \$4000 - when all expenses are paid.

✓
I could not understand why my income had
dwindled so, but at last Herbert has explained to me.
Jack and you and Herbert have borrowed from the
estate, and none of you pay interest - except by borrowing
more - which adds to your indebtedness but the
income from the estate is directed from me to you.
So, instead of \$1900 - I get \$300 for the July income.
I speak of this for I think it should be understood.
Had he told me I would not have built this house
but I figured that with a \$3000 income I could
pay for it in five years - at least. Herbert has borrowed
more than you and Jack and is trying to sell ranch and
house in order to get straight. As for my viewpoint, it
is this - My whole aim in life is to do all I can to
help my children and grand children. When I know their
needs it is instinctive with me to try and help - that I
think you know - well, if I can help them more by
taking a smaller income for the present - than in any
other way - why should I not be willing? But gifts are
out of the question. So you will understand when
birthdays and Christmas come around and I do not
give - it is because I cannot. I have interest to pay
on over \$⁷⁵⁰⁰~~7000~~ - I have insurance, taxes, and the
necessary repairs and improvements on a 5 acre place
and my personal living expenses - And besides all

abundance of health, love, joy and peace - the things that really matter for happiness - I shall have to plan carefully for a few years - It is all right; and we are all four in the same boat - we are all having to go slow on the material part of life. I am more anxious about Herbert - and Jack than I am about you - you are making a fight - that is bound to win. And a letter from Will yesterday has filled me full of joy & courage. They are making the fight of their lives. And when a man of forty with a wife & three children has the youthful enthusiasm and pluck to do as Will is doing, I think it fine. You will want me to explain in school he is taking 17 pounds - it is the limit. "I don't believe I have ever done as much school work." He is taking ⁽²⁾History of Education under Cumberly, Educational Statistics under Kelly, State School ⁽⁴⁾Organization under Wood, Vocational ⁽⁵⁾Guidance under Proctor and Experimental ⁽³⁾Psychology under Trace. I have marked them in the order of their being hard for him. Statistics being much the hardest. Then he takes a boy for 1 hour & 40 minutes a day that brings in \$15 a week and pays for their food. He has given up the house they were in where they paid \$40 a month rent - and has moved into a four roomed house where he gets rent, light & water & possibly gas - for some little sort of personal services which I can render at odd moments. In speaking of the house - "It needs a good many repairs. It has no bathroom, but has certain elementary sanitary arrangements. It has electric light connections, and gas, but no fireplace and

no smoke stack of any kind. (It is much colder there than
it is here, so he wonders if they will be able to keep warm this
winter) "There is an Episcopal church and a Rectory
on the same lot, and considerable of a flower garden.
The church is not in very good repair, and neither is the
lot." The house he goes on to say is finished to some extent
in one room down stairs and one room up. The other
room down stairs has been taking considerable of my
attention lately and some of my money. He has painted
the floors down stairs, repaired an old couch we found
there, cleaned out some closets and yesterday I put
some building paper on the ceiling in the kitchen in order
to hide the beams and make the place look clean. This
week I hope to be able to do some more papering on the walls
although this is spaminati- work and I expect to be busy.
There is no garage either, but there is a great big live oak
tree right at the door and I hope to be able to put up
some sort of a contraption before the rains begin. The
ground about gets muddy in the winter I am told. The
Presbyterian church and the schools for the children are nearby.
Stanford is a mile and a half or more away. When to put the
old square pines is a question. They need it - and could not
sell it for very much more than \$25. He does not
say just what his work will be, "It's not so very attractive
but I know how to do it, and possibly it is just as well
that the work doesn't get too much advertising. But it's
a saving as I said above." Janitor work in the church and

garden work on the lot? Probably - but it is
just as well Hudson people and men acquaintance
do not know about it. But the courage of the boy -
and of Winifred - fills me full of admiration - He will
make a success finally. He tried business, Carpentry,
Army - and comes back to the thing for which he
is best fitted and perfects himself in it - Earnest -
would pay his expenses but - he does not want a
debt hanging over him.

I have no time now to comment on your life and
tell you the little gossip here - but I am late with
my letter this week and will soon write again.
I know you would want to know about Will.

Loving you both - and the babies -
Mother

Van Nuys, California
July 31 - 1921

Dear childrens:

I see it is still hot in New York and I am so
sorry - for the past weeks we have had wonderful
weather here. The first week in July it was hot up
to 104 - one day - but that would be ten degrees
cooler than 104 in New York. And it was only for
a few hours for the cool night - is bound to follow.

I am looking forward to the time when I can put
in the lawn and begin making the place beautiful.
Vines and trees have grown so fast on the English place
that the view from their West windows is lovely - but I
am on the East of them and my views are not
lovely East, West, North, South - the nearby vines are
dirty, and brown and ugly - but time and a
little money, water and a lot of work will change
all that -

How, you wanted to know if I recalled our Paris trip -
I remember that trip all right - as I consciously recall
the details, but I have such queer memories of England
Have I told you - they are pictures that suddenly come to
me - or dreams? - I don't know - I do not seem to be
remembering things - I saw them.

You are reading the Atlantic and, of course, will have read

Preaching in London - in the August-Memorial.

White Horse Hill Mitchel wrote me about; but the comparison of Englishmen & Americans is interesting.

In speaking of the view from Ruth's West-windows I should have spoken of the fruit that we get from their trees - The Apricots are gone - the Crabapples - the name - the Salsum plum is not quite ripe perhaps but delicious and the peaches are just coming on. Ruth is going to make me a peach pie for my dinner tomorrow. Do you know the Salsuma? I never have known them before. A mottled reddish red on the outside very mealy and succul inside and and a deep wine color. ~~is~~ the plum that is liked best for canning. A Curtain? No, several curtains my dear and you did not dream it. I will send them & you as you can have them ready for putting up as soon as the hot-weather is over. "15 boxes of books" with all you have! - You will find the bookcases do not match - you remember the boxes were mixed when being marked? - but they do not show so very much. but they will not begin to hold your books. You care paint - and use the book boxes you know and that will help out - until you are able to buy more cases.

You ask about my ears - No I do not notice the roaring as I used to do. Some days I do not think I am any worse as to hearing - than if I take the least bit of cold I have a time of being thicker in hearing and understanding, and my throat seems fuller and my gums are sore and my teeth are looser.

My, I am glad that you did not take the \$25⁻
house - part-companions!! - No, the only way is to
live by oneself. Then when things go wrong one is only
responsible to oneself. All you tell me about - the
apartment - sounds fine, and when you get all of your
things together and find places for them all and
the furniture begins coming month by month, it
will be a joy to you. I hope Wilder will not always
be away from you so much. If you were not so
brave, Helen, you would be very unhappy and lonely -
But you are brave and full of love and hope and you
will never regret the time you will have to spend
with the children. I hope you will be able to, at
least, get an afternoon and evening "out" once a
week.

Lulu -
Dr and Mrs H. & Mary have been here - It was good to see them.
They are coming out to dinner with us tomorrow so I know
we will have a nice visit. I am so proud and puffed
up - they say Ruth Mary looks like me!! I wish they
would buy the Bachelor's place across the street from
me - How we could talk over the letters there.

I am delighted to hear you at last doing real and
many operations, Wilder. The more you have to do the

sooner you will feel as though you were an
actual surgeon who has come into his own.
And you are to have a three weeks vacation in August! -
How that is quite decent of them, and how you and
Helen and the babies will enjoy it. How Helen
will go up and you will visit parks etc? -

David Andrew is such a darling - but his eyes are
not blue - I still say he looks like a Pinfeet baby
instead of an English baby, however -

I hope Dr & Mrs K. will be glad they came to California.
And I hope they will find just what they want - a home
very soon - Dr. wants to go to Glendale Mrs K. wants to
go to Hollywood. I hope it may be Hollywood for that -
is much nearer us.

I am going to get my supper now - and read while
I eat. I have had so little company that - tomorrow's
work and preparation is quite exciting in prospect.

I love you all -

Mother

What kind of a foolish man was that Carpenter, anyway?
Too bad about the fixing of the dining table - such a disappointing.

August - 11 - 1921

Dear Children:

Late again with my letters! I wonder if I can give you an idea of how the time has passed. Last week I managed to

get the washing and ironing done by Thursday noon but I had done nothing in the garden for about a week, so when Aunt Addie came Thursday in time for dinner she saw many things to be done as well as I - we had dinner at Ruth's Thursday but since then we have "been on our own."

Aunt Addie was very kind after the trip and the many trying experiences in Spokane so she slept late for several mornings - still sleeps until about eight o'clock usually - Friday I did not want to disturb her by cleaning so I went after the weeds - My beautiful silver tail is no longer beautiful oh so full of dust -!!!

She does not speak it - above a whisper - but truly and honestly believe my skin is getting better. Some places are entirely cleared up and some of the pain we have they did -

I pulled weeds all of the morning came in almost too dirty for the bath tub - but when I was clean once more we had something to eat - my lunch and Aunt-A's breakfast - and we both went to bed for the afternoon. I am good for nothing after a morning of hard work - I did do a little mending on Friday and Saturday but - not much.

Saturday I went after weeds again all morning and Aunt-A. cleaned the house. Then we started picnic operation after the afternoon siesta.

Monday was Elizabeth's birthday and as she is at work and could not go Tuesday we had planned with the Penfields - a picnic on Sunday at Hermosa Beach, for her birthday celebration.

So Sunday at 11.30 - after Sunday School - we started off. At Lankershim A. + I got into Herbert's Car. We reached Hermosa about one o'clock - went to the Clarks and invited

them to lunch with us - and we sat on the sand under their umbrellas and visited and ate and had a delightful time until about - six o'clock.

The children were in bathing suits - and oh what a wonderful place the ocean beach is for children!

Monday I spaded up my laundry yard a space about - 12 x 24. And if you think I was not - ready for bed that afternoon you must - think again. A. picked up sticks and laid them straight - in other words cleaned up all about - the yard - not that - one days work would finish it you know - rested in afternoon - Tuesday worked in the yard again all morning.

Wednesday did a big washing - Today ironed - Tomorrow we will clean - Saturday I have promised A. to go in town with her and expect to bring Aunt Elizabeth back with us -

A. is now over at Ruths - making the picnic talk - Ruth, Jack and E. + M. have gone to a Wrens home dinner at Santa Monica with a crowd of girls.

Elizabeth has joined the ranks of the "working girls" -
and it took some courage as she had to stir up
so many nice things.

She goes down with Jack before seven in the
morning - with a red bandanna kerchief about her
head and big apron ^{to} cover her dress ^{to} the
canning ^{of} cut-^{up} & pit-peaches. She suffered
agonies the first few days with the aching of
wrists & hands - she cut herself and was generally
unhappy. But she did not quit. And she was
bound to become one of the fast-workers. 16¢ a
bag she gets and can earn about \$2 40 a day
when they have enough peaches to keep them busy
all the time. She is one of the fast-workers.

She means to buy shoes, stockings, etc - with her
money and for a birthday gift for herself she
bought her mother an Agate plate for the stove!
My goodness the girl is developing so fast. Being
with these older girls - for she is younger than
most of them - is giving her new ideas. Her
father and mother would not have let her take
up the work had they not known that some
really fine girls were doing that work. She
walks home - over two miles - with two sisters - college
girls and fine characters -

I have not seen the Hermolts since a week ago yesterday when they came after Mary. And now I hear they have bought in Glendale - I never will see them now unless they come out here. I was in hopes they would buy in Hollywood for whenever we go any where we go through Hollywood to get there.

Wilder you tried to imagine how I looked here - and you did pretty well - but - when I lie down on the bed you smash me the curtains are of crash - the figured ones are in my bedroom and your bed is the "day bed" in the living room. I lie on that - when I drop down for a few minutes - rest - but - when I get into my nightie I am in Mother's four post bed - The breeze comes from the S. E. but - is still an ocean breeze that - swirls around there some say w. a mountain breeze would come from the N. E. and is not - as cool. The mountains North and East have been beautified today but the usual summer view of them is through a mist - we say though it may be dead -

What-a wonderful thing it seems to have it-possible
for you to get-up even in the middle of the night-and
start-off for a helpful clinic like that-of Dr. Dandy-
Can't get the full time men they want-? probably

not the men who already have a reputation-
But-is it not true that-given the opportunity and
equipment-that the hospitals afford, it is often a
young man is developed who gives the experienced
man a race? - Do the patients suffer by being
under the care of men who are making experience
more than being under the care of men who are
depending on their experience? Do not apologize
of writing of your work- who is more interested than I?

A dresser - a dining room table and buffet -
a desk and two chairs! - And books and
a thousand and one things in boxes to unpack,
arrange and re-arrange - Oh how you have
things to do now I know - Ruth nearly fainted
when I read to her that your mending was all
done and summer clothes all in order.

Tell me now about the furniture for the nursery -
Are you going to put-up those pictures we bought-in
April? You will, in after years, I know look back to
these hours and days and weeks spent-with the babies
as being the happiest-time of your life - Oh you dear,
young, happy, darling children - Mother

Van Nuys California
August-14 1921

Dear Children:

It is such a beautiful summer day - The cool breeze is coming in at the window as I sit here at my desk writing you and wishing I could talk to you instead.

Yesterday morning I went in town with Aunt-Addie. We went to Lankenham and went into Hollywood with Herbert. A. wants to go into business again. She has a feeling, I think, that possibly Arthur may follow Jamie's example and marry - and that - there being no money any where in the family "we must all put our shoulders to the wheel and pull together" is what she often says.

In Spokane she talked with a woman who has opened a sort of woman's exchange - She has 200 women who have paid her \$2.00 a year for the privilege of bringing in their handwork to be sold by her on commission - Another woman buys things from women who want to sell old jewelry, clothes etc

to get some ready money - perhaps? as a sort
of glorified, exclusive rummage sale on the
pamphlet order, perhaps. Both women are doing
well - and Aunt A. wants to go and do likewise.
She has planned it all out and I went in to
Hollywood to introduce her to one woman -
she went to see a friend of hers - This friend
told her there was already one woman in H.
who was doing the same thing and doing well,
but she was well known in Hollywood - and
that Aunt A. should go to Glendale - she does
not want to go there - The course of her with
her poor health is what amazes me - But - while
I think it a foolish idea for her to try and branch
out - that is nothing to the feelings I have as to her
plans for me.

What do you think of this! - she wants, and fully
expects me, to rent this house and go with her
to keep house - And the arguments she uses! - My it
is funny how we do get an angle on what is
good for other folks to do. I got to mulling it
over in my mind and wondered if she had said
anything to Aunt E. about it - for Aunt E. had been
talking about how much better it would be for me
if I lived in the city. A & I went into L. A. & had

lunch with Aunt-E. Then we went to see
"The Conquering Power" under the same direction
as "The Four Horsemen" - a play founded on
Balzac's Eugenie Grandet - And fine. Then
Aunt-A. went to dinner at Blanchet's where she
will talk some more about this business idea
Aunt-E. and I had a two hours visit before I
came home. So I took the opportunity of
sounding her a bit - and I guess she is in the
conspiracy. And what do you think is one of the
arguments - I will make Ruth too dependent
on me - it would be better for us both if I were
not so near her - I am working too hard etc -
Well - the fact that I have my own home, I am
not annoyed by other people and do not annoy
them ^{being} is worth more to me than to be without
the hard work - does not enter into their conception
of things. I do not like to be "boarded" all of the time.
I like to do things, sometimes, just because I want
to do them without having to explain why I do them.
To keep defending my actions and thoughts is very
tiring. You know one of the names given Aunt-A.
in the family is "Miss Fix-it." She is more fun, such
jolly good company, so wanting to be of help - so

full of love for us all - But sometimes I would rather things would go a little wrong than to have to explain - or do it - when I don't feel like it in order to prevent some one else doing my work - And if I kept home for her - I would be continually having to go somewhere - and I would have to have hearty meals - etc - etc - Oh I am getting to be too lazy for any use - I don't want any more responsibility - a whole letter to explain just that!! -

Dr. Mrs. H. was here for a few minutes this afternoon. It is good to see them -

Jack's school has closed just what he will do now for the next few weeks I do not know. He wants some work of some kind, altho there is enough to do right here, it brings in no ready money.

Money, Money, Money - How we are all needing it - and yet none of us love money for money's self -

Sunday is such a useful day dropped in between the busy days of the week - I love to have it come and am sorry when it goes - I do not like the Sunday that usher in parties, however Hermosa Beach is so different from any of the other beaches - "Two miles of white sand without a concession" - so reads an advertisement for Hermosa. It is so quiet and natural altho the beach is crowded with people too -

God bless you. Write me all about yourselves and your work -
mother

that the man who is loaning the money made a point -
about having a loan put in right away?
kin and other and the
babies for me -
Mother.

Van Hook

August 21 - 1921

Dear Helen and Wilder and babies -

Herbert and I came out for a few moments just before supper and took Aunt Addie back with them for a visit. She has been planning to go each day for almost a week but it is hard to visit especially in a large family of children. Here she can enjoy the children but can be quiet when she wishes to be. I have been discouraging

her in going into business. She is fifty-five, although she has the sprightliness and pep of forty or younger. And she is not well, liable to be sick any time. She has enjoyed her being here, and really has the feeling of home. How she has wanted a home of her own all of her life, and how she has always had to live with some one else or else live in one dreary room - She has been a brave, strong

norman through all of her troubles for her life
has always been hard.

I think the Hatcher family would be very glad
now if Arthur would marry Blanche. He adores
the children and they adore him - but - Mrs Hatcher!
he draws the line there - and so does Herbert - I could
live with her something less than twenty-four hours - perhaps.
Arthur has not enough money to marry Blanche &
his children - He is wild to go in business for himself
and there is really talk of Jamie's coming down and
going in with him - Oscar would like to go in
with them but - whenever Oscar and Grace are there
is trouble. Grace is the most persistent-trouble
maker I ever knew, so I do not look forward
with any pleasure to the possibility of their
coming to L. A. to live - as they are talking of
doing.

Mame was telling about George - Herbert had
Mame on his lap and told George that when he picked out
a wife to be sure and pick a small one like his
mother they were easier to hold - George agreed that was
worth thinking about. Mame said "But - I expected you
to say 'I would marry any one until I can find a girl like
mother in my way'" George winked his eyes at her as he

gallantly replied - "But that would be foolish to say
for there aren't any - The other night they took
Wilder to dinner with them - a party of twenty
to dinner every Thursday evening to go in the plunge
and to dance - Wilder was the youngest boy there -
He was urging "Pick" a boy a little older than George, to
go up in the airplane with him - "Pick" - short for
picking - so named because he was such a black baby
when he was born - did not want to go - Wilder
was insistent - At last Pick said "well get a couple of
girls and I will go" - "Sure!" - "Come on Mother you
will go, won't you?" Pick is a study -

Jack has gone to Yosemite Park to be gone a week.
The American Legion pays his expenses - I am glad he
needs the rest and change. He has Ruth on his
mind every moment - He lives in a state of dread,
and it will do him good to get away for a while.
I miss your letters when you do not write, but I
also know how very busy you are and will be -
You have been so dear to me in writing so
regularly all of these years, I think you deserve
a vacation now in a while - Write when you can
but if you cannot always get in the weekly
letter tell Helen to write in your place - Oh not always -

I want to hear from you both - but I will
forgive an occasional non appearance of my
letter -

I shall think if you not commuting this week - what
~~is~~ fun it will be to relax a little and be with your
family - I am sending you something to read - I
should it be Herbert - first - what kind of "really
vigorous" exercise can you get? -

An operation that will bring in some extra
money will be most welcome, would it? -

Yes - California and New York are too far apart -
Ten years? - well - I shall be seventy then then -
And as deaf as a post - but I could still talk
comfort in seeing you and loving to have you
near me.

It is harder to get acquainted in a big city, of
course - but be patient - clear - friends will come
in time. You are both too friendly not to attract
friends - Your letter came yesterday, Walter, so
I expect Helen will come tomorrow. I wash ^{Wash} ^{Wash}
but Tuesday I hope to go in and see the plumber to find
out how much it will cost to put in a sprinkling system
in the lawn. Then Wednesday I hope to do in and see
the landscape gardener about putting in the lawn. I told you

August-29-91
San Diego California

Dear Children:

Nine o'clock Monday morning! - a
dreadful "sleepless time" to sit-down to
write with floors not-dusted, bed not-
made - nothing done but two short-letters
written, the ferns & window boxes sprinkled,
and two cavities in one poor tooth filled
besides breakfast - and half the paper read -
Dr. Graham said it was one of the worst-
he has had to fill for a long time and, of
course, I believed him. Not so painful
as hard to get at -

I don't know what to do about my tonsils
et al - Doctors disagree - To have them out-
or not - when them out - is the question - And
one says do, and another - don't. Louise
Clarke with some experience to full back on days
go to my osteopath - she will be able to treat -
them so they will become absorbed - etc -

The use of the knife and consequent shock
would be avoided and no harm done if no
good accomplished - but my son has nothing
but contempt for an osteopath - I know from
the experience of the past of shoulder muscles
grown to the bone that they can do some good
but -

This I do know whenever I catch the least bit
of cold a terrible commotion is set up in ears, throat,
gums & teeth. My sleep is interfered with because
I choke and splutter and dream. My mouth is
dry and stiff and phlegm is annoying. The
roof of my mouth and gums are sore and
inflamed so I can scarcely eat. My teeth
ache as though they needed filling yet no
cavities - My ears roar (they have begun
that distressing feeling again) and hearing becomes
more difficult. The confusion of many voices
makes me want more and more to be
all alone - and what is the answer? I do
not know. Yes, there is one other thing I know -
I don't want an operation nor treatment - either.

Wilder is having his vacation and I hope is getting a real vacation that will do you all good. I hope you were able to accept Dr^s John's invitation - The Harvest-Field With the Thermometer at Any old High Mark!!! Yes, I expect it would do Wilder good for he needs a little of that - sun over his whole body, I know.

Something more than a year since I left you - the years do go by with some celerity, and oh the many new experiences that come into our lives during the time of their passing! Will we ever again lead quiet-uneventful lives? I wonder. The whole world is top-sy-turvy - and until it settles individuals must keep on the go too, I suppose -

Helene Clague is married - she went to Chicago to study - whom has she married? why so suddenly? I have not heard and I am anxious (she is such a sunny, impulsive creature, so much younger than most girls of her age.

Arthur and Blanche are to be married on the 17th of September. Aunt Edith is in the depths of anxiety. And yet - how do we know

that she has not done for Arthur all that she
can possibly do, and that he now needs a wife
to carry on with him. Blanche is some thing of
a complainer I am afraid. Like her mother
and Anne thinks Arthur will have to take the
mother too. Arthur says he won't. And it would
seem as though, if he takes Blanche & the two babies
he would have his hands full, and that it
is up to Sade who has no children to take the
mother especially as it was Sade, against Anne's
wish, who brought father, mother, Blanche & the
children out here. But Milton is not well and
means to travel for the firm in his own case. And
Sade, who does not want any responsibility and
loves to attract the attention of other men, means to
take a place in an office. But that is not my
tangle. My own impression is that Arthur likes
Blanche but adores the children. I am not sure
but that will make it easier than if he adored her
and endured the children. How he will be able to
support a family on his present salary I do not
know. He said he could not under \$210 a month.
He is not getting that now, I do not know how much
he is getting.

I am not surprised, after all, that Milton's new

made in the books - I packed them - three
sets - Ruth's, Helen's and mine and placed
them in groups. but some one moved them
before they were marked and in the confusion
I was confused - so with the book cases - I
wondered when some of those books were but
did not realize so many were missing.

Can you take care of them? - Some of them I may
never want - and I could buy what I want - for
the money it would cost to send them out here.
I put some of my books in the Kalamazoo library - hence
the two names - some I left them that I wish
now had brought with me. Some of these books
were gifts, some have memories connected with them,
some ^{are} of value in themselves. If you would care to
add them to your library, do so. I have another
set of Irving's works here - also a set of Ferdinand
& Laabella. I see you have Vol. 1 - the rest of that
set must be here, then. Someday I will get the
one vol. of William Black to put with the set - I have - and
of course I must take the Camp book some time.

What prayers do the children say? - How are
you ever going to get things settled and
packed in order! You poor girl. Did mother have
his old desk sent - and buy a new one too?

You know I took loads of books to the
library in Hudson before I left. - Some to be
used there and some to be sent to the Soldiers -
and sold some for "old rags" -
I have not bookcases enough now to take care
of all that I have here - How they do accumulate!
Ed-our loves them so much - So many times Elizabeth
wants something in her school work and I
cannot find the reference book I need to help
her. - And since the war things have changed
so that really an entire new set of reference books
are needed.

The dear, dear children - kiss them for me and
tell me more about them. I am hungry for word
of them -

God bless you every one -

Mother.

Dear Charles!
Just to greet you
in the morning
I am missing
you very much.
It is like spring
fashions a bit.
Ederson to enter
the hospital
with wounds
forever.

I would have used the Fishers address before but - was too lazy
to make an effort - to remember it -

September 11 - 1921

San Diego, California

Dear Children:-

I did not get my last Sunday's
letter written at all - and I am rushing
at this now for fear an interruption
may come before I can finish - I sent
a card on Friday that you might know
all was well and to give you the news
of the Max Quarries being here.

It is Will's ^{and driving down here} vacation and amongst
other reasons, an important one was to see if
he could come down here without contracting
Hay Fever. He had it terribly a year ago at
Camp Grant - and, indeed, he had it here
before going there - He contracted it in the
Army Camps and if he can prove to the board
that he is still subject - that he will be able
to collect enough money to put him through

all the work he wants to do in college. He would like to stay in Palo Alto long enough to get his doctor's degree. He says if he is going into the leading business he proposes now to go in right. He is not only getting ~~what~~ ^{what} he wants in work but is making acquaintance with the men who can give him what he wants in position. He certainly gives one the impression of being very capable. He is looking well - Aunt Bob is wonderful. She is just as dear and lovable as ever and the children are fine. They came Thursday and will leave next Thursday. Will is trying to do about the house all of the things that are needed and that are so hard to get done. He wants to overhaul the engine in Jack's car - and is making himself generally useful.

They sleep here - Aunt Addie and Lolla are also here - Aunt Addie is chief cook and we all work - and visit. The children go to Ruth's for dinner at night at six o'clock.

And Ruth and Jack have dinner with us
at seven o'clock. Friday we went to
the Beach had a delightful day. Last evening
Herbert and ~~Ruth~~^{Mama} were here for dinner too -
Today Father In-law came to dinner and the children
were with us and the dogs have been by themselves.
Now the In-laws have taken their father back home
to Santa Monica. They will visit Winifred's Aunt
who lives there and have supper there. Tomorrow
evening the Penfields and we are going to Glendale
to see the Hermolds -

Will and Winifred want me to drive back with
them. It is a terrible temptation to me - but see
how many ties and shawls I could buy with
the money it would cost!!!!!! -

Cottie's niece expected to take her vacation the
first part of August, but unfortunately selected
September - I think Cottie is fuming but she still
enjoys being "in the game". Aunt Addie will
begin her work a week of tomorrow - but at

Pasadena instead of Sabala-Barbara which is much better. Her birthday was the 8th - Will's the 9th and Bobby's the 10th - Fred's comes the 13th - Dora's the 14th and Patsi - the 15th - Do you hear that - long sight? - If you ask Bert - what his name is he tells you Drarrow Herbert - and will answer to no other except Dora. or Dora I suppose would be the best - spelling - Herbert thought he had sold his house but it has not gone through yet - He wants to sell and buy in Hollywood.

Jack's school begins tomorrow. He got something in his eye yesterday morning. He closed it - until afternoon when he came home from Hollywood then Will tried to get it out. Finally he had to go to the Dr. It could be easily seen that his piece of something ^{was} ~~was~~ imbedded in the ball of the eye but it took cocaine and a knife in the Dr's hand. It was very painful but - better today.

I am anxious to hear about your visit at the St. Johns. Ah dear your vacation must be about over. How short a time it seems to be. But I hope you have stood up enough sometimes and fresh air to carry you through the winter ^{comfortably} ~~uncomfortably~~. I am so sleepy and tired and the home is so delightfully quiet - and cool, I am going to lie down - Good-bye you and yours -
Mother

San Diego California
September 18 - 1921

Children:
Mother -
one -
tabis for
his my
print -
give a
position -
no more
beams
my
marry -
no wedding -
my first
bookings

The Mac Quairns have come and gone.
They came Thursday and left the next
Thursday - and how I did enjoy the visit! -
It was a week of confusion - necessarily,
with a family of five - but a week of real
satisfaction. I said a family of five but we
were eight at table. The children are fine
healthy looking specimens of humanity. They
show their good up-bringing in spite of their
strenuousity - and there more strenuous
children would be hard to find. Active? -

My goodness, I should think dear nervous
high-tensioned Winifred would be worn to a
shadow but she looks well and happy -
Will is a wonderful buffer for her. They
have agreed that he shall be responsible

It is of him. Herbert does not know it yet - so I am keeping - bookings
and God bless you both - Art & Blanche had no wedding - my first

for the boys and wonderful for Ruth - a rather
equal division for Ruth is fully equal to the
two boys. You know how well, to express
surprise will fall backwards making a grand-
demonstration with stiffened body? - Ruth does
the same thing and it does look so comical
in the little five year old. I told Will that
was exactly like him - "No, you are wrong, I
am not responsible in any way for that child" -
He adores her, but even she attends when he
really speaks. He never nags the boys and
sometimes Aunt Addie thought he ought to
speak to them sooner - But nagging is not
training. He waits until they have gone quite
far enough in perfectly innocent fun then
he calls them to order and later tells them
why - now that is real training. If Will
could not pull the chair for any of us at table
Billy or John was always on hand without
a suggestion from anyone. But the incessant-
questions!!!! a virtue in the children that
is often a trial to us grown people. Dear,
lovable, fine-grained, annoying darlings -

We all went to the Beach Friday - Saturday
Bill did things in the house that had not
been left. Sunday Father Max was here for dinner
and they went to Santa Monica with him.

Monday Will, Winifred and I went in town
I made some calls, did some errands. Had lunch
and saw Douglas Fairbanks in the Metropolitan -
and when you have the opportunity to see
and see it - It is one of those films that
make you feel that motion pictures are
very well worth while. - Herbert & Max,
Ruth and Jack and we then went to Glendale
that evening to see the Kernotts - they have
such a pleasant little home - but like
most California bungalows it is too close
to the neighbors -

Tuesday Addie & I with the Mac Quarin
family went to Glendale - to see other friends -
and to Pasadena to see the rooms Addie is
to have for her work.

Wednesday we did things about the house
and after dinner Herbert & Maam came
for the evening - They left Thursday A.M.
Will found Rayfer waiting for him all
night, and Wed. Afternoon he went into town
to see the proper officials in regard to
if he gets his compensation - never had it until
he went to Camp Dodge - He will get \$157 a
month - Then he will stay and get his
doctor's degree, teaching in the University for
\$50 a month - still doing the janitor work
for the house rent - He will then be ready for
any educational work - and all expenses &
debts paid - so he is all right.

Arthur and Blanche were married yesterday.
We have no money to give them so Ruth is to
give them one of her cut glass vases that
was given her for a wedding present - and I am
to give them a dozen napkins - unhemmed
still - one of the two dozen I bought in Oxford.
you remember, Helen? - Jack's car is out
of commission so we are going down ^{to Herbert's} to go and see the

San Francisco California
September 25 1921

Dear Children:

It is mid-morning - ten o'clock - and the heat is beginning to surge in the open doors and windows proving near to have another day of real summer heat; after the usual cold night - and cool early morning. The mocking birds are courting again, getting ready for their second family of the year. The Mocker is such a wonderful lover. He sings his way into the heart of his lady lover so joyously and wonderfully - How happy she is to be courted like that! and I understand he is very loyal to his mate - No divorce follow his vows of love.

The Arbuckle case attracts much attention, as it should - you ask - Wether - if I am not ashamed of the profession I sponsor - Well, if individuals represent - the morals of the profession they degrade I should have to be ashamed of the law, medicine, ministry - and what ever other profession men devote

their lives to earning a livelihood - I send an
editorial on the Mark of the Beast - And another
on a beast and a hero - This beast - had not
the sphere of liquor and women in a close environment -
and the hero saves us from being too pessimistic
over the moral condition of the whole world. It is
not in Los Angeles alone, or San Francisco, or New
York or Chicago - it is in England, France -
every country we know about. Even Japan has its
imitators of our "swift set." It is all so horrible
and so killingly discouraging until one forces
oneself to turn and look at the other side of
the picture of the World of today. There never was so
much mean cruelty, horror, unhappiness. But,
too, there never was a time in the world's history
when there were so many men and women
living pure, happy, useful, unselfish lives. There
are heroes and there are demons. It is a
good exercise to keep ones optimism by searching the
papers for instances of heroism. I grant you we
had to search for the headlines of the unusual
horrible acts of the demons. - Just because they are
unusual, I suppose. The atrocities of such men as Arbuckle

are heralded all over the world - But who hears of
the fine domestic life of William Hart - and his
idolized sister? Who talks of the devoted home
life of Buster Keaton and his wife - of Charles
Ray and Tom Meighan and numerous others in
the Hollywood colony? If they are dead - no one
says anything about them and we forget - "there
are others." I wonder why Minta Durfee Arbuckle
and her mother have come to the assistance of
her divorced husband? She says "Rocco is a ^{big} lovable
foolish pleasure-loving boy" - but oh dear! if she
were only right in that description of him, how
glad the world would be! - Will it clear the

atmosphere in the Swift set? - I wonder! - Is he
worse than Stillman and thousands of others? Ruth laughs
because I told her one morning in answer to her question
of having slept well "No, I could not sleep for thinking
of Arbuckle" - meaning - not the individual man
but what he represents - God help them all who are
throwing away their manhood and womanhood!

Ruth had a slight attack again one night - this week
I suppose the bronchitis seized her - she has been very
tired since the MacQuarrie ran her - "I can't rather
at work" she says - she has been trying to let go and get
right - Wednesday eve. I was over there reading her a letter

from the Drass. Once when a laugh was due, none
came - I looked up and asked a question - her face
was frozen in a smile but no words came for
a moment - then she relaxed and was as usual.
She said afterwards she felt so funny she could not
answer what I said. Then she said for several
days she had had that awful feeling of fear and
that she must get away from something - if she did
not it seemed as if she must scream or go mad.
She took more bromide - and I stayed with her
until Jack came at midnight - she has begun her
nightly twitchings again. Usually relaxes about
three o'clock - Jack does not get much sleep until after
that.

Dr. West was out last evening. Jack did not want
Ruth to know he came to see her, which I think was
foolish. He came here - he visited - had watermelon
and coffee & cookies - and I talked with him a little
about my troubles - then he and Jack went to see
Dr. Conby - I suppose - I have had no chance to talk
with Jack since - Cottie was not feeling well, so we
just had a nice visit. He is very pleasant - he
thinks it unsafe to put off seeing someone about
my throat - as there is danger of putting it off until too
late - as his Aunt died - and lose my hearing. He thinks it
non-sense to worry about the operation as much as

old as I have it done with no bad effects - and with
good results. This is certain - there is poison, infection
in my system from somewhere. I would rather have
tonsils and Adenoids than any more teeth for I
need the teeth and have no visible use for the
former.

Mame has been having a hard week with her teeth
she has lost two of them. I have not heard from
her since Wednesday -

Aunt Addie has gone to Passadena to start in
her "beauty parlor". How she hates that little. It has
ground her pride terribly. Herbert took her over
Wednesday morning. It is the Lucille Frances
method of removing superfluous hair. Ruth
and I have lost our mustaches. I did not
mind mine much - but it was a constant worry
to Ruth. It has improved us both.

Aunt Addie is a marvel of courage and pop-
cotic and I went in with Wednesday. she had her
but doctored and we saw Tom Wright in Cappy
Ricks - very good -

Last Sunday Ruth, Jack and Addie & I went down
to Lumberton and asked Herbert to take us with the

when they next - to see Blanche & Arthur - oh but - I
guess that - I told you in my last letter. For I recall
now that Helen asked me a very funny question in
regard to a comparison of Mrs. Hutchcroft - and
herself! Ah Helen dear, to compare yourself to her -
you and I do not - remember anything at all
unpleasant - in our living together do we? - You love
me, do you not? - I love you - and when love is
there can be no sting - is that not true? - The
trouble with poor Mrs. Hutchcroft - and her daughter is
there is no love - she has complained, ^(plain language) and been
so selfish and heartless all of her life she is unhappy
and makes sure she is - Ah if we could only
realize when we are young that - we must - begin to
learn how to live so as to be desirable in old age -
Is it not dreadful to grow old and not be wanted by anyone?
But she is wholly to blame, I am certain.

I received Sydney Brown's wedding cards this week. He
married Gail Ridgway, daughter of Emma J. Ridgway
at the Church of the Transfiguration in New York City -
They are to live in Lewiston, Maine - sure of him to
think of me. The cards went to Galahad - Glendale & here.
I do so want - to see the babies and you -
Mother

San Diego California

October 2 - 1921

Dear children:

Such a wonderful day! - It rained Friday when I washed - Cloudy and misty yesterday but today the seven or eight-lines of clothes are dry - just such a day as we used to have in Lake County, W. Va. when you and I sent the rest to town and stayed a week or two longer - Oh can you remember those days in late September after the rains? Cold nights and mornings and glorious days?

Tuesday morning - Ruth came in and after our visit I laid down for a while - then George came and I visited with him and fed him up on cookies and sandwiches - and then Herbert came and after all had gone - for Ruth and Jack came too - I read awhile to Lottie - - was reading "The Maids" by Gilbert Parker. I had forgotten what a delightful writer he is, words flow as smoothly as the waters over a quiet little brook - and to bed early hoping to get a good night's sleep before going to the city in the morning.

My hopes were vain - I was as tense - as the rubber
hose when it gets twisted and when I could relax
enough to get to sleep I had nightmares - and then it
was off for awhile until I could get to sleep for another
nightmare - I had had no mince pie, either - neither
had I had coffee.

I went in town yesterday and had a long, long talk with
Dr West. I like him. He seems to me much more of a man
than Dr Shaw. By the way, he told me the med - Dr Shaw and
gave him my address and said they were coming out - was me -
He also gave me a letter of introduction to Dr Hartley which
I delivered at the office and made an appointment - for Friday
morning, when he will take a look at my throat and
ears. The time with Dr West was spent in going over Ruth's
case from my standpoint - and knowledge - He felt I had
shed more light on the psychological side. The little self-
controlled fearless girl who later became so fearful -
he went into her experience in the Spokane fire - I do not
know why we never commented her fear of fire that
tormented her so much later - to her experience that night -
I told him of her great faith - his face lighted and he
said - "By all means strengthen it" - I told him I had taken
a new course in my own thinking, since the last slight
attack and did not know if I should impress that on her.

that is - Jesus never refused to heal - that he had
promised - that some disease, the natural result of
our sin of carelessness etc - must be allowed - that
sometimes it was best for us to be laid aside for a while -
but this was such an insidious devilish disease that I
knew it was not His will that we could claim the
promise as our right - so - with his advice of laying
near the origin - the fear implanted at the Springfield,
strengthened by the memory of her first attack of
nerves - before she was married - with the strengthening of
her own faith that God will cure her and the continued
use of the bromides he looks for a cure. But we must
let her feel that we are not anxious and that we are
not frightened at any slight attacks, and that we must
keep her mind occupied with other things rather than
herself -

Here is something funny - Faith has been interested in two of
her school mates whose grandmother is a millionaire and gives
them each \$40. a week spending money. One of the girls spent
\$25 - one day at the San Francisco fair - on gambling games etc -
'and nervous etc' - At last she declared "They are snobs - and
I don't care for them at all." The other day she was telling about
something that happened in her group of friends - "we were
new

sitting on the grass, letting - about - half a dozen of us
middle class girls! - Talk about - them being no such
thing as classes in America, when children just - naturally
see it? -

Billy Johnston (Blanche's boy) said one day - "Oh Mother I wish
you would get me a daddy, all the other boys have one" - Little
five years old Jane spoke up very dignitously "Why Billy,
Mother can't - don't you know a daddy would love - his kids."
So when Adolphe Uncle Arthur became "Daddy" - small
Billy was a happy boy.

Oh I do hope, Helen, that - you will get - a woman in
every week. you can do more good in your family when
you do not - get - over tired. And it - will pay better in
the future if you keep yourself so you can help Wicks now,
and give your best - to the children - now while they are
making memories that are forming their characters -

A man left a will saying his oldest - son was to have half of
what he left, his second son $\frac{1}{3}$ of what - he left - and the third son
 $\frac{1}{9}$ of what - he left - He left 17 elephants - How divide them without
cutting some of them in pieces? $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{2}{3}$ - $1\frac{8}{9}$ of the elephants died
not - seem good. So their lawyer said - I will add my elephant - to
your 17 - that - will make 18 elephants - so they divided - the first - had
9 elephants - the second 6 - and the last - 2 - each one having more
than by the fractional divisions - and the lawyer drove his own
elephant home and all were happy - Please explain that - to me.

I do not know a thing about Uncle Tom - I will write him again.
I am certain you will get along well with your clinics, but - I know

it will make you quake. Do not send your sympathy.
Dear little Wilhelmina - I guess the old "bloody" jess were
not so far wrong - on the right day for every boy - and
they do not notice it then -

I am sorry Miss Halney is such a friend. Anatol - in
"The Affairs of Anatol" explains "can you not learn of and
honesty and loyalty?" Too bad the ones who need and the
ones who need cannot get together - Even in Yarkus there
must be many who would only be too glad to meet your
need by their needs - I am delighted that the

reprints are so satisfactory. It is hard to realize
the growth of the children - How are you ~~off~~ for sweets?
I think you need The Book of Knowledge to help you in
answering the children's questions. I gave a set to the Penfield.
and English - but - some way I do not see my way clear
to repeating the gift - how I wish I could! - It is a
wonderful help to the mother, and later the children are
so enthusiastic in reading them.

I joined the church here Sunday. I do not know
why I have dremled to do it. I could not bear to
take my name from Glendale, from the most spiritual
church I have ever known. I wonder if your mother will
love it as I did.

I must get to my room - I love you - Ah by the
way Herbert is to leave Hollywood and have charge of an
office - still the "Sears Realty" in Los Angeles - He will
have to leave home earlier and will have to work harder -
he hopes -

Lovingly - Mother

even if I do direct the letters to Wilhel - you need not
wait to open them until he comes, Helen dear -

Van Nuys California

October 11 - 1921

Dear children:

I could not get in the Sunday letter, although looking back I wonder why - It is Tuesday evening and as Coltie is ill I have the evening to myself. - After evening I knit and read aloud to her as she knits. She loves it so I do not like to disappoint her by doing anything else - But to begin back to last week Monday - and it certainly seems much longer ago than that since I met in town to see Dr. Mat.

We had a long talk and checked Ruth's history and fairly well. He says I think new light on some things. It looks quite possible that the basis of her trouble may be psychological dating from the long night of fear that she must have suffered at the Spokane fire. We expected to take the nine o'clock train. Our trunks were at the station and we were taking a last ride when at six o'clock we saw the fire from across the river. We hurried back to town and for some time we were in the excitement of it all - finding some one to get out the trunks from the burning station, loading up the carry with the most valuable contents, hurrying home dodging the raging furor of fire - and then Ruth & I watching from the balcony as your father, grandpa Penfield & the man hurried back to save more things. They had an exciting tale to tell of narrow escapes etc. Then we

went back to school - was near a station - some of the
Platoon had not returned - at one o'clock of reading the
Review my moral - and waited in that position - until
about - from o'clock - The fire, splendid, darkness - all
moral level of making a child who was as self-reformed
as she - Dr. Prud - says her faith in the goodness of God, His
love, protection and provision is her help now - Her faith and
the promises and time should come a cure - she thinks.
Jack does not want - me to tell her that - I have talked with
him about - her - God - she is looking well - and I think
her color is getting better. She has a great deal of rest and gets
very tired, but she lies to sleep and rest - before she reaches
her limit of strength.

Dr. Prud - gave me a letter of introduction to Dr. Will Hoekings.
I presented it, and made an engagement - for Friday morning -
I was then in line - He gave me a good - all specimens -
of ears and throat - You make two small bottles of right - ear
was than my left - ear? There is very little difference - But -
He thinks there is absolutely no need of a third - specimen.
The bowl of the left ear is large as our left - ^{mouth} ear -
back further they are not - as large - the remains of an adenoid
that is common to all people - nothing much - and not - a
bit of any infection. The whole throat - looks healthy - so far
good. But there is poison in my right - ear - now I am back to
the little - and I nearly don't want - when any more of the
poisoning things.
The skin is not going - me any trouble except - on my feet.

They are active and painful, but - they will get better again
I am sure.

While I was in town Friday Mr Burke came out - to put
in the lawn and plant a few thorns & vines. He was quite
puzzled to find me gone - but - he came back on Saturday.
He thought I had made a mistake not to put in the order -
ground system of sprinkling. "For keeping a lawn
wet - is a man's job when you have to carry the law" - He
said a deal about - no woman should attempt it - but - this
is an age of women attempting men's jobs you know.
I am going to have a surface system put in but - the plumbers
are taking their time. The lawn was seeded Saturday
and watering a gun-fuzz is over - all - the clover is showing.
Twice a day I sprinkle it thoroughly - at nine in the
morning and again at three in the afternoon. This
morning I found dog tracks across one corner and in
another corner a gopher has been at work."

Herbert - told Jack today that he had received a letter from
Fred telling of Herbert's release from his pain and weakness.
He has put up a good fight - and now the two little
children with neither father nor mother!! Oh dear -

I am glad if the curtain will fit - Did they seem so
many? - All that I had in Glendale new - for dining room,
sitting room and hall.

Josie has an apartment - for \$ 65 a month more than she feels she can pay - and I think she would have been glad if I had said "Leave your Aunt - with me" - but - I didn't - She was to come for Lottie on Sunday. She did come after six o'clock but she was so tired I got her a heavy supper and had her go to bed. She took the 6.30 car the next morning and left Lottie until her sister could come for her in her car - Tomorrow, probably. Lottie was sick all night - and in bed today, so I am afraid she will not be ready to go when Ruth comes for her -

I am so sleepy now - I know there is something I want to say about your letter - but I must go to bed for I have some hours to make up for last night -

Good bless you all -
Mother

Dr Hastings told me to come in three or four times to have my ears "blown out" - a tube through the nose that when air is pumped in makes me feel that everything is coming out - through the ears - and again in three or four months. I heard him with the girl the drum was there and relaxed - I go in again on Friday - Lottie feels some better this A.M. - not much, still in bed. Ruth has taken the children to school and baby is here and calling for me, and here is the plumber.

Mother -

San Diego, California

October 16 - 1921

Dear children:-

Dr and Mrs H. came over for a call this afternoon - It was good to see them. They told us of your visit at Dr. Aeschbacher's - What a pleasant experience! I think it was lovely you could have it.

I am alone again - had dinner at Ruth's for the first time in six weeks - No, I guess I still have my dinner there in August when Aunt Addie was with Herbert. Cottie was sick the most of this week - but when they came for her yesterday with the auto she was feeling better. I did not notice it particularly until after she had gone - but then the horrid feeling of utter loneliness came over me - and I knew I was mighty tired - went to bed at 8.30 and slept until 6.30 this morning - It is not quite even yet. (Sunday eve) and I am quite ready to go to bed again - After I have visited with you a while.

Jack and Ruth went to a dance last evening. Jack always enjoys such things and he was pleased to feel that Ruth enjoyed it too - She does not care to go, usually.

not only because she does not care particularly for dancing but she is so tired afterwards - she seems quite bright today, however -

Aunt Elizabeth gives up her apartment - on the 26th she comes here for a visit - I went in to town on Friday for a blowing out of the ears - the right ear seemed a bit better - I go in again a week from Monday - Colta wants to do some shopping and to cheer her up and get her out of her depression at leaving me again I told her to meet me at the station and I would take her to the store when she could shop while I was at the doctor's and then we would go to the movies -

The clover is up on the lawn and today I could see the green blades of the blue grass - The gophers have been doing some damage - of course - and volunteer potatoes are poking up their unwelcome green heads. I shall get me some boards to walk on and go travelling on the previous lawn tomorrow - Oh for a man!! - I was green with envy when Dr. H. told of having a real gardener working for him. There is an illusion Mexican that I have hopes of getting hold of someday who works in the neighborhood sometimes. I would like a

man two hours a week, regularly. I think I could manage
them.

I have not heard a word from the Penfields this week. I am
anxious to know how Herbert is getting along in his new location.

David is so dear. Jack bought him a yard hoping it
would relieve Ruth. He loves to be out-doors and putting
him in that makes it possible. Ruth often sits in the
afternoon either in a chair or on the grass beside him. But
when the girls come from school he is not content unless
one of them is devotedly tending to him. Bob is very fond of him
too, and David thinks him a great joke - but the greatest
joke to David is his father. When Jack makes faces or
gives utterance to his funny noises he shrinks with delight and
actually he has - I have told you one eye is larger than
the other, one ear stands out more than the other - but
first the same he is most attractive and sweet. He is lighter
and gracier than the other four were - more like Herbert's
children and Ruth Mary - he has two teeth now - but there
are times when Jack would willingly call or give him
away. He sucks his thumb - is full wretched at night and
makes the same kind of noise as he sucks - that his uncle
Wilder used to do. And that is rather hard for a man
who can not sleep with a watch ticking in the room where
he bears.

The picture papers came - for which I thank you - and
the pamphlet - the Golgi apparatus - I cannot pronounce
those words, and I do not know what they mean but
I am as proud as a peacock when I look it over
and see how well it is written and illustrated. Ruth
is so glad for both you and Helen that Helen is so well
able to work with you and help you, Wilhel-

If you have an extra copy send me W. Will - or would
you rather I loan him mine? He wants to read one
of your articles and I forgot to get them out for him
when he was here.

Mrs. H. asked me to come to Glendale and stay all night
with her some Saturday and go to church in the A.M. I would
awfully like to - if she would be willing for me to come
Sunday morning - but I do like to sleep in my own bed -
I must be getting to be an awful old crank -

I met a Mrs. Mulford today whom I know in the Glendale Church
She could not get over the idea of how well I look - "And you
are as handsome as I am" - California Colon -

kiss and hug tight - the dear babies for me - How I long
to see you four in your new home. But it looks now
as though new letters could not be had for long. Will this
R.R. strike prove the death blow to the unions? -

I love you dears - Mother -

I had the three girls over from 5th grade yesterday and afternoon and
 their parents of the day of the Lake Villa. I wish them such a
 a lot of it - 15 weeks in Christmas day - I hope it has been a
 planned she made all of the cake - I wish them such a
 I wish them such a
 I wish them such a

Van Nuys, California

October 23 - 1921

Dear Children:

Last evening Jack and Ruth, Elizabeth (who is learning to drive the car) and I went down town and then on to Herbert's. I and Ina were all dressed ready for a dancing party - so we stayed but a few moments. Ina was depressed - at first - because she was so tired. "You can't take care of a house and sew and keep well at the same time." I amended her statement - by "I couldn't keep house and sew at the same time." However, society acts like a stimulant to her and by the time their friend the Hickersons came she was bright and youthful again.

Did I ever tell you what Jean said to Faith once? - "My mother has to put something on her face because she works so hard but your mother does not need it - well - it does give color and sparkle but it always seems to me that the lines deepen and one looks older and more. And to see Ruth and Ina together sometimes makes me wonder. Just a month's difference in their ages but even when Ruth looks sallow and haggard she still looks younger. And when her color is good as it is now

she looks years younger. Name is like Mother Penfield staying at home tires her, and no matter how tired she is going somewhere brightens her. I should think she would die to work as hard as she must - and be up as late nights going to dances and the movies sometimes almost every night - but - perhaps she would die to work so hard and not go. Of course something has to suffer and her nerves must - call for the relief she gets in scolding the children, for you know if children cannot help but be a nervous strain at all times - and when George sticks out of study and Wilber loses everything he owns and all that George owns too, if he can get his hand on his things, and Pat - not - practice, and Jean seems slow, ^{& dreamy} and Ford bulldozes Drak, and Drak gets into mischief, that even his adorable smile and his ^{his} charming dimples cannot - quite - make good - what - can a poor, tired, little Mother do? -

Pat is going back to last evening - while the rest were doing shopping I got out of the car & go to the Pool - Office - on my way back I stepped on a string used for tobacco and staggered and pitched until I butted into a stone wall and fell to the cement - walk. A man tried to catch me but - failing - helped me to my feet: He could not say a word even when I apologized and thanked him - when I walked on to the car he was still gasping and grinning. I was jarred and sore - both mentally and physically - but - do not feel it at all today.

I received the package of books and letters - and am glad when the London work
especially when I will.

2.

Last night I was powerfully tired and need-to-bed
at ten o'clock saying to myself - "how tomorrow morning
I will not get up until I feel like it." I expected to have
a lovely morning snooze - I was wide awake at five
o'clock and when it dawned on me that I could not
go to sleep again I got up - 5:30 on a rainy Sunday
morning!!! - But I said - "I will have a long time to
write the children a long letter" - but alas, the time keeps
going so fast - and hours seem like minutes - It is
now ten o'clock - time for David to have his bottle and
I suppose he must be awake and calling for it -
all the family are at Sunday school - so I must go -
I felt so lazy and self-indulgent - I even said I would
not go to church this morning - I hope to read 1st. Cor.
however - If David and I have time for it - I can't
give him his bath until an hour after his bottle, I suppose
It was cold over there so I bought David new when
I have a fire - I spent \$3.50 for two new gas heaters Friday
although they have not been installed as yet - Could I have
done without them? - Well - possibly, but you will recall that
I do not enjoy sitting in a cold room - nor even a chilly room.
I hate a chilly bathroom, too - so I bought a small heater that I
can keep burning low all of the time. Then I shall sit in my
room much in the evenings - fewer windows and a smaller
room to heat - this winter, so I want a stove there -
Friday I went in town - Saw Bill Hart in the Good Brand - and
it was good. He is such a fine, clean man how can one not be
impressed with it in his plays - while waiting for the truth,

I talked with a stranger - Religion, morals and all the deep things before us and around us - of course - finally she said "what is your church denomination?" you are a Presbyterian aren't you?" she could not, or would not, tell me why she thought so only "Oh I don't know, I sort of feel you are" - she? - joined the Christian Church when I was 22 - stayed with them until she went "farther on spiritually" - she - she. Farther one book! - But that is not the first one used has given me a Presbyterian - why? when do I carry my sign? I am quite curious about it. I used to say the Congregational church was my mother church and the Presbyterian my mother-in-law church -

I am sending on a letter from Will to Herbert - which will explain itself. I had one from Winifred yesterday. They took Betty to the Dr. and he must have his adenoids removed again or his hearing will be lost - which they dread until he becomes he had such a horror of all he went through last winter with his ears. Speaking of Will she says - "He is doing supervising work for him (Dr. Proctor) now, of the the teachers doing practice work in the schools around here. His course is heavy, but he seems to think everything is fine. It is my life right now, I do hope we can keep well. I just pray that I may be sensible and sit steady this winter." How we all lead our lives full - and how we all need to live a day at a time.

Ruth had a letter from Mary - you have probably heard too that Fred and Isabel are to take the children? -

I am to have the Christmas dinner - I am to be invited - Herbert - 8 - Ruth - 6 - Aunt Elizabeth and Aunt Addie and I make 17 - then I hope the three Kernotts, father Mac and Mrs. Newcomb will be here - So on Christmas day what a lot of wireless messages will be going to you and coming from you to us -

I have duplicates of the pictures Helen do you want them? I mailed my letter this week - your loving Mother -

Van Nuys California

October 30 - 1921

Dear Children:

Yes, the "green grass grows all around" - somewhat ragged looking because of gophers - especially - but green and getting quite prosperous looking - I am going in to Hollywood with Herbert tomorrow morning to have a definite talk with Mr. Bakke and finish out the order for this fall - And as soon as it gets a little cooler I shall begin transplanting so as to have some kind of a setting for the green grass of Hollywood, Pinks, Petunias, and Calendula - with some Canterbury bells for the spring blooming - Then I think I will sow broadcast - some seeds of the California poppy and blue bachelor buttons in one spot - and put some blooming clumps of Coreopsis and Gaillardias where they will do the most good. Mame says there were no such lovely Gaillardias as I have in the flower show -

Aunt Addie likes her work very much and she expects soon to be able to take Blanche in with her. Then they will try to get a little home between Pasadena and L. A. together. Arthur says - "Now Blanche we must try and bring these children up right - and I think we can arrange it - so as to send Blanche and S.S. - so he gets them ready for S.S. and goes with them while Blanche gets the house in order - do it not a wonderful thing for him? -

I like to hear you tell me of your work at the Hospital. Did the man with the cut veins and post-operative pneumonia recover?

I hope you can manage to go to Bayetta Thanksgiving. And here is hoping the clothes may hold together if they cannot be replenished before next June. But, oh dear, they will get shabby and will get out of style -

I think Dr. Hastings was a little bit disappointed that my ear did not show a greater improvement - but Monday. I am going in again tomorrow. I take in Hollywood on my way in to see him - Charlie Chaplin is showing in The Lullaby Class - perhaps I shall see him as you said I should see him at least once. Aunt Elizabeth is in Pasadena with Addie so I shall not see her - she and

Addie may come out - here next - Saturday and Aunt - E.
may stay with me until after Christmas. She is looking
for another apartment - and she can take her time finding
me during that time.

Today is Uncle Tom's birthday, tomorrow is Margaret's
and Tuesday is James's.

I wish we were where I could see more of Mrs Kemmott.
It is a long way over there by trolley - not as far by
Auto. but Jack's tires are almost gone and I do not
not look with favor on long trips.

I do not seem to have much to write about - tonight - I
went in Friday afternoon to Lumberton and had dinner at
Herbert's - and they took me home. He is very tired when he
gets home nights now, but very hopeful that he may work
up some business. He has had a very discouraging year.

I had a postal from Mrs Griffith from Corinth. I cannot
for the life of me recall the name of her son. I suppose they
are in Oxford now. They have been traveling all summer. From
Switzerland & Italy, a four day trip in the Peloponnesus - and will stop
a few days in Roussels - fine for them is it not? - Do you
know where Mrs Miller and Francis are? - Do you hear
anything from the Halls? Has Abby returned from England?

What - is she really going to do? And where is Mary
and what - is she doing? I am sure you and
Milder are keeping in touch with them. Helen -

Faith has just - brought - me a cloth of popcorn - and
I must - go and get - some milk 25¢ with it - and have
my supper - Then I will finish the head of a Fool
by William Allen White - and get - my thoughts arranged
for my interview with Mr. Bakke tomorrow and go 25
cent - for I must - be up by five o'clock tomorrow -
I want - to see you and the babies powerfully back -
yes I do -
Mother -

San Diego, California

November 8 - 1921

My four Dears:-

I could not get in a letter on Sunday -
The two Aunts came out in time for dinner
on Saturday and that night we talked until
two o'clock. Aunt Addie had been ill with one
of her dreadful colds but she was up and
nervous and wanted to tell me all of her new
experiences, good and bad, since going to Pasadena -
So Sunday morning we did not hurry around
very fast. Breakfast at ten - a slow, leisurely
picking up and an opening of a wardrobe for
Mrs. Prime to Aunt Elizabeth containing clothes that
had belonged to Miss Mari. They would not
fit Aunt E. and we sent for Ruth - well, every
thing fitted both Aunt E. and Ruth as if made
for them. Result? - Aunt E. has a dark blue
suit and a Palm Beach suit - two Cape de chin

blouses - one all dark blue the others dark blue
embroidered in red. and a lovely black crepe
gown with open work embroidery - she was out
of everything except - but very nice gowns and
now she has just what she needed most:

Ruth has a bright-blue georgette gown for evening
parties - a dark blue gown of georgette for afternoon
parties - a dark blue crepe gown for every day
afternoon wear. a black (beautiful) suit - and a
lace waist - to wear with it. - The lace waist needs ^{have}

cleaning and relining - the rest - only need ^{to be}
the skirts shortened! Do not - that - wonderful? -

Then there are two wash skirts of white that are
to be made of over for Margaret. - A suit that

was Marian Fratts that Ruth was to have for
herself will be made for Elizabeth instead -

Too bad that some of the things could not be
passed on to Ruth. I am but - Aunt - E. and I am

do not love each other and that was my Aunt
E's requests - or demands that nothing should go
to I am - I am sorry - but - can do nothing -

Do you know, being unpleasant - does not pay!!! -

We had a rather late dinner on Sunday - The Dupli
came over - and we talked etc. etc. - until bed
time. Yesterday I was in the garden, and planned
and cut-out some underwear for the girls for
Christmas - ^{and darning} Then knitted and read aloud - I
am reading "In the Heart of a Fool" to Aunt E. until
such time as something else comes for us to read.
And although I had just finished reading it, I am
not at all bored by it -

"Architectural beauties of Baltimore"!!!! - That is all
the Commend - I need to make - Good Adv. for
Brono-seltzer.

I was so much interested in your day in
Baltimore, Wilder. Does it look as though there
might be some trouble in settling the question of
the combining the two Neurology departments? It
is mighty fine that there is this sort of tentative
offer from Wood to back you up in any question
that may come up when the Dean returns - It
makes you much more independent - and the more
assured you are the more they will all respect you.

New and funny creatures - They want - what
other new want, from woman to business -

Oh Helen - please send me some Measures -

Of Ruth Mary - Length from shoulder to bottom of
skirt: ^{20 1/2} length from shoulder to waist - ^{5 1/2} Length ¹³ of arms.

Bust measure - ^{23 1/2}

Of Milder boy - Length of arm ⁵ length of trousers ¹⁴
waist ² and bust - measure ^{25 1/2}

Of yourself - Length of arm ^{2 1/2} bust - measure ^{41 1/2} and

length from under arm to waist - ^{9 1/2}

Now do not be surprised if nothing comes of these
measures - but I want to be prepared if the
spirit moves in a hurry - I would like you to
send them as soon as possible -

It is time to prepare lunch - Ruth's lunch &
our dinner. Then for supper Aunt - 2. and I
eat - salad or cereal or something equally light - & rest.
Aunt A. need - back on Monday. I was in hopes your
father & mother would be over last Sunday - But - I
guess I shall have to invite my Christian dinner invitee
to them, for I cannot - do over them very well -

Loveingly
Mother

Van Nuys, California -

November 18 - 1921

My dears -

Such a busy week - as usual. But I surely
am getting to be an old crank. Do you know
what I miss when I have company with me?
My breakfast alone! - Aunt E. is the easiest-
company I have about meals. She likes everything
that I do - and always has more than enough no
matter how little I have. We sit up much later
at night - so I do not get up so early in the
morning. Monday and Tuesday I did some sewing &
actually - Wednesday Mrs. Hoeker came to see for
Ruth and the washing, ironing and cleaning have filled
the last three days - yesterday two young men came
from Mr. Baake to talk over a plan of planting,
and this week I am to go down some day to see
what they make of it. Rather fun to plan the
pretty things. But when I do plant a tree or bush
I will know that is when I want it to be.

I know you are rejoicing over Harding, Smith and Hughes!

plan that he presented to the Conference. And the
Tribute the people paid to Wilson on Friday -
So many of the Church people do not believe disarmament -
possible because there will be another war according to the
Bible - the most awful one that can be imagined - "But
there is a way of escape as all who love the Lord will be
caught up to meet Him in the air" well, the Bible does
seem to teach that, and we know there will not be
much hope of any saving of life, property, or land if
another big war comes to us. If the nations could agree
and could think of each other as they would like others to
think of them - war would not be possible - The
Millennium with the rule of Christ - would be here, without
any question. But we do seem to be a long way
from loving each other in the Lord way.

And E. and I are going in town tomorrow, leaving
here in the seven o'clock car -

Jack is on the Red Cross Committee of course - He spoke
at one of the churches this morning and will speak at our
church this evening. And E. went down with him and
Ruth to church while I stayed home to write -

How remember James Watt who taught at Galahad
one year? He is a missionary in India. A Missionary
preached this morning in our church - when I heard that

he attended Primitive Seminary and was in Leticia. I felt
sure he knew Mr Watt. I wanted to speak to him and later
brought Jack back to speak to him - He roomed with
Mr Watt two years at Primitive and is situated about 100
miles from him in Leticia. Mr Watt has four boys -
think of that! - "Regular Bolshevik" Mr Robertson said.
He is such a big, big man - red hair, two dimples and the kind
of blue eyes that look clear through you - I would hate to try
and lie to him - When he came out of the Seminary he went
to Umatilla to preach - One woman said "He does not look
like a preacher" - Indeed, why not? said Mr R's friend - "Why
he does not wear suspenders" - Mr R. sent back word that he
was a 1912 model and they were not turning out that kind that
year - His talk was full of humor that made it all interesting
and profitable.

It is getting to be very pleasant - to be able to meet people
and know the name that goes with the face. This church
cannot compare with the Glendale Church, of course, for Mr
Edmonds was - or is - a most unusual man - but
as a class I think I shall feel more at home with
the ladies here ^{they are} ^{rather} ^{looking} I bet, as you know, I do not feel at
all settled - I find I am always planning about
selling - I thought I was settled for life in Spokane and
again at Dulahed - so I may be just as much mistaken

here.

I am gradually collecting a family - I feed ^{milk} one big cat - and her two kittens Furs & Frathers - Frathers is a long haired - somewhat - akin - to - Angora cat - and Furs is the runt - and quite nervously inclined - Mother cat is a good hunter and gophers are plenty - if she would only let the birds alone - She presented us with nine kittens - but they were really more than one cat could well care for -

Ruth looked so pretty when she went to the party with Jack Friday night - she is really feeling and looking and acting right well - May she continue in the good work. The Chrysanthemums are in thing long and I am enjoying them - The young men from the Museum agreed in saying they had never seen such a wonderful variety of Gaillardias as I have - The most exquisite combination of colors - and the cold winter will not kill them -

We are having glorious days - The blue sky, the sunshining, the flowers and the Mountains - if we only had a good water view! - The St. Croix for example -

I have not said much that will interest you - Faith was in the dance of the Juniors at the High school - graceful little thing! - Margaret led the Juniors - subject - Central America. She gathered her material without help from anyone - And the teacher in charge said -

your clothes - lookily - your clothes -
 And in a big
 city one can see things that
 surprised - because so well - known
 in "Main Street" - I am so
 surprised that the
 clean suits of Wilkes
 are still usable.
 Jack bid me tell
 you about the hot -
 the 1000 degree - And
 the memory is a very
 pleasant - an obtain
 I think. You are
 have your vacation
 next job and I know
 you are very sound
 when you sleep
 you don't think (5
 try and work - will
 you remember that -
 you should - dear, by!

Alh. Lee -
 all kind of
 work -
 1921
 California
 Sunny

Tuesday evening - I am alone in the house save

for David nuzzling at his bottle over on the couch.

I have put out all lights excepting the green globe
 around desk lamp right over the paper on which I
 am writing, hoping he will forget he is not in his
 own bed and will go off to sleep soon. Jack & Ruth

and the children are going down to the theater to see
 some war films rented by the Legion - scenes shown
 of the ground over which Jack labored behind the
 fighting line. I was hoping to go too - but the "flea"
 killed otherwise.

Mrs Ross came out Saturday I was coming down
 with the "cold" that began with Faith. put Ruth in bed
 two days - Bobby three days and the baby sick for a
 week. I could not get word to Mrs Ross and she
 was good a Scientist - to believe this thing contagious,
 so she came. Sunday we did not go to church - I read

well - coats are so much work this year you can dip them with a wet
 brush - new of each good charcoal of they have done good service

Aloud one of Jewell's sermons you sent - Mrs
Ross read the scripture lesson then she read the
Christian Sc. lesson for the day. She many scripture
selections she read were full of meat - and I cheered on
each one while she read the Eddy comment - which seemed
so sensible & wise. Aunt-Elizabeth knitted. We had a
dandy dinner. a glorious cream pie - I furnished the
cream & eggs - Mrs R. made the crust - & Aunt-E. the filling.
A rib roast - broiled. string beans, new potatoes. lettuce &
min. salad.

I felt pretty bad but - stuck it-out - until about - nine
o'clock when I begged for bed. Yesterday morning they
brought me coffee and bread - in bed and I did not
get-up until the house was warm about - eleven
o'clock. After dinner they both went back to L.A.
I was in bed by six o'clock - but did not try to sleep
before 9.30 - and did not get-up until 10.30 this morning -
I have been the laziest - of the lazy lot trying to get-ready
for tomorrow as I go to Dr Hastings again tomorrow.

I invited Mrs Ross for Christmas - therefore lighted up and
she closed her eyes with a "Oh thank you" that-sounded like
a "Thank God" - She has been dreading the holidays so much -
Her man died on the 17th of Dec. Then she insisted on coming
out - and helping me with the dinner - then it was my turn to

say "Oh thank you!" she loves to cook & plant work and she is so lovely - and I was dreading the turkey etc. for truly-people. It is a ~~you~~ you need - me - as - I need - your proposition in this world. Mrs R. will come out - a few days next week to help make the mince meat - and some new "rocks" - "I like to make it - and it is better and cheaper than the mince meat - you buy" - she has the mince & pumpkin pie and the two turkeys all but - ready for the table. Elizabeth is driving the car now - takes it down to school in the morning and so relieves her mother -

Thank you for sending me the letters - it all need like having a glimpse of them all. I hope Abby may see you in New York on her way home. Does she intend to go into an established nursery? Or does she intend to open one herself? She is certainly a busy, busy girl now. Miss Crocker's letter was a bit of her own happy, unselfish self. And such a dear note from Lady Asker -

I am so glad you two were able to go to the game at Princeton. You gave me another picture that brought back the summer of 1913 - It was to be in 1928 when I was going back with you with the six oldest - grand-children!! - Well, who knows - 1928 is not here yet - and I have seen many unexpected changes come in less than 18 months time. I never thought - I should see it

England but - I did and hope to go again some day.

The English family have a turkey in Thanksgiving and I eat with them. I do not know what the Lankerton family plans are. Hope to set off in the seven o'clock car tomorrow in time to stop off there and go in to Holly wood with Herbert. Herbert has been going to bed by 7.30 or eight o'clock lately so they told me a week ago tonight. Have not seen them since then.

I am going through all of my Treasures in Chests & boxes lately to cull out enough desirable things fit to be given as Christmas gifts - for instance - two new towels - one goes to Winifred, one to ^{with} Ruth. A long good though used Tablecloth to be cut in two to make two everyday cloths for Mamma and a lovely yellow & white comfort - that belonged to Mother's double bed - also for Mamma. And I spent a new & big bath towel may find its way into Jack's stockings - etc etc. Does it make any difference when I bought them, or for whom I bought them so long as they go where needed? -

I am so glad that you are really enjoying the babies even with all the work and care they bring - No, I do not see the Times I have living age and Atlantic - The Saturday Post - and mean to add world's work this year - Jack takes Colliers and Liberty Digest - and they keep me busy too - I am reading Main Street now. And am indignant with the Author for not having the decency to put in at least one really Christian character - for every Main Street surely has at least one sweet, loving Christian among its houses -

Sau May - California
November 27 - 1921

Dear children:

I know this paper does not match the envelopes
and I cannot find any envelopes ^{in L.A.} that will match
this paper. but I want something more intense in
color than white or gray - so I yielded to temptation
and am writing on blue -

Four weeks from today is Christmas! - and my work
is cut-out and even started for two weeks out of
the four -

Will you do you recall twelve years ago now? - Faith
was a baby - Ruth had tonsillitis followed by "Erythema
Nodosum" - a nervous trouble for which she was
taken to California for a treatment of four months -
An expensive journey - she could not travel alone so
Jack had to come with her - Well - she has the
same thing now only instead of calling it by that long
name Common English novels are used - infection
from tonsillitis - and as she is in California she
is simply ordered "not to step foot on the floor
for at least a week" - The heat from the hard
glistening-red patches on her legs - the great pain
when she moves so that any pressure comes on
those parts and the pain & weakness when she
attempts to bear her weight on her feet - are all

remembered symptoms. The headache and
fever are better. But she still likes the cold ^{wet} clothes
on forehead and eyes they burn so.

Baby still has his cold that has proved so hard to
control - He cried so often last night probably his
fourth tooth will soon be through. Elizabeth has such
a sore throat - it is hard to swallow and she feels so
wretchedly. I am leaving them to themselves today -
(I worked long hours yesterday and Friday so I am
being just "lazy" today to prepare for the week ahead).
Tomorrow the children will be in school and I will have
to be on duty over them from 8 in the morning until
the girls come home from school. And a week of
tomorrow the dressmaker comes again. And I
usually want several days of just being lazy after
a week of dress-making.

I went in town last Wednesday to see Dr Hartings
but he would not blow out my ears because of my
cold - I was to "Syringe your nose and throat and be
absolutely lazy and quiet - and come in again next
Wednesday" - I wrote him today asking for another date and
said "good mothers and good grandmothers like good
doctors cannot remain lazy for long at a time and
remain "good" -"

I pulled up all of my beloved Jiminis yesterday -
I cut all of the flowers that because of being more

Cakes and some of the other things too - she has quite
an idea of getting a meal and "assembling" it - Her
father called her yesterday when he was called to lunch on
the stroke of twelve "Elizabeth always gets her meals right
in time" - That is the best of a good cook it seems to me -
but oh dear, her kitchen looks like a cyclone when she
finishes - and how she does step around and over and
behind so many things that need to be done and never
see them!!! - Margaret cleans thoroughly as she goes
along but she cannot "assemble" she is but 15 months
younger than Elizabeth yet 2 1/2 years behind in school
and in thought -

You have not told me, Mildred, how you would feel
about going to Hopkins if a real bona fide offer was
made you. Would you want to go? And could you
leave New York feeling it to be all right? - If they made
you a better financial offer or Whipple could not object
if it was also a better offer for you professionally - would
it be? Could you do better work there? - Talk to me about it -
both of you.

Mrs Kernoll seems pleased to come here Christmas
and that makes me very glad, too - Mrs Ross is coming
out Thursday to make the mince meat - Aunt L. will also
be out again this week - she will have her Christmas work done
and will help me with making some underclothes for the five
girls - and will help with the dressmaking next week -
Great old friend I have - do it not miss? - I give them what they
need - a place to go - and they give me what I need -
God bless and keep you - I did not have a letter from you this week -
Mother -

sheltered still remain - and as I sit at my
desk and look at the three bouquets of bright,
brave, uncompromising flowers I shall not see again
until next summer I feel quite sentimental - but
there is a lovely vase of two pink roses that I know
will be duplicated often during the winter - for the
bush is full of buds - and there are clown pinks,
and pansies and coarse, bright-yellow Calendulas
in plenty coming on - and a bed of stock - and,
if it does not freeze a darling heliopsis full of bloom
now. The few Camas I have are coming out - again
and it won't be long before I shall scatter seeds of
the Californian poppy when the rose garden will be
some time and some petunias will bloom I hope
before spring - - when I can get them transplanted
so they will have a chance - Ah a garden is a joyous
thing. One of the neighbors gave me a lot of
mint - a bush that makes a very pretty hedge - evergreen
graceful and with soft pink flowers. I ask took the
time, yesterday to dig about 60 ft of trench and
plant them for me - I surely did appreciate it.

Strange - we never thought Elizabeth would care
much for cooking - she loves to try new things - she
makes all the fruit cakes, and cookies - many of the

San Diego -
December 8 - 1921

Dear Children:

Only a few words tonight. Your letter written Nov. 27th & 30th and mailed Dec. 8th came today. I was so glad to hear from you. Glad you went to Philadelphia - Herbert told me Monday evening you had gone. He and Mame had supper with Dr. and Mrs. H. Sunday and got the latest news of you. Then heard Mame came out here Monday eve.

I could not get in a letter on Sunday. Ruth is still in bed. Yesterday and today she put on her corsets long enough to be fitted. Mrs Eastwood always works fast but fitting Ruth she worked like lightning so as not to keep her in her bed. Two skirts were fitted. And she sat in a high stool to fit a blouse fitted.

Her legs ^{arms} are better - but very lumpy and purple. When she stands on her feet only her heels hurt now but the legs become purple all over and they are still much swollen. The sores in the joints is better.

Her fever comes up every afternoon - 102 - for days - yesterday it only reached 99 $\frac{2}{10}$ - but today up to 100 again - It comes up about four o'clock - sometimes earlier - and is down

again in 2 or 3 hours. She is yellow - weak - and
but little appetite. I take all of her meals over when
except the raw eggs and milk early in the morning - and
the past three four days she has washed and combed
her hair by herself and before I take over her breakfast.
One of the girls stays home from school each day to look
after the house and baby - with the washing & ironing and
sewing I could not do it alone -

Aunt Elizabeth came out again last week Wednesday -
Mrs Ross came out Friday and stayed until Sunday
evening - Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Hocker came
Monday morning to see. Next home this evening -
Mr - or they - I am cook, housemaid and general
messenger when the other three send - so they made
a red jersey coat for Margaret's Christmas - Aunt 2. bought
some black knicker to make ^{big} collar & cuffs for it -
A full dress for Elizabeth out of a suit that was Maria's (Tratt's -
(Aunt 2's niece who died two years ago) beautiful goods - trim
in dark blue with a lighter blue narrow stripe in it - it is trimmed
with some red plush I had in stock - The yellow lining
in my Paris coat simply dropped to pieces - so they relined
that - Fitted a suit skirt for Ruth and made a lovely
pink chiffon blouse for Ruth and shortened and redraped
a dark blue dress for her (all of Miss Maria's) shortened
my old blue suit skirt - fixed over that with the
full skirt - Made me a vest and collar for another dress for me.

Quite a full week's work - and do you wonder that -
Aunt - E. and I feel relieved? - It cost me \$21. for
the week - cheap enough but - it leaves me tight and
dry as to funds. I told Robert - Monday he must get me
some money but - he only shook his head as he said "I
will try" - But - what can I do? - Every time Ruth tries
to get any sewing done she is sick - The sewing has to be done
and Jack has not recovered from the long summer
vacation yet.

I hope to get some underclothes made for the girls
for Christmas for they need them powerfully bad -
this is Ruth's year and other things will have to wait - that
is all -

Thank you for the measures - what I do not use just
now I hope to use later - Also I do enjoy the times
pictures - and hereafter when they come I will send
them on to your mother &c.

Ruth rejoices with you so much that you can work
wetter over the writing - and I am so glad it is going
so well - Keep on taking notes as they come to you and
before you know it you too will have material for
a book that will almost write itself - Some day the
world will be interested in the Memoirs of the great

Dr. Pomfret, Surgeon, and his Junior Partner
My "few words" have been - May - Don't you worry about Wilder's
not being boisterous enough - mail - until he gets into school with

other boys - but the dear, quaint, lenient, thoughtful
way he is leaving now will be a wonderful
asset - to him later in life - How I love him! I can
see him as he used to look up at the window of
Mrs Blencoe's garden - His smile was always so
bright and sweet - Ruth & Mary was not so
individual then - just a couple sweet-baby - now,
she is as individual as Mother was then -

I do hope your dreadful cold is better by now, Helen, dear.
What dreadful colds people do have now-a-days!
Tomorrow I wash - Saturday I iron - and see my
span snowed - just when the house will be cleaned
I do not know and it is dreadful after the three
days' dust-stuff of last week and the dress making
of this week - But my cold is slowly getting better and
Aunt-E is such a lovely worker - willing to aid and
assist me in anything I undertake -

God bless and keep you dear children -

Mother

Van Duzey

December 11 - 1921

My dear children:

Well, yes, perhaps a lighter shade of blue would be less startling but - you see I had no choice - this is some of the Galahad paper, and as yet - I have not been able to match the envelopes.

Ruth was so pleased with your letters - she is still in bed - two weeks ago last Friday since she went - to bed. From every afternoon - Jack carried her over her this noon to lie on the couch and have dinner with us instead of my carrying it - When I moved the dining table up close to the couch and the table looked very dainty and attractive - she enjoyed the change - Before we had left the table Father Mac. came to call on us - Ruth became very tired and nervous soon after so Jack carried her back. This afternoon the temperature only reached 99 - the lowest since she has been ill - The infection is still there, evidently. The first thing that bothered her was a breaking out on the face like an infection or contagious disease - Dr thought she had been taking too much bromide - That

And her face has darkened

Nearly disappeared when these lumps came on legs and arms - The lumps are still there - the bumpiest-legs you ever felt - ~~and~~ but the bright red color has diminished - when she stands on them - her feet - I mean - her legs are a real purple in color. Quers looking - the splinters are quite quite close together and not - along the bone only as it was 12 years ago. It is hard on me?

yes, of course - it is hard on Jack and on the girls but hardest of all on Ruth - she lies there knowing how hard it is for every one and seeing work about her only half done and thinking of the many things she should be doing and what she is doing and Christmas is near!! - So, in comparison with her we are having no hard time at all. I hope she is well by Christmas any way ^{she is my brain and my complaining woman}

I am going in town tomorrow - Aunt - E. goes with me. I have an engagement with Dr Hastings - but I am sure he will not blow out my ears for my cold is no better. He told me - salt & water and absolute laziness - but you know under the circumstances I could not fulfil the latter part of the prescription - how could I?

I had two dressmakers in the house four days this week and Aunt - E. worked right with them. There was no time to clean up the house until this morning and we must after it - hard and fast - and it looks more like home

Tonight.

I hope you will gain your point of more time off -
and that you will be able to study hydrocephalous in
the way you want to - I should say that you had
made a great stride in the right direction by finding
a point you feel the desire to follow in future study -
I have always felt the greatest assurance of a man's
success is to know first what he wants - and second
to have the courage to keep at it until he gets it -
you have proved that to be true - As soon as you
are sure you know what you want you never stop
until you get it - so I am quite confident that
you will have your house - family life - and time for
research. I don't believe you will give yourself nor
others a chance to rest until you do get it - and I
am giving you all the impetus possible from this end
of the line.

I do appreciate your ^{telling} telling so much about the
children. The little incidents of every day life help to
keep me in touch with them. Although it does make
me long more than ever to get hold of them.

I cannot see how these little feet can make such
a terrible amount of noise. Mrs. Lebone must be
something of a great crank. How me. I should like to hear
those little feet running about on my head.

I do not seem to have much news to write - not
much gossip - not much of anything - My mind
is on all the many details that must be looked after
before I go in town tomorrow morning at 7.30 -
so I think I will wait until next time -

God bless you all and make His face to shine
on you
Your Mother

December 18 - 1921

My dears —

A Merry Christmas. I sent off a package the other ^{day} and forgot to insure it. I do hope it will go safely. Mrs Ross, Aunt Addie and Elizabeth

are all talking right close to me. I shall not be able to write much —

I enjoy the Times pictures and thank you — Also — don't throw those shoes away. They will be too large for Ruth but the girls are larger — No shoes men in the other outfit —

I am so glad to know of your Christmas week festivities. I am thankful you have such lovely friends.

Ruth is up and out-looking very haggard, but we are so glad to have her up again.

Oh my dears, will you forgive this short note? And on Christmas day you will think of me as I am thinking of you. How glad we are that — "God so loved the world that He gave his beloved son" —

Your Mother —

Dear —

I am sending a can of cookies to Milder Hill - and
tell him that the snaps are made from the same
recipe that his Daddie loved when he was a
little boy. The white ones, especially, will be all right
for our Ruth May to eat. Made especially for children
just eggs, sugar and cream.

Dear children:-

December 30 - 1921

Just a word - Thank you for your Christmas remembrances. The scarf next on my buffel - the night before Christmas and becomes it beautifully Helen dear - And that it had its birth ten years ago but adds to its value. The picture of the dear children!!! - Thank you.

I will write a real after Christmas letter later - I am tired clear through with my marrow the strain of the past few

months has been terrific. Tomorrow I
have promised to go to Aunt-Aldie in
Pasadena to stay over the Flower Pageant
- Monday. Aunt-Elizabeth goes with me -
I have been alone since Tuesday - but I
cannot get rested - I shall feel better
after I come home and can snap my
fingers at any one who hints I might
could, would, or should do anything I don't
want to do. I thank you until I can say
it better - Mother we had a lovely
Christmas

San Luis - California
January 3 - 1922

Dear Children:

Actually the sun is shining this morning a cold north wind from the mountains is blowing a gale. The rainy weather is supposed to be broken and it looks as though roads might be much passable again after seventeen days of being almost-or quite impassable. I did not get up until after nine o'clock this morning and instead of getting breakfast I ate an apple and am waiting until about eleven o'clock when Ruth will eat her lunch with me. The children began school again today.

I ought to begin a detailed account of the past two weeks, I know, but I hardly know where to begin. I planned to rest and do nothing but rest - the last week of the old year, but I do not believe I accomplished that feat, judging from present feelings but if I do anything today that I do not want to do - I shall be quite surprised -

Saturday Jack took his family out for a picnic - believe
shows and going around ~~my~~ ^{many} unnecessary corners to
avoid the "street-closed" signs. He took me with them
into Hollywood where I took the car for L. A. Then, after
lunch Aunt-Elizabeth and I took the car for Pasadena.
We went to stay with Aunt-Addie over Sunday and Monday
and see the Rose parade. Aunt-Addie has her

office in a fine building on one of the principle streets
and her room a few blocks away. We bought enough

to eat ^{for} over Sunday and Monday and had our meals at
the office, cooking our own electric plate and under many
difficulties - they are good meals but - when one wants a
regular dinner of three courses and coffee and ^{heating} ~~my~~ plate
and few dishes - well - Aunt-Addie is a cook. Our

newly-discovered relations - the four Kellogs - first-
cousins of your father's - made themselves friends in need
and we had a wonderful view of the parade from the
second story windows of the newspaper office. Charles
Kellogg was the real friend but - the others backed him up.

Monday morning Jack and Mr Austin wanted to go to
the football game so took Ruth to spend the day with
Mrs H. and Mrs Austin to friends in Eagle Rock - and
then came for me when they started for home.

Ruth had a fine day with Mrs H. and I am hoping to
get over there for a day - and perhaps a night - before I go
back to Pasadena again on Saturday.

v

And now that leads me to what is perhaps the main thing I want to talk to you about today.

I have agreed to try the Violet-Ray on my skin - and took the first treatment yesterday. Dr. Baumgard is a great, big, good hearted, wholesome, handsome woman who has taken a real maternal interest in Aunt Addie. She has a big practice in Pasadena, practicing without drugs and using electricity in all sorts of ways. She claims much for the Violet-Ray - I do not know if she is right or wrong but she impresses me with the feeling that she is both capable and honest. She has been distressed because Addie is mixed up with this "Crook" as she calls the "Lucille Frances Method" woman, and I guess "Crook" is a fair name for her. Addie likes the work, believes in the efficacy of the plaster, thinks any good exams are as good as "Lucilles" and has no confidence in the Lucille woman. Wants to get free of her, knows she can take her patients with her, and does believe in the Dr. ~~Dr.~~ Cousin Charles Kellogg's sent the plaster to Parke Davis and had it analyzed. Addie can use it as her own. The only thing in the "Method" that she wants. Dr. wants to teach her the use of the Violet-Ray machine for acne, dandruff and minor skin troubles. In order to get her medical education

Dr. had to earn the money and so learned the
Marinelli system. She will teach Addie all of that
so that she can open a good shop with an assistant
and the electrical work that will be backed by a
reputable physician. Addie has already come across
troubles of the skin among her patients that should be
taken to a Dr. and not ~~try~~ be fussed with by ^{beauty} ~~beauty~~
specialists so she would pass such cases on to the Dr.
and Dr. would advertise her among her patients.
The only thing that stands in the way is the money for the
machine. If she can get what she ought to get from
Mrs. Starnidge - Lucille - she could swing that all right.
Dr. would sell this to her and get a later one for her
work. She would sell it for \$250 - I think. I may
be mistaken about the price. Dr. look my case
in this way. "Mrs. Smith here is your first patient:
I will stand right over you and show you every move but
you must do the work. you must be proficient in the
handling of the machine and that will only come with
practice - Then you shall treat my ^{self} head for dandruff -"
Well - the machine is very heavy to hold and the pressure
on all of these spots must be great. Addie had not the
strength for more than two gestures so Dr. did the most
of it while Addie held the watch for time.
Now what do you think of it? - Dr. seems to feel she is
responsible in getting Addie into a paying business. But

are the newer machines easier to handle - or is it
true that the newer machine would be ~~not~~ better
for Addie's use while Dr. needs the newer one
because of greater efficiency in other cases? She said
"Ask your son about the violet Ray work"

The pictures - especially the Calendar pictures - are the
dearest-things! How did you ever come to get such a
variety of expressions on Ruth Mary's face? And Wilder
is he not darlingly sweet? What has Ruth wrapped
around her in the bed time picture? - a wonderful
attitude for a child. I think Wilder will have to have

another suit some time.

How did the sweater fit? - Ruth will have to have an
elastic belt on hers I think and probably will need
the same. Do you know you gave your arm length as
26? seven inches longer than mine!!!! - Then was
another measure I questioned but do not recall now
what it was - I looked carefully for the double
chin, Wilder, and I could not see it. But you
looked good to me. And the interior views are very
attractive. You have made the most of your furnishings,
I am sure. Oh I do want - you - all -

Ruth is not entirely over her latest trouble. The friends

swellings are back on her legs and a few spots on
her arms today. Would Louis's infection last so
long? -

What Christmas present do you suppose David liked the
best - his little black shoes. I wonder if I told you - believe I did -
evening. Have been writing this all day and making up
my monthly accounts etc. My head swims - I believe you
will know what I mean by that? -

God bless my dear children so many miles away -

Mother.

January 11 - 1922

Dear children:

I have vowed a vow that I would not go to bed tonight - without - at least - one letter written. I have written no letters since Christmas - except to you. Last night - I took a bath, after taking my supper tray and putting it on the bedside table, and went to bed at 5:45. It is 5:30 now and bed is calling me again - I am not ill, but a vile cold has me ⁱⁿ its clutches - Indeed I have not been free from it since Ruth was ill. I have ironed 3½ hours, mowed the lawn and dug a pail full of weeds out of the lawn ^{today} as you see. I am all right - just - lazy.

Going to Pasadena does surely shorten my week for me - takes three days - I hate it - but there are compensations. For example - last Saturday I went to L.A. and then took the car for Glendale - had a mighty good visit with Dr and Mrs H. After lunch Dr took me over to Pasadena. I know it was not a very convenient day for me to come as

Dr's brother was coming that evening and there
was a lot - to do to get ready for him aside from the
Saturday baking. Their welcome was just-as cordial
though as if it had been convenient - ^{them, too, it is nice to} see Aunt-Addie -

So Helen and the babies have been in the country
and Milder is taking the time to look up old friends!
Lovely!! - Now I have had some experience in looking
up and meeting old friends and sometimes it brings
unalloyed pleasure - sometimes great-disappointment;
and often mixed pleasure and pain. They have
changed? - Of course - and we change. Milder, boy,
think it over - when you were in Princeton you were
a young, unattached, good-sport-student. Mothers
with young lady daughters are looking for your type
of man. They needed you - you needed them. They
were glad to be nice to you, they liked you and you
responded delightfully - you loved them - you idealized
them. They seemed bigger and finer than they really
were. They were a new type to you. And they were
mighty good friends and helped wonderfully in your
development - at that time. They have gone on being
nice to other young men that has been their part in
life - But now you have grown way beyond the student-

life - they have grown older and enthusiasms have
died out - and their interests have changed - and you?
The experiences of the past-eight-years have changed you little
more than they have changed. Love them for what they
have been to you, and if today there is not as much
sympathy between do not mind, and do not blame them -
Do you remember when you left Spokane you could not
admin anything in the way of buildings or restaurants in
St-Paul because Spokane was as much finer? Then when
you went back to Spokane your disillusion was painful
things looked so small to you? - Keep on looking up
your old friends you will find some who will have grown
along your line - Please tell Mr. Matthew Bartlett I
hope to know him again some day -

I had such a fine letter from Sidney Brown the other day -
it was a real joy - He is at the head of the French Dept.
in Bates College Lewiston, Maine. His love and admiration
for Galahad and its heads is as great as ever - He says
he will try and look you up in New York some day. Give him
a hearty greeting for me. His wife is a fine violinist
a student of Kreisler. They have a "nice apartment with
a guest-room and a glorious dining place" - He wants
me to visit them - It would be nice - for the ^{municipal} ~~municipal~~
atmosphere would be fine I know.

Jacks has just been over to make me a visit. I have not had a glimpse of him since Saturday morning and it is now Wednesday. He goes early and comes home late so often.

I enclose a card showing the Glendale float in the parade. They will not accept the second prize. That is the ocean in front of the child. Blue violets with some white flowers to represent white caps. The violets on a roller that keeps moving like the waves. It was beautiful and most original in design.

I am glad the children have had an opportunity to be with other children. Dear little Wilder the most of his troubles will come from excessive nervousness, and he won't know why he cannot control himself.

Wilder dear your tribute written on January first went to my heart and I love you first, dear.

Ray wrote me the first thing when he went to the office on Jan. 2nd. He always writes the first letter of the New Year to me - because I reproved his mother to him.

Will has the appointment he has hoped for \$2400 a year and the opportunity of going on with his work. You have spoken of his Drs degree - not yet - His B. A. and now working for his M. A.

Kiss and hug each other for me - all four of you -
Mother -

Dear Child - - Kiss each
other and the dear babies
for me. And write me all
you are doing and
I think of your mother

Monday Morning -
Pasadena

Dear Children:

I am keeping off fire for Adeline while
she takes a run into Los Angeles to see the
dentist. Her Affairs are in the hands of a lawyer
but it takes some time to get hold of so
slipping a crook as "Lucille". I shall be very
glad when it is settled and she knows what
she can do. I tell you it is no joke for a
woman past middle age to start out for
herself to support herself. But for the first
time in her history, I guess, she has been
made to see that she must try only to look
out for herself, and not to try and plan
for others.

Arthur has whooping cough and looks
most dreadfully. He keeps at work, however altho
he cannot keep food on his stomach and loses

much sleep. Mrs Hutchcroft - is a calamity!!
who can live with her! - I name don't want her,
Sadie does not want her and Herbert and Milton
won't have her. Arthur said she could not live
with them but she does and will. She interferes with
everything and when Arthur sits down on her Blanche
resents it - Great old prospect for happiness? - She
is not neat, she matters as to person or rooms - she
is lazy, does not do anything but knit or crochet
(and she does beautiful work of that kind) and complain
and scold - she hates little Billy and adores little Jane
and she does not care who knows it. Does it
not seem dreadful that she must live on? -
I have tried to find expenses for her, have tried to find
something lovable in her - but I tell you she is a pest.
Then now, I feel better.

Dear - you have some hard things to bear - but after
all you are better off than any of the rest of my own.
Ruth has Jack with her more than you have Walter, Helen -
but she lives under a great fear and much physical
depression. Herbert's business is not adequate for his
family expenses and they are very much worried

about - George and Milder who are not doing
well - Do not talk about it with your mother
Helen unless she says something about it - I
know Herbert and Ina have told their how
worried they are. If I only knew what I can do -
nothing but pray I imagine. So, while Helen
is often lonely and Milder has many hard things
to meet - you have enough assured each month
to pay the necessary expenses and the children are
small and all four own now and you are well.
Thank God for that. Scolding does not get the
little folks ready for life - discipline that teaches
self-control and a desire to be of real service to the
world is the only sure fortune parents can give
their children - Lacking that the poor children are
handicapped for their coming battle in life.

Yesterday morning Addie and I went to the Presbyterian
Church when a big chorus gave a part of the Messiah -
1. "The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed" - 2. "Glory to God in
the highest - peace on earth" - 3. "Behold the Lamb of God"
4. "Who by man came death" - 5. "Worthy is the Lamb that
was slain" - and 6. the "Hallelujah chorus" and with the
two soprano solos - "Then men shepherds abiding in the field"

and I know my Redeemer liveth -
the Contrails - "Behold a virgin shall conceive - then
shall the eyes of the blind be opened" - and he was despised
and rejected of men -
the Terror. "Thy rebuke hath broken his heart" - and
the bars. "Why do the nations so furiously rage together?"
I had not heard that music for so long (I felt) had
had a long, deep drink of pure water - (the water in
Paradise tastes horribly of chemicals since the rain) The best
solo your father used to sing - that and he was despised
and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted
with grief - just filled me full -
Last evening we heard John Maroon Drow at the Baptist
Church in "The Comfort of His Coming" - A great sermon - he
is a fine preacher - and Merle Smith of the Methodist Church
is another great preacher - Paradise must be a great
Church going place - the auditoriums are packed both morning and
evening every Sunday. (Of course Robert Freeman of the Presby. Church has
I would like to spend a couple of months here this
winter. I always did think I would like to live here.

I heard ^{saw} a mighty good picture Saturday - George Arliss as
Disraeli - No one could ever forget who just thru the very canal
and made Victoria Empress of the great empire after seeing "Diary
in the flesh" as it seemed we did - I want to go right to meeting
about - here & his times - the great love he had for his wife and her
love for him was beautiful and Lady Bearwood was Mrs Geo. Arliss's
see it if you can. It is quite well worth while. God be with you

January 13- 1922

Dear children:

This picture did not get in the letter last-time
I will try it again.

Mamma and I were surprised one very happily
this morning by coming out in the car and staying
for lunch. We had such a nice visit, the first-
time I have seen her since Christmas.

George Tappin has been here and give some
of the Hudson News. We had heard of the death of
Mrs Bradford but the worst news was about William
Webster. He is in prison in England for smuggling.
They tried to get him in New York but he eluded them.
That is why Eldert went to England. Mr Webster is
said to have spent \$100,000 to free him and has
nothing left. I am sick at heart. He could not
resist the money lure, poor, poor boy. What are
the laws about smuggling? Can you find out? How
long will he be held in prison? William was a
good boy and an honest boy but evidently weaker
than we thought. Oh we are sorry, sorry—

I am not writing tonight - just sending this card and
relieving my heart a bit - by telling you of William and
probably giving you a bundle of sorrow too.
I am going to bed early - as usual - but ready for
Paradise tomorrow. Ruth's legs are still bad -

Mother -

that you have it - His my
dear babies and each other
for me -

Mother -
Herbert - wild
my steal - the
among that -
the gun -
in - December
can - from
you - how do
not know how
believe it
was - and
was - about it
almost - nothing

14233 Valens St.
San Diego California
January 26. 1924.

My dear, dear Boy:

Thirty-one years ago this evening - right - this minute
you were twelve hours old, and I was so happy
that you had come and I had another dear baby
to love. Herbert adopted you from the start, and
Ruth was happy in giving the new baby her special
place in Mother's lap. Up to that time she had so
monopolized that place and my special attention
that we had wondered what she would do when
the little baby should come. She accepted it most
gracefully and happily - In fact Uncle Tom
the honor of naming you but he wanted his
choice as to the first name and asked only
that your middle name should be Graves -
as he did not favor either Thomas or Graves
for first name - And your father really did
want to name you after Elder Melcalf.
He would have liked the whole name I fancy, but
did want more to have Uncle Tom have a voice

in the morning. "So dear but so difficult" Helen says about Wilder Evans Jr. "So dear and so difficult" would apply to my dear little Wilder from the first - so nervous, so sensitive to impressions, so affectionate and lovable, so determined and so temperamental.

Helen dear, these Wilder boys of ours take lots of patience but oh how they pay for it all! - My Wilder could not be driven nor can your Wilder? - They must learn to control themselves - govern themselves, decide for themselves - we can but guide them and help them with love as we teach them love -

You know little boys of three did not wear trousers thirty years ago - but when my little boy Wilder was unbrapped in kilts - when he cried and shrieked every morning when kilts were put on, and finally in a temper of anger tore ^{it} them while his eyes blazed at me - I promised him trousers right away and he had them! - And you did look funny, and so cunning too - but that was better than to force you when you fell so strongly about it - ^{ruining} your disposition for a slyt! - How you always wanted to be strong - to be a man! - And how chivalrous and manly

you always run with your mother — except when
in a temper. And how year by year you learned
to control that temper because the power of
loving grew so fast. Oh Wilber boy I have had
so much happiness in your love for thirty-one
years. And I know it will never fail me as
long as I live — God bless my baby boy —

I hope the "Hollywood scarf" will be enjoyed. I wanted
to make it of Camel hair yarn but could not get it
at the Broadway or Loullis. And it was raining too
hard to make a tour of the stores. They use the heather
but it is not so soft. I hope it is not too red. It should
have been blue I know.

Herbert has sold his home for \$12,000 cash. He paid
\$7,500 — two years ago. He now has leased it for
a year at \$60 per month — so they will not have
to move. It will help him out. The mortgage on the
home was due soon — and ^{he} could not have paid it — and
^{now} he can pay me enough interest to pay the Harvard
note of \$725 — that is due now. Mame is quite sure
the Lord knew they needed that money — the old
couple who bought the place have been coming out
here for seven months and this son wanted them to
buy a place — so they did. They have fixed up the two

rooms in the garage for them & live in ~~for~~ until they go home in April. It seems sort of funny - but very nice for Herbert.

Margaret graduates from the grades into the high school next week and is very happy over it. She is a year and a half behind Elizabeth and a year and a half ahead of Faith.

I am still going to Pasadena. I don't know if the treatment is doing me any good. The Dr. said she would try this way one more week and then see - she may want me to stay over there for a week or two - They usually give a few minutes treatment every other day and she is giving 15 minutes ^{to each spot} once a week.

Everything in my garden is frozen. No, I won't say that - but my two citrus trees - all the flowers and some of the shrubs - It was surely an hard freeze we had of these nights duration. And I never thought of covering them up!! - The days now are so warm doors and windows are open during the middle of the day. And even now at eight o'clock it is nearly seventy without a fire.

I was interested in the office plan - how soon can you hope for private patients? You know it seems to us that you know a lot of people there and seem to have such good friends. Well - the Lovelans and the Cummings will not last forever and I know you are both getting all the joy out of life that is possible. What are you working on now with the hypewriter? I am so glad

Van Ness - January 31 - 1922

Dance a baby didie,

Dance a baby didie,

What shall his Mamma do with he
when he gets in a huff - - - etc. I can't finish
the rhyme - can you?

My dear, dear boy! -

I know you are dreadfully tired, but hold
on a bit - your Mamma wants to argue this
thing out a bit - I have not been to an

osteopath since May 1916 - and I went then
because I had to finish the school year and I
was desperate for the want of sleep - Dr K. had
been trying to help me - then when he went away
his assistant - I do not recall his name - took
me under his care - they kept me in bed for
several weeks - and then for a month I was
put to soak in hot water for two hours at a
time each day - no results - I then went to
Dr Parker - In January 1906 - I fell and hurt
my arm - It was not broken - unfortunately for them
the doctor would have known what to do - but the news

Not recall value received - How when a doctor
who uses electricity says "I can cure that" - I don't see
how you can blame me for trying her out - I don't
believe she is going to fulfil her promise - and I
think she is beginning to weaken a little. A regular
~~practitioner~~ I can't spell that word a man in regular practice
I mean I was in her office two weeks ago and she asked
him to come in to see my foot - I do not know what the
discussion was - Sunday she said "this is not a simple
affair - it is evidently of nervous origin - well as all
the rest of the doctors "regulars" - have said the same thing
I ~~was~~ ^{was} not surprised. I am not going over to Pasadena
for two weeks now and we will see them - if any human
being - except a Christian Scientist - should tell me he
could cure me I would give him the chance - I have
not tried Osteopathy for it and do not expect to -
I do not know as I can explain just why Aunt Addie has
gone into this work - she cannot work as fast - in Millinery
as she could when younger - she could probably not earn more
than \$10 - a week - she could not live on that - I hate her doing
this - but poor, brave, courageous Aunt Addie - we just
cannot help but admire her "pep" - and we just
must give her all the sympathy and help we can.
Would you object very much to finding out something
about the price of these Active-Ray - water cooled
machines? - If she can get her money that Mrs Sataun
over her Dr Baerzand wants her to buy her machine

to use for dandruff and pimples - nothing more - of course
just the things "Doctors cannot better with, they have not
the time" - and then Dr B. will get a larger one. It is the
machine advocated by Dr T. Howard Plack -
Aldie wants to know how much she should pay for a
second hand machine. She fears Dr may ask her the
full first price \$400 - at least that was. Maybe it
was more - she wants to be prepared. Dr B. says if
she has that with a doctor's backing and buys a
woman for manum & shampooing she thinks her
parlors will be on a higher standard. She will
still use the plaster & astringent for superfluous hair
but she will not - as Lucille does, guarantee a cure but
will care for the moles of women regularly. Then
plaster & astringent - treatment - also removes ordinary
moles - from the face ^{and it does build up the skin & is caused by the electric needle it -}
as hard as millinery - <sup>She likes the work and it is not
Parker Davis recommended it highly for the skin</sup>

You say both Addie and I need a husband - I
wish to goodness she had one - and - well do you
know I have thought sometimes it would be a happy
thing to have a good companion - and when that
mood has been on me I have amused myself by
studying the old men I see in church or town - and
wilder the only ones that look at all attractive to me
seem to be already attached. The only unattached
man I know personally is Mr Mac. He is a mighty nice
man - but - really you know I don't want him for more
than an hour or two at a time and at fairly long

intervals. You see I am a lot more particular at
sixty and over than I was at twenty or less. Then
again - if I should ever see a man that would
look at all attractive to me - I am afraid it
would not be mutual. At twenty it never
occurred to me that if I really wanted a man
I could not get him. There were so many of them
and such nice ones - but now - it seems to be
different. The man I could live with - goodness me,
if he exists at all I am terribly afraid he would
want more in a woman than I have to give in
education, position, understanding etc. - If he did not
I don't know as I should want him. You live in a big
city - you come in contact with men of all ages and
kinds - if you come across a good looking man of about
sixty five - who has made a success of his life in whatever
good thing he may have undertaken to do - who is refined
in manner and thought - who is self controlled and fairly
unselfish - who is a thorough going Christian - who has
enough money to live a nurse should either of us be
ill and who is able to do the pleasant things one
wants, and wants to do them - and who is really
lonely and wants a companion to do "together things"
just tell him about your lovely mother and urge
him to come out to see him and get acquainted.

Well I have written a lot of nonsense, haven't I? -
but in all of this nonsense there is one little grain
of truth - No man or woman old or young is quite
as contented without a close friend of the other sex -
And as conversation with them shall not be too close
a friendship without the marriage ceremony giving
it sanction & these souls that are a wee bit lonely often
come a cropper by marrying - to their sorrow -
But there are rare marriages of the right kind
even in the simple & sensitives - But they are rare.

I wrote a little note to William - I could not help it - just
to tell him I loved him - that was all - He may not care
for the message - and as I had to send it to Mrs
Webster to mail he may never get it - It relieved
the ache in my heart - however -

I love you and Helene and the babies - I wish we were
near together - You will look up that machine soon
with you not? - Just to satisfy Aunt Addie - ^{poor soul -}
The mountains all about us are covered with snow, ^{And are glorious -} it is
cold - It has rained and leaked and leaked to its
heart's content - The flowers are gone - Still when the sun
comes out - we still love California -

Loving you and kissing you all four -

Brother

14233 Valens St - Route I

San Diego California

February 5 - 1922

Children dear -

I am deep in Indian Missions literature and am planning to go in town tomorrow on the seven o'clock so that I may have a talk with Herbert - and then go to the Presbyterian Missions society and listen to their always most-interesting meeting and get more literature. A paper is in the brewing for our February meeting.

We have had a delightful ride this afternoon - Jack & Ruth and I with Mr and Mrs Austin in their new Studebaker - The nights and mornings are so very cold everything covered with a heavy frost - but the days are warm and delightful.

I packed Aunt Elizabeth out tomorrow for a few days before she goes to Pasadena for the rest of the winter.

I have been quite stiff and achy this week so I have really done nothing but hug the fire and read.

Do you know the itching that wakes me from a
sound sleep and sometimes makes me almost
crazy is not alone confined to the excruciating spots
but is all over - especially on my back - Nothing
to be seen, however - After my hand or a
finger or the tip of a finger perhaps will "go to sleep" and
tingles until I rub it awake - Lately some spot on
my back will do the same thing - or there will be
a feeling of a hair or thread tickling me in the
middle of my back - just where I cannot reach it -
you know. And there is nothing there - or it will
just simply itch - sometimes in one place - sometimes
in another but always along my spine some when -

Dreadfully disagreeable - Can you help me out? -
I am hoping to be able to send the children some more
cookies for Valentine's Day - and then I will surely
send the recipe, Helen dear -

I should be digging into my garden work now -
but stiff folks can't garden, now can they?

I think I told you that Herbert has leased the
house for a year of the new owners?

Wayland Hall has a little daughter - a boy and a girl
as you know - They seem to be living in Wichita Falls, Texas -

His mother did a most characteristic thing she enclosed
in an envelop with no word of writing their church
program of Jan. 29th - with this notice marked. "Word
comes that the Saufords have a new grand daughter
in Wichita Falls, Texas."

Little David is such a joy to my eye - you know
how sturdy Wilder see is across his back? - David reminds
me of him - He looks to as Bob did at his age only his head
is shaped like yours, Wilder - and his droopy eye changes
him too. He walked clear across the room. And at
the times all alone today. He talks a lot - by inflection -
He repeats what you say but no distinct words - except
dog - and sometimes Bob. He is jolly but has a temper,
a more prodigious one. And he word - sit - or lie down
except under compulsion. When he goes to bed he
has to be tied securely or he is in his bed - instantly.
He is a great singer - And when gran is singing at
the table his voice is the loudest. Over her at
lunch when we bow our heads in silent grace
he is so amazed he looks from one to another peering
into our jaws so anxiously - Bobbie is passed into
the third grade now - and they are all happy - Ruth
seems very well - and I believe she will keep so

I must go and get a little supper ready ^{as late as} be
with me - I ought to work on my paper for Elizabeth
does not like me to do work **by myself** when she is
here - yet I doubt if I do any more tonight -

I love you - I want you -
how much I want you -

Mother -

The papers I sent - tell much of Sam's life - thought you
might be interested.

relief - another home - near the ground - and near your work -
and cheaper - It is an awful rent - you have to pay - just as with
other of pens coming -

Alb will
dear heart -
do it - worry
about it -
I was doing
the best - you
can - and
some way
a way will
Paul -
Please to
note - the
new address
I send you -
a new ruling
in the P.O.

I love
you
all
I am
yours
Mother.
February 28 - 1922 -

My dear, dear children -

I am so late with my letter this week - and I am
so anxious to know how you all are getting - a
relapse - wilder - and in the hospital instead of at
home? Because you can get better medical
treatment - there? - Or is Helen ill? - I wish I
could see Mrs H. to know if she has more
or later news - but I can't get over there
I am afraid - Ruth is in bed again - a little
more cold. I have so much to do getting ready
for a dressmaker - sewing woman and
Aunt Elizabeth coming Monday - Aunt E.
will probably be here Saturday - and possibly
Aunt Addie - I have been baking cookies
all this morning - got lunch for Faith and Bob
and some cleaning. The whole house needs a
thorough cleaning and there is ripping - washing
and pressing etc. etc. Faith stayed through
school today to look after David & the house. Bobby

insisted on his Mother writing the principal to see if he could not go to school in the morning rather than the afternoon as he did last term. The schools are so crowded the lower grades have to divide and some go in the morning and some in the afternoon. Bobby's friends in the neighborhood all went in the morning and Ruth thought it might be pleasanter for him so she wrote - it was arranged - and then, when it was a sure thing - Bobby said - with a sigh - "Now I can have lunch with you and Nanew." But his Mother said "No, young man, you will take your lunch with you. Nanew is not going to wait lunch until you get home." The first morning he forgot his lunch. After that he was watched. The second day he came hurrying in - "Well, here is Bobby! - ready for lunch?" Ruth said "No indeed, he took his lunch to school with him." I wish you could have seen the look he gave her - "Well - I'm hungry just the same." And of course he was, what boy would not have been? - So - I always see to it that there is something for Bobby - Of course he needed the whole lunch today - for "I left my lunch in the car this morning." "For ways that are dark" etc.

Ruth had another package from May a while ago. And in it will be something to make up for each of the girls - they are quite happy over it. I must tell you about our wonderful baby - He is

Certainly a joy - He was in the ^{little} yard on the porch a while ago - Ruth heard him screaming and as she rushed to him she heard a dog run off the porch and saw the cat with big tail & blazing eyes on the porch rail beside the yard. She picked David up and between his sobs he gasped "dog! dog!!" - Then he tried to look at the cat and said ff-ssss ff-ssss - Nothing more was needed to tell the tale. He expects to be entertained the moment the sisters come home and is seldom disappointed. They do so adore him. The other day he was in the yard in the house, Ruth was lying down and Faith came in so full of something she wanted to tell her mother that she just patted David on the head and went on to her mother. David looked amazed - then began to cry. Faith was too interested to put him - He stopped and looked at her again - then began to laugh. Hanging on to the yard rail he threw his head back and shouted with laughter - then as she paid no attention he began running all around the yard, still laughing - stopped to look in wonder at her - then threw himself down on the floor and laughed & laughed - As he had no more tricks to offer - Ruth told Faith she would better stop talking and reward him - He always comes over here with Ruth for cream and then is when he has his egg - "after I am through eating he gets into my lap and we sing by-law" together in the big green willow rocker that father - and then mother used to sit in.

He does not go to sleep - just rocks for a while - He was
all around and the yard is proving a great blessing -

Last Friday I was at work in garden transplanting -
(I washed part of them day last week and transplanted
nearly 200 plants) and Mr Mac. came. I showed
him all the damage the rain had done to the house and
then - made some muffins - scones and coffee with
blackberry jam and "rocks" - He stayed some time
after lunch and as I was going out to Pasadena on
Saturday he said he would meet me in L. A. and we
would see Hazimova in the Doll House - and have
lunch - It was fine - the picture is mean - Saturday eve.

After dinner in Addie's office, we went to call on Aunt - E.
and Mrs New come at the Wildermer - Sunday A.M.

we went to church - went to dinner at the Wildermer -
went to the Dr. for treatment - and to church in the evening.

Monday it rained again I had to give up some of my plans -
as I had no umbrella and Aunt Addie was despondent -
she went in town with me and I took her to see
strong heart - the wonderful Belgian police dog actor - It is
hard to believe that he does not know what he is doing
and why -

Tuesday I had a paper in the Audiences of
the Dramatic Society. I spent a great deal of time on it -
and sickness had kept so many at home I was the only
one on the program - carrying a song - Mrs Hitchcock
brought out a book and begged me to read two orations.

3. They were wonderful. If you can find at the Library
a set of books on great American orations edited by
William Jennings Bryan - find the one with the Lincoln
orations and read Black Hawk and Red Jacket -
you will doubtless read them all - but there were the
two I recel aloud -

We have had more than twice as much rain this
season so far than we had all last season - and
the end is not yet - I guess - more high and
dry but it is a little hard getting out - and in -

Do nothing about sending the Gold Ray machine
until you hear from me. I have made an offer
to Aunt Addie to come here and live with me for
a year - any way - until we see what shall happen.
I like better to be alone - but I am afraid I shall get
mightily selfish this way. And I do not know that
she will be satisfied to live here. But any thing is
better than living as she is doing now with this great
Anxiety pressing her -

The Bayfield Press brought the news a week ago that
Mr Jackson had been brought before the Minneapolis
School Board to answer a charge of improper conduct
with the pupils - He confessed and said "the river for

me - Later in his office a note was found saying "I will not be back" - They were 25 days the run for him -

And that is absolutely all we have heard. ^{we} I am not surprised - but feel sad about him - To think a man could be capable of so much good - and be such a criminal - ^{number - I do not fancy that the trouble was with girls.}

The afternoon has gone - Almost too dark to see - I have been rocking David who seemed so tired out - and left Faith with the promise on her part, and the hope on mine, that she will clean up the house a little bit. Ruth seems tired and discouraged but a cup of tea with some ^{loaf} - and an omelet - will make her feel better ^{I hope} - And the girls, have just come in with the car from school - It will be all activity now - David took but a few minutes of a nap and he is beginning to talk -

That Sunday night - when you were ill and thought you heard me calling - I don't recall - but it may have been one of the nights when I wanted so much to talk with you - Such times do come to me. You know there has been much of sympathy and understanding between us, dear, and sometimes I do wish I could have your man's outlook and your love outlook combined.

Yes - we are poor or rich by comparison in a good measure - And oh I wish you need not have the grinding that seems to be the lot of so many - I do hope this summer storm bring you