

Box 169 Route 1

Van Nuys, California

March 21 1923

Dear Wilder and Helen and the Kiddies:

A postal card from Mrs George Bell to Mame---sent on by Mame to me--sent by me to Cottie--has a call for all Hudsonites, past and present, to meet at Sycomore

Grove on Saturday next for a "paper-bag" lunch at twelve o'clock. I have also

written to Aunt Elizabeth and Mrs Newcome and also to Louise Clark--who was born

in father's house in Hudson. Mrs Bell said that Mrs Warner, Mrs Mellon and

Mrs Shrimski were here. And we know Mrs Day and Mrs Andersen are here--and we are

certainly expecting your mother K.---and I sort of think Dr. will go too.

It will be great sport, wont it? Ruth, Cousin Florence and I will go,

and I presume Mame will too. Herbert will probably be too busy. He says he

never had so many things to do, in all of his life. He looks tired and worried but

I fancy that worry and not the amount of work he is doing is what makes him so

tired. Some things in the home have been hard for him and Mame to bear and that

is worse ~~xxx~~ than work. I am so pleased that you should have heard yourself

quoted in a lecture. Pleased? no so proud I am swelled up ridiculously.

Ruth says she has nothing to complain about now. And really she does seem

so different. Her eyes, her complexion, are so different. She has more and more

"pep". She does tire easily but the nervous symptoms are so much improved. Now---

is it due to the glasses? Or may it not be the change from bromides to the

remedy--alumina?--that you recommended. She spoke to Dr. Canby about it and he

was quite willing to have her make the change. I do not believe that it will be

necessary for her to go to New York, after all. Elizabeth has been home, sick

for a week. She has looked horrid--anemic--does not that seem queer for so big and strong looking a girl? Dr. Canby has been saying for some time that she was doing too much and must call a halt, but it is hard to do that. She does not do so much work as that she is under a nervous strain all of the time because she is in every thing that is going and every one depends on her so much. In Christian Endeavor

for instance-- She always plays their hymns or beats time for their singing. Addie said once, "Is there no one else, besides Elizabeth, who can lead the singing or play?"

Last Sunday Elizabeth was not there, and I never heard such wild singing from that society before. It seems perfectly natural for all of them to turn to her and

ask what should be done--- Even Mr Bishop, the elder, who has their society to supervise, always asks Elizabeth when he wants to know what has been or should be done.

Herbert sent a real estate agent here last Saturday to put the house on the market for sale. If a man should come to take it on a lease for some years for

a berry crop, I might take it off--but otherwise I hope I can sell. Herbert asked \$13,500. I want to be sure and get 12,000 out of it at any rate. It costs me

about \$1,000 a year rent to keep it going. So, if I could get some interest out of it I might live more cheaply than I do now. I do not mean that I pay out that

much, but the interest on what I have in the property and the repairs etc. would

bring it to that. Jack and Ruth hope to spend their declining years in Hollywood, so it may turn out that I will pioneer the place for them. When speaking of the

climate in New York you said something that amused me, I did not miss it you see.

"This is the climate we ~~like~~ live in."

But I have not told you what Cousin Florence's birthday gift to me is.

A radio set. Now what do you think of that? I am anticipating much pleasure from

"listening in"- But it seems quite a selfish entertainment for no one else knows what you are hearing. It will rest me, perhaps, when I get used to it. Those who know say that after a time the strain of listening is gone entirely and one feels quite at home. But does it not seem a most wonderful thing? And how photographs can be taken by radio passes my comprehension.

I am hearing so many nice things said about my lawn. And it is a nice looking lawn this spring. I have been at work on it and other things the past three days. I am feeling quite like garden work again. Began to despair of ever feeling like it again, and things have been neglected--and how soon it shows neglect.

Ray is going home the first of April. Sarah is having a wonderful time lunching with Charles Ray, Thomas Ince, etc. etc. And that reminds me--you know Sarah's sister is the dramatic and musical critic of the Hearst paper the Examiner. I won't have a Hearst paper in the house----and the only station I can really hear very well on the Radio is KFI. The Examiner and Herald--another Hearst paper. I cannot get the Times station very well. Now I think that is one good joke on me.

You would be interested to see how much Wilder William is looking like his father. Cousin Florence and I were down there to dinner last week. She had not seen the whole family together before. She was very enthusiastic in saying that Wilder is the flower of the family. But others of the family have thought that many times before.

I am hurrying so as to go down there this afternoon. I do not like to spend the time, but want to see them. God bless you all - Oh, I had a lovely letter from Abby this week. It did me lots of good. Won't you please tell me something about Mary? Do you know I cannot think of her last name?

Loving you--

Mother

Up to Apr. 1923
Mother

being towed in by through a fog and the whole effect the artist desired is lost. I could not admire it, I missed so much of beauty. It seems to me it was framed first by an artist this time by a dealer in fashionable framing.

I wish, sometime that you would say designate some few things you would like very much to have for your own when I am through with them. Of course the main part of my personal things will go to Ruth but I would want you to have something that you especially cared for and would like to keep for yourselves and the children as coming from me. It is not too soon to be making such plans you know.

I must go down and see if Mr Hitchcock cannot come up tomorrow and do a little garden work with and for me. And I must get to some other work.

Tell me more about the results of your examination. Tell me more about plans for building a home of your own. It always seems to me that paying rent is very discouraging unless it is going into something permanent. Some think it more expensive to own than to rent---I think it comes to about the same in money but one gets more for their money in real satisfaction. Yet, if you owned a home you would be more tied down to that one place. A home owner is not a free lance--a slave, according to Thoreau, to things. I guess it is true, in a way. So one must make a choice. Of course, were it in Los Angeles I would say--certainly own a home but I do not so much enjoy thinking of you as rooted and grounded in New York. July will be a critical time, probably ^{unless} ~~until~~ things shape themselves in a more stable form than at present with your trustees. Is any one settled as to the future these days?

Kiss the dear babies and hug each other for me.

Mother

*He will pay the fare for Ruth some way
out here if it seems best for her to go I
tell me more about what you think might be needed - the
from the treatment would probably take, I mean.*

one must make it Cottie's day and give up the whole attention to her. She is old and forgetful and cannot walk well, but she does not mean to be hard to get along with. I am thinking the two guardians wanted to see things and talk things in which they were interested and would forget Cottie and she would wander off and then "I would have to go after her and tell her" "Now see here, you must not go away when my back is turned". I will manage it myself next time, I guess, and it will be better for all concerned.

The garden is in such great need of attention, February is the most important spring planting and transplanting month. But energy seems to be lacking. I shall give up the idea of planting to walnuts and am trying for a Japanese to put in berries on a long lease. But I must get the family orchard planted, I think. But I will put in as little expense as possible.

While we read of the terrible cold and storms of the East and Middle West we shiver a little in the mornings but the days are wonderful. So warm and sunny, the apricots are all in bloom as well as the almonds. The mocking birds are splitting their little throats trying to express all that life means to them. Here comes David--I wonder if Ruth Mary would not like him to play with this morning.

Herbert and Mame have moved and so many pretty new things as they have bought for their home. A complete new diningroom set--Table, chairs--upholstered in blue tapestry-- buffet and another smaller buffet? for dishes, beautiful mirror and a lovely blue rug. New curtains, of course. In the living a lovely rug, a beautiful mirror for over the fireplace, and other things. Among the other things the ship in a fog that was framed in silver, do you recall? You know Herbert simply appropriated that picture--the frame had become dingy and they have reframed it. Cutting the mat out made the picture smaller, a flat bronzeygold frame throws the ship out into the foreground so startlingly that one misses the effect of its

in the organization over rough places in their lives. He has the supervision of the credit men in 65 wholesale stores in their organization. If a man is doing well he looks out for promotion for him--if he is in any way losing his grip he tries to find out what is at the bottom of it. And do you know, so very often he finds the trouble lies in the home? Wife is discontented, extravagant, pulling the wrong way for some reason. He visits the man in the office, socially and in his home and helps him out as best he can or places him in some other environment, or in some other work. Talk about psychology, tests etc. that firm is getting it down in pretty fine shape and the personal equation is the biggest part of the problem of how to get efficiency. Ray's hair is not only gray, it is almost white, but does not detract from his looks at all. Sarah is looking fine too. Of course I answered many questions in regard to you both.

Tomorrow night Florence takes Elizabeth and Margaret to their first opera. I am going too, naturally. Lohengrin the only Wagner the San Carlo company give. Saturday Florence and I were to hear Salome but, by request" the program has been changed to Madame Butterfly because so many were not able to get tickets when it was given the other night. Tonight Florence wanted me to go in to a reception given to Oberlin people. I do not want to go to the reception so I am hoping to go in with her, go to the hotel for dinner, meeting Cora Young there, and then go to some good picture play until ~~thax~~ she is ready to come home. I do not like her to come home alone so late at night.

Cottie has been here for a week. I sent Addie in with her yesterday and had her take her to a Movie and lunch. While Addie telephoned for Aunt Elizabeth to come down and go with them and divide the responsibility of piloting Cottie she came home last night thoroughly done up and said it was the hardest work she had ever done. Query--why did she find it so? In going in with Cottie of course

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California
February 22nd, 1923

Children dear:

Your letters came yesterday--wanting Ruth to come to New York for treatment and telling of Wilder's yearly "flu". I do hope you are getting over it faster than we are here. I was in bed another four days last week and am feeling far from fit now. Ruth is still struggling with the head cold business. She went to see Dr. Downs in Hollywood yesterday about her eyes. He was disgusted that she had not been wearing glasses long before this. Astigmatism--one eye very badly affected will put glasses on permanently and for all of the time. May that not have been the cause of her nervous condition possibly?

Your desire to help pay the fare as well as having her come for treatment is very dear and we do appreciate it very much. If it can be managed I shall see that she accepts your invitation. Just now I cannot figure it out, but if it is best for her to go it will be managed somehow. I would feel that I must stay here and keep my hand on the tiller--Addie could not do it, and while Cousin Florence has offered to do it I could not let her for she does not understand family conditions and family personalities as well as I do-----and so, if she can go, and Mrs Kermott cannot go we will try and send Marmie. Yes indeed, Helen dear, I am very sure she and Mrs K. are congenial--at least Ruth feels so. But I am curious just why you said "Marmie would be best for my purpose".

Ray and Sarah are in Los Angeles. Yesterday Ray came out and we took a long delightful drive over a smooth road up in the wonderful mountains. He has rented a Studebaker run-a-bout--a lovely little car. His work fills his life and satisfies him now. He has so much to do with personalities and in the way of helping men

But I hope not. I must go--God bless you all

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California
February 14 1923

Children dear:

Herbert and Mame were in the throes of moving--were? probably still are-- and Friday afternoon Elizabeth went down after Patty and the two little boys. They were here until Monday morning. They could not go over to Ruth's for fear they would contract one of these colds that Ruth and David had and Faith and Elizabeth were coming down with--so Bobs spent the most of his time over here too. He thinks he had the time of his life having dinner some where away from home is always a treat, you know. Then his special playmates are quarantined with scarlet fever and whooping cough on the other side of the Inglis home. Well---talk about young savages-- Sunday was a rainy day--nuff sed? Monday I spent with a woman who is coming here to work when I need her. I have been so troubled about Ruth that I came to the conclusion that I did not care how much it cost I would try and take all of her washing and ironing out of the house entirely. So Mrs McGahn and I will do the washing--She and I will do some of the ironing, leaving the brunt of it to cousin Florence who would rather iron than do some other things, and Mrs. McGahn would do the heavier cleaning for both Ruth and me. Jack and I have had a little talk and he is going to try and lift the great weight of the children off her shoulders and give her one more chance to get hold of herself.-----

Mame is surely flying high-- The most expensive sewing machine--a beautiful case the most expensive new stove--three ovens etc.-- and the most expensive of Wilton rugs for her new home. New curtains etc. But how different we all are. I would have chosen an extra bathroom for those four boys instead of some of these other things--and Ruth would never have thought it possible to have had either. Mame says "I have come to the conclusion I might just as well have things I want."

And perhaps she is right. I have a faint suspicion that it would be just as well if I should take the same course. I have noticed all through life that the one who insists on having things is pretty sure to get them. So--I should not wonder if I made a bigger fight to get more interest this coming year. For I can see so many reasons why I should have it. Now again I am saying things that sound sort of as though I may wish I had not said the,

Yesterday Cousin Florence and I went in town and I lost myself at the Movies. Jackie Coogan in Oliver Twist was fine. Such a joy to a Dickens lover for Frank Loyd has caught the very Dickens spirit in the adapting and directing of the play. After lunch I went to see Adam's Rib. I was afraid it was a little too sensational perhaps, but I think DeMille has done a real service--and if he can make, through this screen play, some business men realize that their wives are hungering and thirsting for romance and love and that it rests with them to fill that need or suffer the consequences, it will be well worth his time.

Cousin Florence and I, with Elizabeth and Margaret, are going to hear Lohengrin next week. The girls have not heard an opera and I have not heard one for so long that I am sure we shall enjoy it.

I am writing under pressure for I expect Cottie out on the next car for a week. I have been trying to have her here ever since Christmas. Indeed it is a part of her Christmas present. Aunt Elizabeth is waiting to come for a visit too--but I told her Cottie must come first. Poor Cottie, her niece is getting tired of her now. How dreadful to live so long that one becomes a burden. How hard it is to know why God does not call us home sooner, sometimes.

Of course you got through with the exams all right -bless your heart. Sometime when you are in the eighties you may come out here to practice? Do you know that Los Angeles stands third in population now? Only New York and Chicago rank her as to numbers. 850,000 people we have now. It is a big city and it is so loosely held together because of its rapid growth. You will be out here before many years, it may be. The necessity of planting my land to trees may put off my visit to New York

I have finished up my old kodak book and am beginning one for 1923. I was ~~gl~~ glad to get the snow pictures. Send me a good view of your cottage if you can. I am so glad of the views I had to put in of the Yonkers home. I wish I could see your new blue gown. Is it for home or street? You ask about my dinner gown. Well I laughed at the dignity of the name for the gown. It is really very pretty but can be worn for just a pretty best gown almost anywhere and at any time, not just for a dinner party you know. I was inspired by the necessity of your having to get a new gown to wear to dinner at Sherry's with the Ladds to give this one the name of dinner gown. It is a dark blue Canton crape. One piece, long waisted, trimmed with blue irridescent bead trimming. I have a string of jet beads that was mothers that has two long jade beads in it and I had the sleeves faced with crape to match the jade. It gives it the right touch I think.

I am on a still hunt for a Jap. to take the place and put in berries, perhaps. If it can be accomplished I shall feel happier about not selling. We have been having many frosts but nothing seems to have suffered very much so far.

Thank you so much for sending this letter of Dr. Whipples. And for the views of the Hackett school. It had a queer effect on me to look over their advertising matter. I felt so old, so knowing, so tired. It is such hard work, it takes so much vitality to carry on such a school, and I feel drag of the past years I guess.

I do so hope to visit you while you are on the campus. I do so want to see you. Oh you asked about my silk sweater---I had to take a lot of it out yesterday because I had made mistakes while talking to some one. It is dark blue, not just what I wanted, but I shall have to make other things shape to that I guess.

I must go over and see how Ruth and David are. God bless you all-
Mother

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys California
February 6 1923

Dear Children:

The merry month of January has gone with its many delightful trips and has left many pleasant memories. Cousin Charles has gone back to Cleveland filled with a great desire to make a change from there to here. Cousin Florence is in the garage bedroom and has been taking care of me ever since he left, a week ago today. Aunt Addie went in town a week ago last Saturday to be gone three days and at the end of ten days she is not home yet and I do not know when she is coming. Last Wed. I had promised to meet the Clagues in town and bring Cousin F. home with me. It was rainy but no way to get in touch with them to make other plans. I was not feeling well, but I went in. I have been in bed the most of the time since. All right now with the exception of a little breathlessness. Ruth is on the verge of one of her attacks, I fear. She twitches so much. twice within a week I have seen her head jerk suddenly around to the left so that she almost looks over her shoulder. Two or three times she will do that and then her face flushes and she seems all right aside from the fear it leaves with her. At other times she seems very bright and free from worry. Her memory is getting worse. I gave her a check for the washing the first of the month. Some days after she came to me greatly distressed wanting to know if I gave it to her. She had a faint remembrance of my having done so but she had hunted and hunted for the check and could not find it. The bill was due and I gave her another check. Later I found the cancelled check in my bank checks. She had cashed it herself at the grocer's. These things worry me. Jack is not at home at all and the whole burden of the house and children falls on her with all the work of

garden of its own. Some pretentious and some very simple, but all interesting because of the variety of personal expression shown. We drove all around and exclaimed constantly. It is so different from Los Angeles--no money making there. A great satisfied village. Prices are higher because of its isolation and its lack of competition I suppose. There is a great big wonderful hotel on the heights--The Samarkand, Persian hotel. And the way is designated from the center of town by big blue Persian vases set at the corners of the streets up to the hotel. I would like to go there and spend a few days and then go to a smaller place or an apartment and spend three months just to get into the spirit of the place. Then I would like to go to Riverside and spend a few days at the Mission Inn where the food is so wonderful and the Inn so interesting in its architecture and old relics collected from all over the world. I would like to get acquainted with the different corridors built under ground and containing pictures, rugs, pottery and other things from all parts of the earth. I would like to taste the life there for a very short time. Then I would like to go to Redlands and go to its big hotel, the headquarters of the automobile club, and spend many hours on its "Sunset Drive", and then take an apartment on Smiley Heights and spend a few weeks there. I would like to get acquainted with the atmosphere of the different parts of California--not forgetting the San Francisco district. Yes, I would not want to pass by New York in my desire to really know things. I would like to spend at least a year in different parts of the very far East. I would like to go to Washington and take an apartment near the Lenrocks and stay at least three months--I don't see why I could not do these things if I could sell the home here. I do not think it would be so horribly more expensive than it is to stay here. Perhaps twice as expensive? Well, you see the trend my mind is taking. I do not think I love travelling for its own sake but I do wish I knew more about people and their thoughts and desires than I do now. Loving you though much in a hurry Mther.

All of these dreams do not mean that I would really like to live anywhere very far away from Los Angeles. Hollywood, it seems to me, is a mighty nice home place.

Box 169 Route 1.
Van Nuys, California
January 29 1923

Dear Ones:

The other day I said something about going to New York this summer and Ruth laughed--"What a woman you are to stick to things, Mother. Once you get an idea you never let go, do you?" That does not sound as though she thought it was going to be an easy matter to arrange, does it? However, she is right in a way. I guess when I see that a thing is right, that it should come to pass, I usually feel that in some way it is going to come to pass. And I am counting on June and the lower rates for a visit with you.

Cousin Charles gives up his car today and they come out here this evening to stay. He will soon be going home but Cousin Florence will stay all winter and possibly will stay and go back with me in June.

We have had some wonderful trips, among them a two day trip to Santa Barbara. I have always looked forward to a visit to Santa Barbara and I was not in the least disappointed. It is beautiful. Other places have attractions, but that place has them all. The ride up the coast highway up through the mountains and along by the sea is so satisfying. It was a cloudy day when we went up and bright sunshine when we came back so we had different effects over the same road. The city lies in a depression of the hills, hills on three sides and the ocean on the other. It is so protected that the climate is much more even than here. It is warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The suburb, Montecito, is the home of rich people and is a great garden of beauty. There is much of wealth in Santa Barbara itself, too. On the hillsides one gets marvelous views, and every home, no matter how small, has a lovely

HOTEL DE RIVIERA

125 W. CARRILLO STREET

A. E. BERN, PROPRIETOR

PHONE 344

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.

January 24-1923

Dear Children:-

Just to show you what has
happened to me and while
waiting for the Clagues and
Aunt Goldie to go to breakfast
I will write in this hotel paper -

We drove up from San Luis
yesterday - some eighty five miles
along the ocean - and over
wonderful hills! and while it
was cloudy all day we loved it -
and today it is sunny and going
home we will get different effects!
I thought of you and hoped some

Since you would take the same
trip - with me, preferably - but
if not, that you ^{may} have the trip any
way.

Santa Barbara is beautiful, and
the greatest abundance of flowers
that we have seen any where. The
climate is so much more agreeable here than
in Los Angeles County. Everything blooms
the year around, and everyone seems
to be proud of the garden.

This was just a love message
Mother -

Then he calls out "dubs" and other words that the boys use. He tries to do ~~everyth~~ everything that the boys in the neighborhood do. Falls down, gets up and brushes himself off saying "good grief" or some other exclamation. He has the greatest sense of humor and---well he is one lively boy.

Kiss dear little Wilder for me and thank him for the little woven mat. Bless his dear little heart.

I have just stopped to read a letter from Mrs Lenroot. She did not know that you were in New York and wishes you all success. Last July she had a nervouse breakdown and was forced to give up the presidency of the Congressional club and is still not "out of the woods,"-although beginning to go out a little bit socially. Katherine is now assisstant-chief of the Children's Bureau at a salary of \$3500. She is working too hard they think. Mr. Lenroot has been under a continual "nervous strain this year as has every conscientious public man" and is in quite poor health. Her letter was very cheerful and dear.

Wilder dear, will you please use this small check for yourself as a birthday gift from Mother to the dearest son God ever gave to woman? How dear you have always bee, Wilder boy. I had a letter from Will Saturday. Winifred is getting along well, seemingly. He has signed up for three heavy courses-one of them is neurology (and all have to do with the nervous system and dovetail into each other.) "Now I know a little of what Wide must have gone through. If he knows all that book contains about the brain and the nervous system, and I rather suspect he knows more than that, then he is carrying a load. About all it does for me is to make me marvel at the wonderful arrangement of it all, and if once in a while things get sort of crossed, I wonder it hase't happened oftener."

Dear Helen I am sending much of love to you and the children, and aunt Addie feels that she is beginning to know you very well indeed I have talked of you so often and at such great length.

With all love for you each and every one,
Mother

Bible lesson well in hand and---well,I am not good for very much even today.

The Mission Inn at Riverside is a most wonderful sight. The owner of the property has collected Mission bells from all over the world,I imagine. He has all sorts of curios,pictures,images,hangings etc.from all kinds of churches and religious buildings from all over the world. Underneath the building are corridors innumerable---it seemed to me---lined on each side with pictures of missions or churches,with relics etc. Each one seemed a little more interesting than the last one. There is a wonderful chapel with the ^{most wonderful} ~~gandixixexfzold~~ golden altars as well as a wonderful organ. Church services are held there and organ concerts every afternoon---Only Tuesday and Friday concerts are open for the public and that was Saturday--Above the first floor where is the chapel,the lobbies,the diningroom, are the most wonderful colannades and balconies reached by odd tiled staircases no two alike,I judge,The balconies overlook the beautiful enclosed court with its fountain,its palms and flowers. Here it is one can have lunch served-out-of-doors if desired.In the summer canopy curtains can be drawn over the whole court some four or five stories up so that it does not interfere with the view from the balconies off which are the many rooms for guests.Such a wonderful,fairy like place but always with the church idea in evidence. I had never imagined anything like it.

Cousin Charles said "Why I never knew there could be such a place in all the world."

It is trying to rain today. The first rain in this month and I am afraid that it will keep on raining for days. I hope not for the sake of the guests that are here. We have a trip planned for Santa Barbara but it looks rather dubious: They want Ruth to go then,but she feels she has not the time and strength. Things pile up so that it is harder when she comes home after such a trip.

David is the cutest thing--- His mother was washing his neck--he did not like it and cried out-"no,no,My neck." He plays marbles and twisting his thumb and finger is able to shoot the marble and more often hits the one he is aiming at than misses.

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California
Jan. 22 1923

Oh dear--Wilder darling how the time has slipped by and I have not written my birthday letter to you.

It is not because I have forgotten, dear boy, I have been thinking of the twenty-sixth ever since Christmas and had planned a gift, and then I saw that was not to be accomplished and then I planned to send a small check to be there on time and that won't reach you in time either. My only excuse is being too tired to write after the rides or the work is over. I do not seem to have any come-back lately.

Saturday we went to Riverside etc. Cora Young, one of the Oberlin class of '82 to which the Clagues belonged, and whom I knew quite well, went with us. She is a teacher in the Los Angeles schools and has been for 18 years. She is very like the girl I knew. She has been all over the world wherever the spirit called her at different times. Going here one year, there another year--and always looking out for herself---and any one else who might be handy and who wanted to be looked after, I guess. Full of energy, fun and affection. I have not laughed so hard in months. We got off the road and did not get back to Los Angeles until about eleven o'clock, too late for me to come home alone and too late for them to bring me home as the car had to be in the garage for over Sunday. So I went to a small hotel. Charles wanted to go and have me go with Florence but I made them understand that I was very tired and would rest better alone. I had nothing with me more than my purse bag, but there was a good bathroom connected with my room and I took a bath and got warmed up before going to bed. The next morning I had breakfast in a little cafe across the way and came home because I did not have my

Van Nuys--Saturday afternoon Jan. 6 1923

My dear, dear children:

Almost two weeks since Christmas and I know I have not written you since Christmas. It is a shame, but even now I cannot seem to be able to write very much. I am not ill but so tired clear into the very heart of me that I cannot seem to have any thoughts. I loved your letters, our Christmas message, and your dear little book. I thank you both so very much. The letter you wrote Christmas day and, including Dr. Whipple's letter of appreciation came today. Thank you for sending it to me. I will return it very soon.

In as few words as possible I must tell you all of the happenings of the past two weeks. The Christmas dinner passed off very well indeed. Everyone seemed to have a good time. We washed no dishes that night. The next day and we spent the whole day in washing and putting away. Mrs. Ross went home about one 8'clock.

~~Wednesday~~ Wednesday we prepared for another company. Ruth and I gave a dinner here for twenty-two. The Presbyterians of Valerio street to meet the new pastor and his wife. It was quite a success. Friday we washed. Saturday we left the ironing but tried to get the house somewhere near clean for the young people of the Christian Endeavor who had the best kind of a lively time here--thirty of them--perhaps more. Sunday I did not go to church but to the Bible class, of course. Monday I cannot seem to recall. Tuesday we washed and ironed too. so many napkins etc.--Wednesday I oiled the floor in the Laundry bedroom and cleaned and made the room ready for Cousins Florence and Charles. who expected to leave Oberlin on the first. Thursday Mrs. K. came out for the day---she said, but I always find that people mean they will come a few minutes before lunch and leave soon after---

However, I was mighty glad to see her and enjoyed every minute she was here.

Friday I had promised to Aunt Elizabeth for shopping and "Omar the Tentmaker".

The Clagues came and Herbert brought them out for a flying trip, and they were to come out to stay this afternoon. This is later in the day than when I began the letter and the Clagues came for a short visit. They have an invitation out to dinner tomorrow and want to see and hear Dr. Patten preach. So I will meet them in town Monday morning for the day of looking in the stores and seeing Mary Pickford in Tess of the Storm Country. Tuesday evening is the Oberlin banquet and Florence is bound and determined that I shall go---but I have no clothes, and while I know it would be delightful in some ways---I guess I am powerfully lazy. I don't seem to want to see a lot of people. I expect I should overcome that tendency and make it a point to mingle more with people---but it is hard to hear and I don't like to make the effort.

The fact of the matter is that we have had a weird two weeks. Aunt Addie has been miserable since Christmas. So dizzy in the mornings she has often fallen when she gets up first. The Dr. told her this afternoon that her blood pressure was very high and she must call a halt. I wish she would but she cannot bear to rest when I have things to do. So--I must call a halt too. The Clagues will be here for all of January. Charles wants Florence to stay all winter as she is not very well.

Aunt Addie invested some money in one of the new prospects of an oil well on Signal Hill and it looks very much as though she were going to have a good living out of it. All of the wells on that hill are rich--would it not be fine if she could be on easy street? I will try and tell you more about our Christmas later but I cannot write more now. Not "Santa falsehoods" Wilder dear. All the love that Santa symbolizes and all the glorious mysterious fun and happiness that love so symbolized is not a falsehood dear. Just a glorified fairy story that every child is entitled to have. Loving you all and hoping to see you sometime during the year of 1923---Mother.

I got May Richardson's regrets the day after Christmas, so her place was vacant and Mrs Ganahl did not come either, so Mrs Ross was the only one outside the family, and as she did so much for the dinner I do not like to call her an outsider. The two turkeys were cooked to a turn--and how every one did eat-- We had dinner at two o'clock. We piled the dishes to done later and then we had the tree and the children had a few games and it was time to go home. The day flew by so fast. But it seemed to me they never had so good a time. I put the six older children at one end of the biggest table and they took turns in serving the courses. But the fun they had together was most interesting and I suppose they will have more and more fun together as the years go on. The little children behaved as beautifully as they always do. Herbert and Mame gave me an order for three roses. Ruth and Jack gave me a pyrex covered dish and the children gave me a glass basket for flowers. Aunt Addie gave me an apron and Aunt Elizabeth a knitted night-in-gale. Ray sent me the Atlantic as usual and Sarah sent me a very pretty work bag. Mary MacQuarrie sent me a powder box to carry in my purse---had to buy me a new one to hold it----- and Earnest sent me a book--"World History". He promised to send me one when he was here in the summer. Myrta Herbert and Cada gave me a very pretty luster ware vase. Helen Clague sent me a picture of her baby Mary Ellen. I think I told you Cousin Florence sent me two lovely candle sticks with the candles. Gray and blue---they need a pretty dainty bedroom to set them off but look very well on the Grandmother Graves table in front of the window in the living room. The diningroom runs North and South. I set the two tables East and West and we had plenty of room to pass around the tables and still keep the buffet and big writing desk in the room. A dandy old room? I shall miss it if the house is sold. Yet for many reasons I am quite sure it is best to sell, if I can get my money out of it. I could make more when the time comes to cut it up into lots, but I may not be here by that time, and I feel it is too much of a burden to care for alone. Kis the dear babies--And oh, Helen, if they wear their woolies all of the time they will need

more³---- If you have any suggestions as to style and color or size you would better make them now. I do not know when the spirit might move me, you know. I am so glad you liked the Satsumas. Addie does not think them sweet enough--perhaps you would find them improved by adding a little sugar and cooking them over. Ruth is wearing her sweater every day too.--Your Mother

I have not sent this letter and now I am going to write somethings that I did not write Saturday. "Brain" came last evening and instead of going to bed right away as we said we were going to do Aunt Addie and I sat down at the table and together read most of the article. Of course much of it did not make much sense to us, but we were interested never-the-less. You surely do feel relieved that you have not the surgery to do and I hope you will be able to all---no you could not do all that you want to do for no human being could accomplish all you would like to do--but I hope you will have a wonderful year. My first letter of the year is to you, but even though it is so late in getting off. I promised myself that I would write several today, but washing and a meeting of the officers of the Missionary society down town filled the day. Tomorrow I may go for a trip in the Ford with Cousin Charles and Florence. Whole days taken out of the week seem to tear things all to pieces.

I did not know if Ruth received any benefit from our vacation at Laguna but I guess she did, for she is feeling fine now. Aunt Addie is so determined to do "My part", as she calls it. And how she loves David. I wish Wilder and Ruth Mary and Deacon Herbert and David could be together for a while. Would it not be fun? I do so enjoy anything you can tell me about the children Helen. The picture of Ruth Mary and her "five and four" dolls, That is the way her father counted, you know. What a good time you must have given the Sherringtons. Do you know I think it is sheer bravery to invite people for Christmas. There are so many extra expense and extra thought and extra work that is so surely a part of a Christmas visit. You were glad to do it for his father's sake I know. But such a "spell of weather" as you ordered for them. We are having the hottest January on record. The buds on trees and shrubs are beginning to swell and I am afraid for the future. We will surely have more frost. But I was to tell you about Christmas.

the machinery.

Yes, I guess it is fun for young folks to slide and snowball and do such vigorous things, I believe in the far distant past I used to enjoy it too--but never again. I am quite willing to stay by the fire and--knit. I did another rash thing too, I bought silk for a sweater for myself. I never made a silk one before and I never made one for myself before, so I feel quite excited over it. I have the material for a sweater for Jean too---so I will have to stay home some time.

I am expecting to hear great things of your work this year--but say, how about that little maid? I have not heard a word about her for so long. Is she with you still? Is she proving satisfactory? What a good time you gave the Sherringtons, and what dear, dear children you are and how I love you and how I want to see you and how I want the children to know their

Grandmother Jean----

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California
January 15 1923

Dear Children:

I am nearly starved, been out in the garden all morning for a change, so I am writing and eating an apple at the same time. Such a hurly-burly as we are living in now. I had invited Cottie for a week in January and while I was writing her just now telling her it must be postponed until February I received a letter from Ray saying he and Sarah are coming the first week of February. But their headquarters will be with Sarah's sister in Los Angeles and they will be here for a month, at least, so Cottie will not be put off again.

Now what do you think, I bought me a gown last week that will be appropriate to wear out to

dinner--even in New York. Does not that sound interesting.? But perhaps it sounds more interesting than it really is though.

The house is on the market--if I could sell, next summer will see me in New York. In June the rates are about half what they are now. One family ^{has} ~~have~~ been to look over the place and they like it very much. Think I want a good deal for it, but would like to trade in their city home for it. As I want to ~~sell~~ in order to get rid of responsibility I do not see how the trade will be of benefit to me. Their house is listed for \$8,000--six rooms and a sun porch, garage etc. But I am not much interested.

Today Cousin Florence stayed home to write letters and tomorrow she has a luncheon on hand in Hollywood. But Wednesday Addie and I go with them on a long drive down through Orange County--Santa Ana, Fairview, Newport Beach etc. The old stamping ground of the family.

Some day next week we will go to Santa Barbara for a couple of days' trip. It is fine for us all. The Ford is kept pretty busy.

On the 29th. I have invited the Missionary Society here for the evening. Husbands etc. We hope for about 100, but how I am to rustle seats for so many I do not know. They tell me there are no chairs to rent. I furnish the coffee and Cocoa and the society furnishes the sandwiches and cake. The work is in getting the house ready. We are to have a wonderful speaker from Los Angeles and expect to have a good time, get enough money to meet our pledges and get more people interested in our work etc.

Must you go to that church with the "colorless" sermonizer? Is there no other man you can hear? I wish you could hear our man-- He really is very good indeed. He has come to a church that has never been united and I think he will get us all to working so hard that we will never know there is more than one thought that moves

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys--California
December 17 1922

Dear Children:

I have but a few moments in which to write--and I must make the most of it.

I have ordered John Martin's Book--a monthly magazine--for the children for their Christmas. I have ordered the same for Deacon and Fred. It is the best that I know of for little children and not too old for even little Ruth Mary with the wise mother she has to direct her interest.

I have also sent a box of fruit--canned--for you two dear children. I am sorry that marmalade is not included, next time I may do better. I sent it by express, and after a series of seemingly unpreventable delays. I hope it will reach you in time. Aunt Elizabeth is making fried cakes to last me over Christmas.

Aunt Addie is busy about the kitchen I have picked up and brushed up the house and not one of us is in church. I shall arrange my work for the Bible class as soon as I finish this and then I shall probably read to my two house companions.

Aunt Elizabeth has given me a Christmas present of a very pretty bed jacket.

I am glad to have it for I so often want just that kind of a garment.

Elizabeth Inglis asked me what I wanted for Christmas, I said that I wanted a Victrola and a trip to New York--she was disgusted for she feared the green trading stamps she had to spend on Christmas would not meet the demands. I might have added a box of black pins to the list--but the most of my real needs are such expensive affairs. I think Addie is making me an apron--I hope so--and I am to give her a pair of house slippers--and I think she hopes so, too.

I furnished the material for a winter hat for Ruth and Addie made it, and she is already wearing her Christmas gift. I ordered Country Life for Herbert and Mame and World's Work for Will and Winifred. Elizabeth is wearing her gift--a blue

and orange sweater and Margaret is wearing hers--a purple and gray sweater.

Aunt Elizabeth is making Faith's sweater for me, and she will probably will wear hers before Christmas. I will give each one something else on the tree, of course.

I am having a ring made smaller for Jean and making a sweater for Pat. I have two of the most expensive ties that I could find for George and Wilder. Silly, I

know, but I had my reasons. I ordered American Boy for Bobs. A Teddy Bear for David who is so fond of the cat. Handkerchiefs go to the MacQuarrie children.

I think that is the extent--no, I sent some Bayberry candles to Ray and a little San Gabriel Mission bell door-knocker to Sarah for her front guest door.

I am so sorry that the children have been ill and grateful that they are so much better. I am glad for you that the time of general surgery seems to over and that you can devote all of your time to your real work, and I know that many triumphs lie before you dear boy.

I have not heard from Arthur Smith, of course, but I am counting on something turning up that will make it possible to be with you before many months. It seems that it must happen. I was so amazed to hear that Ned and Roger have moved out here. It is good for your mother, Helen dear, for she was so lonely with all of her children so far away from her. And she worries so much about Dr. that it will be a comfort to feel that the boys are near her even though you are still so far away. I know I have not really written a letter or answered yours, but I must stop. I love you all so very much,
Mother

By the way, if I come to New York may I have the pleasure of seeing something of Maitland Bartlett? I would love to get into closer touch with him and know him better and know more of his work.

not counting on it too surely, still I am somewhat given to hopefulness, you know.

I shall finish Elizabeth's sweater today, and then I have to make one for Margaret, for Faith and for Patricia before Christmas. And the days do go so fast, or else I am very slow.

I am glad the football is over for this year, Wilder dear, for I know how you must have grudged the time given to it--and yet, it did not hurt you physically, and it is quite possible that you will do better work this winter because of it. If I can come to you, there is one thing I know I can do that will be of help and that is stay with the children so that you two can get out more together, for instance, in going to Princeton.

But I must get to my knitting-- We have dinner with the Ingli this afternoon at five. We had a heavy white frost last night so that the lawn and shrubs looked as if covered with fine snow this morning. I do hate to have such frosts come to kill off the wonderful chrysanthemums that glorify the North garden.

Loving you all,
Mother

Do you need me Helen dear? -

Box 169 Route 1.
Van Nuys, California
November 30 1922

My Very Dears:

What am I going to say to you? Of course, the only subject worthy of consideration and the only subject that seems to be in my mind this morning is the subject of your letters. You think I must go to New York for Christmas? I have a previous engagement to furnish a Christmas dinner here for about twenty-four of us. So that disposes of Christmas day.

But can I go later? The clothes that I would have to get and the fare (there and return) etc. would cost me at least \$600. I doubt if Herbert would think he could get it for me.

But the money is not the only consideration. Ruth takes bromides all of the time. Her breath is so strong of them. I do not ask her how much or how often she is threatened with an attack, but while we were at the beach she went off for a moment at the breakfast table one morning.

So I know the horror is right near her all of the time. She is very irritable--for Ruth--yet she always says she is "fine".

But the greatest obstacle to my getting away is my family. You know Aunt Addie has no other place in this world to go but here. She has no money--something less than a hundred dollars a year comes to her from some stock she owns.---She is not able to work any more. Even she is beginning to recognize that fact. She gets very tired when she has anything a little extra to do here where she sleeps late in the morning and can stop to rest whenever she feels like it. There is no place for her to go. I could not afford to keep up the house expenses while I was away. Ruth has

no room for her, and besides that Jack and Elizabeth do not love her

well enough for it to be pleasant for her there. Mame and Herbert could not take her. If Mrs. Hutchcroft could, or would, or something, go to

Sade's she could go to Arthur's for a while, though it would not be best to make it too long, I think. Blanche would love to have her, as would

Arthur, but there are the two children, and well-----

Jamie has married a WIFE;---- and wives spelled with capital letters are

not always any too fond of husband's relations. So when your letters came

I felt most hopeless. Then I studied over "If we needed you would you not

come"? If you needed me Helen dear the way would surely open for me to

get away. So I just left it that way. The home for Addie is given as to

Jesus himself. If he wants me to stay here with her, then it would not be

best for me to be anywhere else. But if you need me, then I am sure He will

open the way for me.

Last night while I was thinking about it all, a new thought came to me.

Such a brand new thought and so surprisingly simple that it is quite likely

it may be the answer. Some time ago, months ago, Luella wrote Aunt Addie

that she and Roy were determined that her father and mother should spend

this winter in California. If Herbert says he ^{can} manage the financial end

of the matter I will write them and make this proposition to them. I will

give them the rent of this house for their visit here if they will give

Addie her board. It would be much cheaper and pleasanter than anything

they could rent here. Then if Arthur wanted to raise a spring crop to

help him pay expenses he could do so and could also put in and care for

my walnut trees etc. Now I do not know if that will work out, but I do not

see why it might not do so. I will see Herbert as soon as possible.

So there may be a chance of my coming sometime in January, and while I am

I know you are not aware
of this - please see Robin
Hood & Elms -

Box 169 - Route 1 -
San Diego California
November 21 - 1922

My Dear:

So you think I am no poet? - I wonder if
you can be right - However your reaction to "Poppies"
filled my soul with delight - and my mouth with
laughter.

I am so glad that - a small financial
plum fell in your lap so unexpectedly and that
some new books are to be the result - "All things
come to him who waits" - Now it may be that
a plum will come that will give Helen the
"many things" you so long to give her - \$18.000
a year seems a fair salary - yet the Whipples
economize too! - Do you suppose that even
Rockefeller with his \$165,000 a minute (that is the
figure is it not?) is still economizing? Probably
he has all that money can buy, but are there other
things he longs for? After things he is straining every
nerve to get? - Rather interesting to think of what

grasping creatures we just are naturally.
When I was wanting something most-desperately
as a girl, grandpa Graus would say, with his
funny little chuckle - "One want-gratified bring
another" - and it-used to annoy me because
it would seem that-he did not fully sympathize
with me in my desires - Grandma Graus was
different - she wanted to gratify every whim - Once
she insisted on giving me the money to go to Chicago
to see some wonderful thing I felt-was necessary
to my mental growth - But-had I had the tickle-
I should have needed clothes, etc to ~~full~~ fill a
new need. A need that-did not-arise-without-
the first-desire gratified -

Some moralizing that - but it-was directed at-
myself - I have been wanting things and I know,
I can see, if these things are accomplished other
things follow in their train -

I realized yesterday that-it-only lasted a month
to Christmas - four weeks for today every Christmas
plan must-have been finished - for it-will
need a full, five weeks to be devoted to the

dinner and the plans - I want to
write to Mrs K. this very day to speak for
their presence on Christmas Day. Aunt Myrtle
and Cade - I do not suppose Aunt Elizabeth
and Mrs Newcomb will come - but invitation
go to them. Mr Ross will come on Friday
before Christmas - perhaps sooner - to help get
ready. I would like to include Arthur & Blanche
with their two children - but that would mean

Mrs Hutchinson - and Sadie, and possibly William
Although ^{he and Wade} they are not very good friends just now -
but they are not very good friends just now -

I think we have another man to run the place -
a man with no family - he said - but yesterday a
wife and eleven year old girl turned up - "She
left me some time ago and I did not expect her
back. She surprised me -

for she had taken
the Dodge and little girl and has been in Bend
for six months - I do not know the whole romance
as yet - but she is here and ready "to hustle" she
says - If she is really a "hustler" and we cannot
her do odd jobs for us I shall welcome her with

open arms - And they will be included
with Christmas plans - ^{to help} but - also
extended thought. Christmas time - but how un-
long for all of our loved ones there! - How far away
New York is was! - Let it - will be harder for Mrs
H. so I guess I will not - take that - angle as I
look ahead to Christmas.

Aunt - Addie I go to Ruth's for Thanksgiving
dinner. I do not know what - the Lanham
people will do - that day will be a Huldington - day
I suppose -

Kiss my babies for me -
Your Mother -

Why I thought - I told you that - Herbert - had a real
estate - office in Rankinville. Real estate - men here
are not - lost - in big buildings - each firm builds a little
office in some corner and makes it - distinctive by
color of paint, form of building or some way to attract - attention.
Penfield & Forsyth have one - and a lawn & window boxes
and possibly vines will beautify it - I enclose the card.
They are hopeful - You know how Herbert - attaches men to
him? - Forsyth thinks he is great - friend to him - and is
very nice to him & mine.

Answer to prayer? Last Spring when he was here I felt
that he had changed in some subtle way and it worried
me. Winifred was not well then but I still not understand
just how she was. Her mental trouble was growing on her -
Will helped her all that he could. He had planned a trip with
mountains during the spring vacation but sent the family up there
when he found he had to come to R. A. He hoped the rest &
change would help her. When he got home he found Winifred
had come home before him she said she could not stand it
she was so nervous. Then he got some one to wear for the
children and sent her to a neighbor for absolute rest for a week.
This neighbor was a Scientist but she said nothing to Winifred
about it while she was there. But Winifred kept getting more
after she went back home. They were worried - at last
she went to Will one day simply beside herself and told
him he would have to get some one to take care of the
children and put her some where or she should certainly
make way with herself - she could stand it no
longer. Will broke down and sobbed like a baby - "Then
if this is so, there is no God" The shock brought her to
herself - but she could not keep hold of herself. He told
her she should never be shut up anywhere - a pretty tough
proposition? - The children were sent away - and Winifred
went to this Scientist and asked if she thought Science could
help her - well it has - she is better the children are home -
Will takes the children to the Science Sunday School and goes to church
with Winifred who is most hopeful now. What can one say or
think? Father Mac. railed against Science saying "I guess she could
get help no where else" but he still goes to his own church. And I,
you know how I have always felt about Science - but if it saves
Winifred? If God has led those two earnest children of his into
His own peace and into health through that way - what can

And if he does not feel he can take the trip, and I?
I don't see how she can be with you - and I?
Well - bless you I can't get the money together
to buy my ticket - without thinking of the many other
things I would be obliged to get - I have bought
nothing new since we bought in Paris - and I am
only looking like it - I must get some clothes
or they will drive me off the streets before long
Possibly another year things will be different - I am hoping
for that - Or if I could sell the house or some things
unexpected should happen - But - as far ahead as
I can see now it is absolutely impossible for me
to think of it - How I would love to be with you -
not on Christmas day - for I am a daughter of my
dear little mother I want the Christmas dinner
in my own home - but the day after I would like
to start for your home - I am truly right - home with
to see you.

In this letter I want to tell you about Winifred
Mrs Ross has just returned from a visit there and I
think Winifred wanted her to come and tell me all about it -
You know, Walter, how much Faith Will has always had in

me who loves them as I do say but - how ~~under~~ head & heart - in gratitude? I thank God for her hope - her cure - And may He forgive me if I have been mistaken in thinking that Elderly religion of the devil rather than of God - It is hard for me to be patient with it - but - if it saves Wicked men that - faithful suffering and death in life I am so thankful
So then,
Dear Children:

Mother -

And John has put - aside his glasses and his eyes are all right - And Billy got - along beautifully with the two brother Juniors -

Box 169 Route 1
San Diego California

November 17 - 1922

My typewriter is out of

commission and I have to send it - in town

to be righted - In the meantime I dread and

put off any writing I have to do. It seems harder than ever before to write with a pen.

It is the most glorious day - All this week we have been having good old Indian summer weather. Ruth and I went around the house this morning noting how shrubs and vines had grown. It looks so different from a year ago now. I still have a lot of flowers - The glorious geraniums are gone but the Shasta daisies are begining to bloom with the Calendulas - giving the yellow & white border at the West of the driveway - In front of the house verbenas and petunias and blue daisies

brighten the row in front of the shrubs that show
their bronze & green foliage with here and there red or
yellow berries - The heliotrope is glorious - The
green lawn looks healthy - down towards the street
is the bed of close pinks, that their gray green foliage
looks lovely against the flowering mint-hedge and
is a good background for the lawn. The flowering
mint is new to me - it has the odor of mint - ~~has~~
slender branches with small leaves that wave in the
breeze giving a lacy appearance to the hedge and
dotted with lovely little pink flowers. The sprays of
this plant are lovely in bouquets with other flowers.
A few roses are in bloom at the east of the house
and north - the white Chrysanthemums (perennials)
interspersed with yellow and marrow & gold ones are
a veritable forest of bloom. The border of pink
Cypripedium around the flower bed next the house is another
glory - I am enjoying them with every bit of me -

Oh Helen, dear Helen - I know how you want
a grandmother at Christmas - but how can it
be! - Your mother cannot leave your father

November 5 1922
Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California

Dear Children:

Home from Laguna, and in a whiff of getting into the swim again.

Aunt Addie is almost worn out with all she has been trying to do. She is not so very strong and gets right tired easily. I thought I could not take that class of Endeavorers, and dreaded it more than I can say until I got up before them this evening, and then the old lure of the young faces came over me as they gave me welcome, and I knew that I was going to enjoy them very much. Young people are such a delight when they give themselves to one. We are to take the biography of the Old Testament heroes. After I get through with Abraham do you want me to send it to you?

Herbert and Mame came over for a few minutes this afternoon. Herbert has a new car. It would have cost him \$500 to fix up the old car so he traded it in for a new one for \$600. They have bought a lot in Lankershim that has some 15 walnut trees on it. But they do not know how they are to build the house. He laughingly says he has learned so much in "high finance" the past six months that it makes his head swim. He seems in good spirits now. I am glad for he has had some very depressed times. His new car is a five passenger instead of a seven.

Yes, Ruth loves the sea too, and we surely did have a wonderful rest. Didn't know you had a pup--tell me more about him. I am sorry you did not get that prize, still you would be terribly spoiled if you should get everything

you went after, and I know the books will come some day, and so will the things that Helen "so badly needs." Wish I could have seen you when you were both ready for Sherry's and the theatre. What fun it must have been. But what did you decide about the Neurological Institute place? Good advertising for you and the hospital, I expect Dr. Whipple thinks.

I want you to know Ruth's girls, so I am sending you some letters they wrote while we were away. They are so different and the letters show the difference. Elizabeth has never cared for boys before, but this year she is boy-crazy. Yet she does not seem silly about them, I mean she is not "sloppy".

Sorry, hoped you would have the folks I wanted to know about--however, I can find it at the Library, I expect.

We do not have the wonderful Autumn colors that you have now, but we do have the most wonderful mountain coloring, and we have it almost all the year through. But from now on until summer they are a constant wonder.

I am going in town tomorrow, and it is nine o'clock and I must get to bed---I love you all, and shall send the suits for the children very soon now. They should have been sent last June, but Naneen has been bad about her knitting this summer. And now there are four girls who want pretty sweater blouses for the winter. And I expect Pat will think she should have one too. I wish I had two pair of hands. You know I always did wish I were twins.

Your Mother.

Laguna Beach
October 29th. 1922
My Dears:

We have not had one bit of mail since a week ago Friday. It is bad enough for me, but perfectly horrid for poor Ruth not to hear a word from any of the family. It would seem that Aunt Addie might send the mail that comes there even if she does not write, but she is incorrigible when it comes to writing, so I have to forgive her even before her fault is committed. Ruth is getting homesick I know altho she is brave about it, and fortunately has planned to do a certain amount of work before going home and that makes the time pass more quickly.

We have been reading some from Don Marquis' Hermione--and it is such a funny take-off on the "serious Thinkers" of today. The vers libre

poets are especially well shown up--

"Poppies, poppies, silver poppies in the moonlight, poppies!

Silver poppies,

Silver poppies in the moonlight,

Youth!

Poppies, poppies, crimson poppies in the sunset, love!

Poppies, poppies, poppies,

Black poppies in the midnight,

Death!

Three colors of poppies!

One color is silver,

The second color is crimson,

The third color is black,

And if there were a fourth color it would be green!

Alas! Why is there never a fourth color?

Poppies, poppies, poppies, but no Green Poppy! "

Perhaps you have had enough of poppies? There is quite a bit more of it. Possibly you will like this better?

"What becomes of

People when they die?

I used to ask when I was a child,

And now even since

I am grown up I am not sure that I know."

Or here is another real gem----

"I see the moon out of the window.

I wonder what it thinks of me?

Wouldn't the moon and I both be surprised

If we found that neither one of us

Thought anything at all about the other?

Well after reading that rot--we started to read "Eve" by Katherine Howard--

"I can imagine no more enjoyable evening than can be spent anywhere by a group of friends gathered in some congenial library or studio for a reading of Eve." ~~That~~ That sounded interesting you know-- But here is the way it begins---"What is gigantesque? It pursueth!

All! All! pursueth! All! All! is gigantesque!

Thou art gigantesque. Thou! Atom!

Thou art gigantesque!"

We began to think we had drunk too deeply of some hidden drug---but we were brave--we read the book through and it was quite more interesting than we expected. The reason we read it in the first place was because the preface was written by Horace Holly who married Myrta's sister Bertha. After reading his preface we did not wonder that Bertha has a divorce from him. He has a book here on The Modern Social Religion---but I think we will pass that up. We also read, last evening, Tam o' Shanter--No wonder I dreamed of struggling to get \$25,000 that some one had given to some one else, the only clear thing in my mind now is that the money belonged to me, and I desperately wanted it. This evening we are going to read "She Stoops to Conquer."

There is really nothing to write about--witness what I have already written. We are enjoying the ocean, the clean salt air--We walk down town for the mail that does not come--bring home the paper and find nothing in it save the usual number of scandalous divorces and horrid murders. We are still sleeping about ten hours a day. Go to bed at ten and breakfast at ten the next morning. A great life that ends this week Saturday, I suppose.

Oh we did go to the Movies one night this past week--Remembrance, written and directed by Rupert Hughes--pleasant enough but not worth much valuable time.

With a heart full of love for you four--

Mother

Laguna Beach
October 22 1922

Dear Children:

We have had a full week here at Laguna and a very pleasant week it has been. This morning there is a change, however. I do not suppose it is possible that you can recall the dreadful winds called Santa Ana's ---much to the disgust of Santa Ana residents--- They are hot winds from the desert and are filled with the dust they have collected on their headstrong way through the country. We simply call them dust storms in the San Fernando valley. They are the same winds, I guess, but have lost the horrid heat by the time they reach us and are often cold winds. But the wind this morning is the same old Santa Ana I remember of years ago. They usually last three days and bring out all the headaches and nervous feelings flesh is heir to-- Mother's face was always so drawn and her color the color of yellow chalk. Cousin Louise Clark had the nervous giggles etc. But every one is tired to death when they have had their will with them. We have closed the windows, keeping only the windows towards the sea open, the sun beats down hot and glaring as it has not done before, no--- we do not like them.

Ruth is re-reading The Virginian, I am reading Hiawatha, Browning, etc. We are reading Queed--do you recall Henry Sydnor Harrison's novel that made quite a name for itself some years ago?----aloud. We do not have breakfast before ten o'clock, perhaps later, we have dinner about five-thirty or earlier--we knit, do some walking, have a concert before going to bed by ten o'clock at the very latest. We sleep well, and another two weeks of this should see us ready for the Winter's work.

Queed did not know how to make friends either. I hope your talk to your technician will have as good an effect on him as Sharlee's talk to Queed had on him. Poor boy, it will be a wonderful thing for him to learn that lesson. Making people like you is a great asset in this world, but can one do it before he learns to like people? And to like people one must take the time to study them, I guess.

Do I miss the variety in the climate of the North? Why dear, we have variety enough here. It is a mistake to suppose that we have no changes of season here. We have the cold of winter but not the snow or bitter winds or biting cold. If one wants to get really cold let him drive after sundown through the San Fernando valley in the winter months. But while he will be chilled to the bone and farther, if that is possible his ears and nose have not been frosted and the inside of his head does not ache with the cold. The ache is all on the outside. If he wants to feel the intense heat of summer let him try working outdoors in this same valley during the day--but he won't have sunstroke, and he will need a blanket over him at night, and he will have an appetite for a hot breakfast in the morning. The leaves drop from the trees, the woodbine shows us its beautiful coloring. The grape vines are bare, the summer annuals die--but the beautiful

pepper trees, the Acacias, the Orange, lemon, and other citrus trees, the olive loquat, and the numberless shrubs keep their green leaves, there are flowers and perfumes to take the place of the "beautiful snow" you love to talk about---and why not, it is beautiful when it is fresh, and it is all the East has to put forward as beauty for so many months. Your children are housed the better part of every year, they grow white and peaked before the beautiful springtime, but here, hardly a day in the year the little babies cannot play outdoors all day long. You buy fruit as a luxury, here the children eat it as freely as bread. And so many kinds of fruit and so delicious. No, I do not miss the Eastern climate, but I confess I do like to be near the ocean where one gets the invigorating ocean breeze. And if I could sell my house in Van Nuys I should look for a home near the water, I'm thinking.

The only criticism I have to make of Myrta's cottage is that it has not a rocking chair in it. Every chair is straight backed and uncompromising. So corsets and dignity are the order of the day.

Will England be better off with another Premier? We will see. Lloyd George has been a wonder, but sometimes war lords are not as successful peace lords. I have a great admiration for the fighting Welshman. Bonar Law cannot lead them, he has not the health, who will it be?

I am glad that we have decided to stay but three weeks on one account we will be home in time to cast a vote against Hiram Johnson. I hope California will do better than Wisconsin has been able to do. What a disgrace to have sent La Follette back to the senate. There are so many good men and true in this country, if we could only get them in places of influence and authority.

I hope you will soon be settled and with furniture in place, curtain rods adjusted and pictures hung you both will be able to get in the work you are so anxious to do----but get a maid as soon as possible for Helen will never be able to do all the work of the house, the sewing, the care of the children the social duties and the work with you she wants to do. No human being can accomplish it all.

Some day I am going to New York and what a visit we will have.

Yours with all love,

Mother

Laguna Beach
October 16 1922
Dear Children:

Ruth and I are sitting in Myrta's pretty sitting room each reading etc. and occasionally looking out over the ocean which is not so very close but still in sight. Cada was not feeling very well on Saturday so did not bring us down in the Winton, but Myrta loaned us her Chevrolet and Jack brought us down Saturday afternoon. It is a full four hours ride from home with no stops thrown in. We reached here after dark but it did not take long to fry the beefsteak and put the salad together. Addie had made us a peach pie and that topped off a topping meal I assure you. We coaxed Jack not to go back that night so Ruth got up at 4.30 to get him a light breakfast and we went back to take his S.S. class at 9.30. We did not get up for our breakfast-dinner until eleven o'clock. Then we spent a lazy afternoon reading, just taking a short walk to the top of the cliff to get a nearer view of the ocean and went to bed before nine. We had breakfast this morning at ten o'clock and then walked down town. That is quite a long walk and uphill all the way back. It proved as much as I wanted to do for I have some rheumatism in one knee that is giving me a lot of trouble. It is now four o'clock and Ruth has just started to get our dinner. Two meals a day is all we intend to get while we are here. What did we read? I will answer for myself. I found a dear little book of selections from Browning and am renewing acquaintance with some old favorites and mean to learn by heart a little each day. Then I read The Return of Tarzan³³---(Mr. Burroughs has an estate near Van Nuys and is making a town of it called Tarzana) Then I read a while to Ruth from Judith's Garden, a sweet little account of a woman who loved flowers and is seeking health in digging in the soil.

Myrta has a lot of books here, and a very dear little home. For this is her home, the first one she ever owned, and she loves it. She teaches in L.A. as I think I told you. Cada has a lovely home there and Myrta is with her during school. Each one of them has a car, and they are so happy to be together. Cada is a little younger than Myrta and is a widow for the second time. She is small, delicate, and soft in all of her ways and her funny way of mothering Myrta is very delightful and Myrta is very happy in receiving the petting that is new to her. They adore each other. One of the great tragedies of life, it seems to me, is the large number of fine women who would make such wonderful wives and mothers and have missed out. What is the matter with the men of the world that they cannot choose such women? My sons did it is the sons of other mothers that make such mistakes.

In this living room are two windows to the West, a French door on the South and a door on the East into the tiny little kitchen and another into the bedroom. This living room has a day-bed, a writing desk, a library table, a bookcase on wheels and another sectional bookcase, a gate leg table, an airtight stove behind a screen, some footstools, chairs and a victrola with all red seal records. The toilet room well equipped except for the bathtub is off the bedroom also a good sized closet. There is a shower off the kitchen with walls and roof of canvass.

Aunt Addie will be taking care of David and having a good time I am sure. He is a wonderful baby you know. "The smartest, the sweetest, the most beautiful" in all the world.

I do not seem to have very much to write--for I am positively too sleepy and so I will just stop and go and help with the dinner.

I love you even though I am stupid today.

Mother

Send letters to Sam Camp & they will forward them

We are busy getting ready for the vacation. We are going Saturday. Jack planned to take us to Los Angeles and put us on the bus there for Santa Ana where we would have to change to another bus for Laguna and then get a taxi to take us to the cottage. Besides that in order to make all of these changes we would have to leave here at seven in the morning. But there has been a change. Myrta and her sister are to have Jack drive them and us in Kada's Winton. They will come out here soon after lunch, and get us and take us to the cottage have dinner there and get us settled and then drive home in the evening. Is not that fine? Shall not have to send off bundles by parcel post, nor carry heavy suitcases, nor have any responsibility whatever.

How lovely to have a piano---and you will enjoy it I know. And we all gave a sigh of relief over the washing machine and vacuum cleaner. What make is the cleaner? You are not going to take up with the Ladd's offer of furniture?

It made you feel good, I can understand, not only to feel that boy is getting well, but that the work you did was appreciated. That is what makes life worth living. It makes me so happy when you show that you recall so many of our times together. I wonder why you remember so many more than Herbert and Ruth? I suppose it may be that you were, in a way, thrown more on your own responsibility as a boy. That you and I met more as equals in the things we did together? You had no normal home life after you were eight years old, and when we could do things together it was a red letter time that sank in deep. While with the other two it was more a regular thing and so having no high lights they are forgotten.

By the way, is "Cape Cod folks" among the books that went to you?

if so would you mind sending it to me as soon as possible? I want it for a special purpose. In the sketch of your study I liked to see Helen's rocking chair so close to your desk. You enjoy doing things together but I enjoy almost as much thinking of your doing things together. I have to make out a list of the groceries and things to be bought Saturday, and I have just finished making out my reports for the Missionary Society and getting things in order for my neighbor who has kindly consented to take my duties over while I am gone. And I must get to work on some Bible work. What do you think I have done? I thought I should never teach another Bible class--but the Christian Endeavorers want to have a Bible class Sunday afternoons at 5 o'clock. "And there is no one to take it unless you do, Naneen, and oh I want it more than anything else in the world."

Well, when granddaughter Elizabeth comes at one like that what is there to do but say "yes." I said I would if they would take up the biographies in the Old Testament. They have a ten minute silent hour each day that has been pledged. They want some regular Bible study for that time too. Also they want the class to begin October 15th. So I have to plan the whole work for them, daily and Sunday work so they can study while I am gone. We will take Abraham first, so Sunday, and the week following I have planned for them to study some of the "Calls" in the Bible. The first thing you know I shall get to be a busy woman.

So I will say goodbye to you dear four. I will try and do the babies knitted things while I am gone. It has been so hot I could not work on the wools. I am sorry I have been so slow.

Loving you hard---Mother

Van Nuys California

October 12 1922

Dear Children:

I am so delighted to think of you as being in your new home, and I hope you have a good maid installed by this time. You will begin living a real home life now, instead of hanging onto branches here and there, you will have a real nest that you will feel like calling home.-----And may you have the opportunity of staying there just as long as you want to stay. It sounds very a tractive.

Before I go any farther I must tell you a joke on Wilder that happened some time ago but that has just come to Herbert's ears. Wilder was tired of school routine and skipped. Thought he would go to one of the beaches. He hailed a car that was going his way and asked and was granted a ride. The driver of the car was very pleasant, asked him all sorts of questions about himself which Wilder answered with his usual charming open manner. At last the man said, "Well I guess you would better go back to school now and turned back with him ---- He was the truant officer.

Here is another. Wilder has changed school now is in the Junior-High in Los Angeles. In the first room he was in he was made one of the officers of the student governing body. But for some reason it seemed best for him to move into another room. He could not represent that body because he was not elected by him, and it did not seem fair to demote him for no cause as to his ability to serve so the teacher called for another election. They voted by rows--he was a ~~xxxxx~~ stranger and was way behind on each row. His heart sank

for he did want the office. Finally it came to his own row and twelve votes for him sent him up ahead so that he won out."And do you know,I don't believe a boy in the whole room voted for me?"

Here is one for George. Herbert says "Mame and I have nothing to do about training Wilder now. George is doing it for us." It has come over George that he has been something of a fool and he has reformed--but like all real reformers he proposes to reform the other fellow too. He does not intend that Wilder shall make the same mistakes he has made,if growling, and nagging,and thundering,and threaténig will accomplish his purpose. Wilder said he was not going in for athletics."Well I bet you will,and you will begin right now,too." "See here kid,one thing you want to understand, don't make friends in the class below you. Keep to your own class or the one ahead." And he watches his lessons too. "Here,what's the matter,you can learn that too.Now get to work." "For heaven's sake kid,put those shoes outside,they smell so who can get to sleep." George was not once so particular about odors or dirt or lessons or athletics.

The dentist has begun work on Jean's and Pattie's teeth. It will take about two years and will cost \$800. It makes one gasp,doesn't it? But it would be criminal to let them go any longer. Mame has just had \$250.worth done on her teeth.

Do you know,if I could,I would be all ready for that guest room as soon as it was ready for occupancy,and you would not need to wait until everything was in apple pie order either.

Mrs. Hermott and Dr.were here for a short call last week,then on Saturday the Hitchcocks were going to Glendale on business and came for me and left me at Dr.'s so we had two visits within a week.

man, if the people begin to find fault with him he is going to quit. But Jack says more than he means to carry out sometimes. He was so outraged at the few getting their way over the many that he is mad clear through. But he is a corker to come into the Presbyterian church and work as he does, for he does so love the Episcopalian service.

Did I tell you of a conversation at their table a while ago? Subject: boys, marriage, etc. Faith looked very solemn and said nothing for a while, then "Mother, I do not see how it would be possible for me to love a man more than I love you, I do not see how I could leave you to live with a man." Elizabeth- "Oh I do." Somewhat later, Elizabeth- "Well I shall not marry until I find a man as good as Daddy- and I don't believe there is any such man either." Margaret grins and holds her peace. She is not interested in boys, or marriage or any such silly subjects.

And Jean? Well she is the dreamiest girl of them all. Always dreaming of the wonderful clothes, beautiful jewels, glorious good times that are waiting for her around the corner somewhere. And Pat? She has no ambitions or desire for anything but to learn how to dance. Not just common ballroom dancing but she wants to be a great dancer. And the funny thing is that she has never seen any wonderful dancing unless it be in the picture papers. But she will start the Victrola and close the doors and dance and posture to her heart's content. She is very graceful too.

Such funny, interesting studies these youngsters do make. I must go and talk to Mr. Kern. And it means time with a capital T- for he loves to talk.

I love you, Mother

Box 169 Route 1
Van Nuys, California
September 27 1922

Dear Children:

Such a gorgeous day as it is today. I feel I must speak of it for I have mentioned the very hot weather so many times.

Well, my bewhiskered man is going to leave us. Poor man "Just my luck" he feelingly said when he told me. His wife is ill, and he has orders to move on. His daughter said he always did what her mother wanted him to do, but that he said he would not any more "But then, I know he will."

Just how ill she is I do not know but she wants to go into the San Juachim ~~Imakimx~~ Valley and he says "I cannot afford to lose her, you know."

So another move for the poor man. She did not want to come here, and she has her way as usual, I guess. What we are to do remains for the future to determine. Jack's cauliflower is in, and somebody must be found to take care of it.

I suppose you are back in New York now and Helen is busy as can be getting ready to move. A tremulo on those "T's" make a drunk looking word?

I do not envy you the work of the next few days, or will the Ladds carry their wonderful friendship still farther and settle for you? Ruth says if they don't she thinks they will fail in real love for you. But oh how lovely for you that you will not have to buy furniture right away.

Furniture, rugs, curtains, well are you not the luckiest people in the world.

It seems to me there can be no question but that the way has opened for you wonderfully in getting this house on the school campus, and I am so glad for you. And with the feeling of really being settled in an honest-

to-goodness house, you will both draw a long breath of relief and get into the real business of living. You will be able to do a lot more satisfactory work when there is no question of what-to-do-next before your mind's eye all of the time. If you can get a right good maid, so that you can leave the children when you like, life will seem like real living at last.

Thank you so much for Miss Crocker's letter, I mean to write her some day, myself. How she has filled an otherwise very lonely life with all of her love for young people.

Certainly, keep that picture as long as you like. How we laughed at Ruth Mary's conception of the word cousins. Oh those children, when shall I see them again?

I wonder how things were at the Hospital, I know you are glad to be back at work, Wilder dear. When you have a private patient now do you get the fee for them? Keep me informed of all the interesting things you are doing in your work. My great dissipations out here are going to the Movies, and I am really getting to be quite a critic. Ruth is head over heels in sewing. Getting all of the mending and right-away-needed things made. Two weeks from Saturday makes our flitting seem quite near. I have such a bunch of mending in my basket that I have promised to finish for her this week. I can mend but excuse me from trying to make anything over or anything new. It is like housework, I can wash dishes, but I do not want to bother with the cooking. Fortunately Aunt Addie does like to cook, and she is so fond of vegetables that we have quite elaborate meals often.

Our minister has gone, driven out by the minority and we are now listening to candidates. Jack says he will try once more, and when they get another

could not have managed the family alone.

So he and another man have opened up a real estate office in Lankershim. At present they are loaning money for other men. Herbert would rather do that work than the real estate for he hates selling.

Ruth seems to have a lot more pep than before the operation. She tires easily, but when she does work she seems to accomplish so much more and enjoy it. I must get this in the mail or the postman will get ahead of me.

I have not answered your letters, but have enjoyed them.

Lovingly, Mother

Box 169 Route 1.
Van Nuys, California
September 22 1922

Dear Children:

I am sorry I have been so late this week, but I shall lay it to the heat, for I have been too languid to do anything after the morning's work is over. But I am going to write a little bit now even if I do not feel like it. I would like to lie down on the floor and talk to you, but somehow I cannot fix the machine in that position. A neighbor came under my window the other afternoon and called to me. Her horror in finding me in my nightdress lying flat on the floor was comical. The only way to rest, and the coolest place to be found.

Please do not get the idea that I am not up to the mark physically, I am well, just lazy from the heat.

Mame sent me note on Wednesday to come in for dinner yesterday- Thursday-and go to the movies to see "The Loves of Pharaoh". I went in on the 50'clock car. The two little boys met me on the Boulevard, on their bicycles. Bless their hearts. Pat and a friend came a little way farther on. Fred spurted ahead, but Deak proposed to keep me company. He tried to cycle beside me but the two girls took up the sidewalk so he kept just ahead of me. Pat kept insisting that he hurry out of the way. Every time she spoke to him he looked back to see how much behind I was. Finally he scowled at her and jerked out "I wont." And she knew he wouldn't. I had sent each of the little fellows a quarter for them to spend on their birthdays, with a special letter to each one. Deak said, with his charming

dimples showing "How did you know I wanted that dollar?" "I have not spent it yet, but it isn't in the bank."

George is playing football for the first time, and it was very pleasant to see how much it made in common between him and his father. Herbert was interested in everything he had to say. He and Wilder scrap every minute of the time. Wilder makes a statement and George growls, and such a growl. Wilder said something, or asked something about football, George turned to him and growled out, when a fellow knows nothing about a thing, it is a good thing for him to keep his mouth shut." "Well, why don't you then?" came back the response. Wilder never passes the victrola without setting it going, and then some one stops it. Between their scrapping and the victrola, it is very funny but very confusing and one cannot blame Mame and Herbert from everlastingly going for them. Wilder takes perfect delight in keeping some one on the rampage. But he is very lovable. Looks more and more like Herbert. George likes to torment me by his greetings. He came in to dinner late, stopped in the doorway and very politely bowed and said "How do you do" "George go and speak to Dada D an" from Mame-- He came across the room and put out his hand to shake hands, "Good evening." All the time his eyes were dancing. I pulled him down to kiss me, with a "See here you rascal, what do you mean?" then he put his arms around me and kissed me several times. But he does something like that every time. His mother told him to never treat his grandmother Hutchcroft like that for she would not understand it. "You bet I wont." It certainly does me good to go down there and see them all together. Herbert had to give up the business he thought was going to be so lucrative, because he would have had to be away from home almost altogether for at least a year. That was out of the question for Mame

Box 169 Route I.
Van Nuys California
September 11 1922

Dear Children:

Is it not ridiculous that I cannot seem to get a letter written on Sunday? But I am writing now quite early in the morning. I hear Aunt Addie moving about in her room and I will wait until she has had her breakfast before I begin the cleaning. I am planning to do this morning.

I wonder how it is with you today and if you are enjoying the mountains. It will seem most wonderful to you when you are finally moved and settled in a real home. How long you have been Nomads. Why Wilder you have not had a real home since you were eight years old. It was a home with Grandma and Grandpa, but we never felt it was really ours, you know, for it would not have been fair to them to have lived just as we would have lived in our own home.

Aunt Addie has gone to the kitchen and, from the noise, I know what has happened. David has come over to see "Ahtee." He adores her and knows he is more than welcome at all hours. When I hear him at the door, if it is not quite convenient to let him in I am deaf--but not so with her. He is the cutest thing-- Saturday I was on my knees scrubbing the floor, he watched me a moment, picked up my drying cloth and down on his knees beside me he scrubbed as earnestly as I was doing. Of course, it was not long before he was on the clean part with his dirty bare feet, and his help was in his good intentions rather than his accomplishments. He dropped some of his dinner on the floor. He looked over at it, said nothing, neither did any one else, but soon he was through eating and wanted to get down. Then, without a word, he went and found the floor cloth, came in and wiped up what he had spilled and hung up the floor cloth in its place again. I went over there the other morning when the family were eating breakfast. While we talked, he finished his breakfast, got down, went in the bathroom and brought out his "Po" put it down on the floor beside his mother and began to try and undo himself. He was in his bed, in the morning, playing quietly. His father went in the bathroom and soon the sound of flushing the toilet was heard. David listened and said "Cha-cha all gone." Oh but he is quite a smart youngster. He picks plums and peaches off the tree and eats, no one knows how many during the day. At first he picked them from the ground and Ruth tried to teach him to bring them to her to wash off, so many of them are wormy, bird-eaten, ant-covered etc. that lie on the ground. But that was too slow for him so he never touches them on the ground now, for the branches hang low.

Mame came over Thursday morning and I tied a comfort for her while she and Aunt Addie made a blouse for Fred and a pair of pajamas for Herbert. Then Herbert came for dinner and Ruth and Jack came to dinner too, and we had a nice visit.

George is in Del Monte where he has a job of caddying for the week. I suppose he is home now for school begins today. Wilder has made up his mind that it is college for him. He begins school in the Hollywood Junior-High today, and has elected the engineer course. He is not especially capable with his hands, but he adores construction and he is sure this is the course he wants. George still thinks he will be a farmer and does not seem to think that schooling is of much importance in his life altho he did better work last term. Herbert says he will at least get through High school if it takes him ten years. They are such handsome, attractive boys. I think it is a shame that all four boys are better looking than the two girls.

Bobby had his ninth birthday yesterday. Mary Andersen never forgets she is his god-mother, and the usual check of ten dollars was here on time. He bought a new seat for his bicycle with part of it and put the rest in the bank.

This is a month of birthdays. Addie's on the eighth, Will's on the 9th. Bobby's on the tenth, Fred's on the 13th. Deak's on the 14th. Pat's on the 15th. and Herbert's on the 28th.

I was in town on Wednesday and saw the "Great American Masterpiece" Manslaughter. I guess it is the greatest American story that has been screened, and it certainly is good work. If you can read the story and then see the play I think it would be of great interest to you both. I know you do not like the film and you do the legitimate, but it is a growing Art, and has come to stay.

Kiss the dear babies for me and tell them Naneen loves them and some day, some day--she hopes to kiss them for herself.

Lovingly,
Mother

of his knowledge of facts. But I know what you mean, you wish you had the background of culture. That in your infancy you had absorbed a knowledge of literature, art, politics, music, education and people who count in the world. Well, dear, you were not born in that atmosphere. The atmosphere that Grandma Jefferson so hungered for, and that I wish you could have had. And still, it may be quite possible that your background is of stuff that has fitted you for your own place in the world.

One brain cannot learn everything, and this is a day of specializing, and one has to make his choice. You have chosen your profession, and a jealous mistress she will prove to be, and you have chosen a narrow corner of that profession for research is a narrowing of all interests down into a small space, and you will have to get your outside smattering, and that is all one can get outside of their own chosen work, by proxy. Your wife will see that you get something, or I miss my guess. She means to keep up with as much as possible for the sake of the children. And just leave it to her, getting all the enjoyment and knowledge possible in your leisure hours. To be master of one thing is a great thing to accomplish.

Tell me more about the State Board Exams. Why cannot you take them and where would you take them?

Are the Ladds of the Medical fraternity too?

Aunt Addie is reading to Bobs. And she wants to be writing a letter too. I wish life would seem a little easier to Ruth. If she could only get a stronger body that was able to take care of all of her many duties. Perhaps she will now.

Sending you so much of love,

Mother

with all the work and worry of years, and God was kind to relieve him of his poor old body before it became a great burden to him. I wish you could all have seen him the last days of his life for it was beautiful. The real man, the noble, unselfish man shone through his eyes and made his face radiant at times. He did his work well, I pray I may do mine as well. He made a lot of mistakes, as who does not? He was often annoying as every really strong character is at times. But he did want to be of real help to every one with whom he came in contact. And, he lived in a past age and could not and would not accept the new order of things. But how proud he would be of you now.

Another remark of yours has caused me to do some thinking as well as smiling. The remark was such a familiar one to me dear, for how often your old mother has said it of herself. Oh "I wish I were educated" How many times I have felt the lack when you children were small, how I wish it right now. No. degrees do not count in a sense--and yet, let us look at it a little more closely. A certain Mr. Stockbridge whom I knew as a girl rather awed me by his immense knowledge of everything any one could mention. Until I found him out and lost my awe. He was a man with many idle hours on his hands and a good club where he could read many magazines. He was a fine reviewer. But ~~what~~ good did it all do? He did not know any one thing thoroughly. He was interesting if one wanted a current events talk but even a foolish girl like me could reach the bottom

Van Nuys . California

September 3 1922.

My dear Children:

The week has gone, Ruth and the children have had their tonsils removed and all is well, we hope. It was Dr. Canby who made all arrangements for them and got the Dr. -- Lawrence Downs by name -- to do the three for the price of one. \$100. it will cost Jack. They went to his office in Hollywood and had it done. I wanted to go to Dr. West to consult with him, but it was best to have Dr. Canby arrange for it, of course, and I made no suggestions. Dr. West was so kind and I mean to go in and make a call on him some day.

Faith came through famously. Ruth had one very bad tonsil. But Bobby gave the most trouble. He had two tonsils that were so infected the Dr. said he was sucking in poison all of the time. The tonsils and adenoids came away beautifully, but after a while his nose began bleeding and it was some long time before it could be stopped. He lost an immense amount of blood and is just getting so he can move about comfortably. The operation was on Tuesday the day ~~addie~~ I took Cottie in town. When I got home that evening they had come back a few minutes before. Ruth was in my bed and Jack was head nurse over in their house. Ruth's throat has been the sorest of the three and is still the sorest. They all look such a sickly yellow, but we hope there will be no more trouble for them.

Margaret feels so tired all of the time she is dreading school.

Elizabeth had a narrow escape yesterday afternoon. The Christian Endeavorers were cleaning the church in order to make a little money. They had borrowed a tall stepladder to reach the electric lights. They had been cleaned and Elizabeth mounted the ladder to put them up. While reaching up the ladder broke and she and lights fell to the floor. For a wonder she broke no bones, but she feels mighty sore. For some time after the girls were busy picking little pieces of glass out of her face and she trembled so all through supper at the church that she could not eat much. What bothers her almost more than anything else is "Who will pay for those lights?"

Yes it is well that Granpa is not living today. He would, of course have more ~~than~~ of an income than I have, because there would be none loaned that was not bringing in interest.

That remark of yours brought up quite a vision of the past years and many questions. How different every thing would have been with us all had he lived. There would have been no estate from which any of us could have borrowed. How different it would have been with you, for you would not have been in New York today.

Would we have been in California? He would never have consented to Herbert's leaving the bank in Hudson. If the boys had gone to war where would their families have gone? Would Galahad have been sold to better advantage? I would be in Hudson with father and mother? The boys could not have gone on with the school what would they have done? Well, it is best for us all as it is and better for Grandpa in every way. His mind was worn out

by ourselves and met for lunch and then went to see Blood and Sand. I had seen it before, yes-but I am ready to go again, for that acting seems mighty good to me.

Ruth is enjoying the lovely letters that come from Mary Andersen. But they make me homesick to go again to England. If you should ever go again I hope you can count on me, but just now I am wondering how I am ever to get as far as New York.

I have come to the conclusion that the only way for me to get a rounded glimpse of your life day by day is to have you both write me. Wilder's letters are so dear, but they seem to need Helen's too. I wish Mrs K. and I were near enough to compare notes.

We made Satsuma jelly this week and it seemed to jelly all right but now has become but liquid. I wonder if that is affected by the heat too. Such a lot of it, and so beautiful as to color, and delicious as to taste. But you may not know that Satsuma means a certain most meaty plum.

Ruth will not give me any satisfaction about our trip now. She must wait until all the tomatoes and as well as all the fruit is put up. And in a few days, I suppose, she and Faith and Bob will have the tonsils removed. Pattie has such bad teeth you know? Such a bad shaped mouth I should say. They must have work done there and it will cost them \$250. the doctor tells them. Mame has spent \$140. on her teeth this past year. Their doctor bills for the past year would have been something horrifying but the doctor is a friend and makes it light for them.

I think this type too large for letter writing don't you?

I like the machine very much, it is so steady. Aunt Addie has to go to court tomorrow as a witness and she is so troubled over it. Margaret is so tired this summer that Ruth is wishing school were farther off on her account.

I wish I could write a decently interesting letter but I do not seem to have anything of interest to give out to anyone. Not even a foolish sermon on the roof of an ^{eight} story building but you know I like the "serve yourself" places to eat in. Oh I am hopelessly plebian in my tastes? But when I see the food before me I know what I want to eat, and the B & M. especially, have such awfully good things to eat.

Bother---I will write again when I am not as wet as if I had left the tub without applying a towel.

Yours with all love,

Mother

Van Nuys California

August 27 1922

Children dear:

The heat has been so great the past week that people are beginning to predict a disturbance of some kind-wind, rain or earthquake- but even as it is, it is nothing to the heat I can recall in Wisconsin. For we can sleep nights. You know that heat and I do not take kindly to each other and my nerves are showing the wear and tear. Sleepless nights follow any disturbance in my equilibrium, and that makes the hot days still more unpleasant. If I had some trees about the house it would not be so hot, but I have not even planted them yet. It is 91 in this room now and will be hotter in two hours from now.

Cottie goes home Tuesday and I am to go in with her as I promised but more than that I ^{have} booked for a visit with her to Hollenbeck the ~~Hollendack~~ Home. Cottie has at last consented to go there and I have been boosting her to make her willing to go and boosting her niece to give her courage to go ahead even if Cottie does collapse when it comes to the time of going. Cottie has to go there in person before application is made and Josie thought she would be happier if I were with her during the visit and interview. It is a beautiful place and I know it is better for Cottie and much better for Josie. What a lucky woman Cottie has always been to get into pleasant homes and be surrounded with friends. She is seventy-nine now

and should not be having the care of a home much as she enjoys it. It has been a great drain on Josie for almost two years-and how thankful I am that her relatives are the responsible ones now. *instead of your mother.*

Herbert and Mame were over for a little while last night.

His office will soon be finished and he will be at work again.

I do hope this venture will prove a good one. It must, for he is getting into debt so badly. I do not know as I should have said that, for I suppose he sees light ahead where I cannot.

You know mothers worry unnecessarily sometimes.

I expect Mr Kern will take possession this week, and I am

rather dreading that too. Well for goodness sake I wonder if

there is anything else. I can bring up to say that will show you the heat has made me woozy.

Yesterday Jack took his family to Lincoln Park for the day.

He drove the Austin car with Mrs Austin and the boys and Ruth

drove their car with the girls. David stayed with us. They took

two meals with them. Elizabeth had spent the week with the Clarks

at Hermosa Beach and did not get home until after seven last

evening. She had an engagement with a young man who was to call

on her, so she missed the picnic. She was so glad to get home.

Said if she had stayed there another day she would have gone

crazy. Why? Nothing to do but get up late and lie around all

day. She leads such a busy life at home it was too much of

a contrast.

Last Monday Jack, Ruth, Addie and I went in town. We shopped

roof under the arbor and on the porch so that they will be able to sleep outside all winter.

Now as to the plans for the land. Mr. Kern will take all the care of the ten acres, barring what is being used for decorative purposes only. We will furnish the land, seed and berry plants and house. And Jack will furnish housesmfr his chickens and team. He will furnish all of the work and we will go fifty-fifty on all proceeds. we will put the place into strawberries and bush berries as fast as it seems feasible. This year we will have about five acres in cauliflower, and some other vegetables for the Fall income. And in the Spring we will put in berries at the time I put in my trees. Walnuts for the commercial crop and a home orchard. Mr. Kern will take care of the trees.

I shall rather enjoy living here if I can feel that the land is doing its share of paying, but I have been worried and sometimes almost discouraged at the way things have been going.

Sunday was such a crowded day that I did not get my writing done. Monday I worked in the garden all day until I was too tired to even sleep that night. Tuesday I washed and Addie, Cottie and I went down to Mame, s on the 9.30 car with our thimbles etc. We sewed and darned for her all day and then Herbert brought us home and they got some Satsuma plums to can.

That night I was too tired to sleep well, and Wednesday we canned and pickled all day until after supper, and I was again too tired to get in a good night, s sleep. But I was also too nervous to stand the close companionship in the home and I needed

to go in town, so I skipped off alone for the day. My body was surely dead tired last night, but my nerves were at rest.

I went to see Valentino in Blood and Sand and certainly you must make an effort to see it. Something is wrong with my

ribbon but what? Blood and Sand is one of the few things that show what an art the Cinema can really be made to become. And what real acting can do for it.

Please forgive this horrid looking page. I hope you will not have such very hot weather from now on. And shall be glad when you are in your new home.

It has been decided that Ruth, Faith and Bob shall have their tonsils out before September 12th. I do hope that means relief for Ruth. But dear me, the work of the day is waiting for me and it is now well on towards ten o'clock. Do you suppose as long as I live I will always be in a rush of some sort? Will I ever learn how to really live? Sometimes I think my conscience is too tender. I try to do what the other fellow thinks I ought to do rather than the thing that I want to do.

We are having the most gorgeous weather and California is, on the whole, delightful but some day I want to try New York a while and see you dear ones.

Mother

I received the bundle
of trines. Pickles
Thank you.

Van Nuys, California

August 18 1922

My Dears:

Now what do you think of this? Yes Sir, I have a new typewriter. This time I am trying a Remington Portable. It seems a little awkward to me at first, for of course, the first writing I do on it is to write the delayed Sunday letter to you. It seems a more solidly built machine than the Corona, and the price is \$60. cash or 'a little more' by monthly payments. I will pay cash if I can__ but I have been afraid that I should not even get my potatoes dug and that would leave \$150. to pay for the seed besides the water. You see, I had planned to pay for the typewriter with some of the potato money. Mr Lang has become a most discouraged man, and threw up his contract and I have had troubles of my own, like many another grower here in Sunny California. However, I am in hopes that troubles of not being able to depend on a man to do the work are almost over. About the first of September I am looking for relief of ~~own~~ one sort. Mr. Kern, a man, the father of a family of six grown children. A man with beautiful long whiskers that makes every one snort with the exclamation "What a homely mna"__ but as his whiskers are always soft and clean and his eyes are fine, his expression kindly and his voice soft and controlled when you talk with him you do not call him homely. To make a long story short__ He has been helping Mr. Austin with his cows, and taking care of his fruit. His youngest son is with

him. His wife has heart trouble and he has been trying to find a place where he can make a living and where she can live. They came to Arizona when work was scarce and pay was low, from the Middle West. He lost much of his savings, etc. He knows the Nursery business, and farming and his trade as a young man was that of a Mason. His youngest daughter has made application to attend the U. of So. Cal. and several girls from this street attend there. They are to have my annex rooms and will have to make some changes besides putting on a collapsible room that can be moved when his son wishes to go elsewhere. Other doors, windows etc. I shall have to pay for the material but I think he will do all the work. The laundry will have to be made smaller, and all of my storage trunks and chests will have to be moved into Jack's garage where I will have to build some racks for them.

They will be pretty close to my kitchen door but another door cut on the North and towards the field will relieve it somewhat. There will be some annoyances, but I think we will get along all right. He and his wife, whom I have not seen, his daughter and son will comprise the family with occasional visits from his grandchildren.

Now as to the moving of the two girls who have been sleeping in these rooms. At present Ruth is sleeping outdoors on their back porch without any roof over her and Jack sleeps on a cot on the ground beside her. Margaret and Faith have their cots around the corner of the house under the grape arbor. The other three are sleeping in the house although envious of the others. As soon as possible, before the rains begin, Jack will try and fix a floor and

soul; whole truth - yet even then the word of hypocrisy? -
 I have not carried the simile out - but - unless I think the only
 sin Christ - was ~~very~~ ^{intensely} bitter about was hypocrisy - well think
 about it. - In Hebrews the Author is making a logical
 plea drawn from their whole history that they should see
 that all things have been fulfilled in the Christ - the real
 son of God - having been from the beginning with the Father -
 If you have the understanding of the real Christ - and his sacrifice? -
 God's son - read Matt 21: 33 - God had sent prophet after
 prophet - every one had been killed - and now His Son -
 How did Christ's death on the cross prove a saving thing? - How
 can I, in a few words by this inadequate pen, be sure of making a
 little peep hole to see through - if it happens that - is still a stumbling block
 to you. God's Son. Laid aside the glory that was his in the
 beginning and took on himself humanity - born as other babies -
 he became a man - and when he took on humanity he took on
 death didn't he? And his taking on death gave us life - because
 he taught us what was the only way to life. And if we reach
 eternal life - if this human nature of ours ever can become divine
 it must be through the Father accepting the Christ - teaching. It
 is only through him that we can be saved. I know the
 distaste you have for the Thunder in the Park. "Accept Christ
 and you shall be saved" but those men - if sincere - do save
 to churching and to saint-hood many a coarse fagg
 man & woman that your intellectual understanding of the

same truth could not touch. The Salvation Army cares
for Christ-hundreds of "down and outers" we could not help
at all because we talk a different language but the same
truth if we are sincere Christ-men.

The Jew, the Hindu, the honest Agnostic? They cannot understand
the Salvation Army man or woman but they respect them a heap
more than they respect us who seem ~~to~~ believe one thing
and practice another or who are indifferent to the welfare
of the rest of the race.

So God takes us as He finds us and for each one of us He has
a work He wants us to do. It would be ridiculous for us to
take the Bible Institute way of literal interpretation - the Salvation
Army way - or any other way but along the line as we are
giving the knowledge of Him. Jagg - Susan River - Schubert -

Handel - the very music of the Angels before the throne of God - He
will take the plan when we bring and preach, teach, heal,
uplift and worship - And through our real, earnest, honest-
faith He will "impute righteousness unto us" and make of us
saints who will be a living blessing to our little corner of
the world.

Oh I have not said half I want to say - ^{And reading this over I find I have said this little very poorly -} but my hand
is tired, and you have spent time enough on the reading?
all this I have poured out to you -

God bless my darlings -

Mother -

And Alice
and little
themselves.

^{& more}
those, who knew Jesus intimately, in being inspired to give
a full, well rounded picture of the Christ - the mission of
the Messiah. God's creation-old plan for the ages to
come.

A little experience of my own may illustrate what I mean -
at one time I devoured Andrew Murray - one of the real saints.
His great book - "Lord, teach ^{us} me how to Pray" with a week spent on
the emphasis, put on each word. Lord. Study it - brood over it - visualize
^{teach} it - get its full meaning of that word in connection with Lord -
then - one. Contrast and unite with Lord. then emphasize
how. on your knees develop that - to pray - Well, there is a whole
education in that - but after a time Andrew Murray failed to
satisfy all I required. The same experience with Henry
Drummond. His teaching of the understanding of the 13th Chapter of
1st Corinthians - ~~for~~ phrase by phrase and then as a whole has
been worth everything to me. but finally Drummond ceased to
fill my need. Then came Ian MacLarn. The mind of the
Master - what a breadth, depth & height of understanding I got from
him on the person of Christ - and the meaning of his life and
sacrifice. but I don't want - help for ^{myself} ~~Drummond~~ now. I have
taken from him all he had to give me. But I never have reached
the depths of Paul - nor of Peter nor of John - but Paul is the
one whom God could use to the best advantage in explaining His
plan and the inner meaning of Truth not to one person but to all
all kinds of minds - all kinds of needs are met by him even after

he has been gone nearly 2000 years - think of it! - no other
writer of that time is so alive today. without the explanation
of special inspiration how can he be accounted for?

Now the book of Hebrews - Oh how I wish we could study it
together - He is talking to the Hebrews who believed they were
God's chosen people - who accepted the laws of Moses as direct
law from God - who believed in the necessity of sacrifice
made by their divinely appointed Priesthood. And their
belief was true - God had chosen that people to keep
his word pure through the ages - In a world of idolaters
this people were known as peculiar. God chose them because
they cared enough to be troubled with that - fear of great things
not because they were better than other men - but they cared
and so he could train them - And oh how he trained them -
How he disciplined them! - The apostles are with us now - if
the vines have been well cared for the majority of the fruits are
big & luscious - but some are sunburned, dry rotted, fly
^{small & shriveled} ~~spider~~ sting, bird pecked - or rolling on the ground for the
pigs. The Chestnut vines have a fruit that is better
protected - inside a prickly, rough bark lies the fruit in
safety no birds, no insects, no sun beam can reach it - but
even then the worm gets into the carelessly and for fruit
into the very heart of it - and some chestnuts are ^{but} ~~not~~ dust-
within. Well, I wonder if the Hebrews could be likened to the
Chestnuts? - The rough, disagreeable outside - within a

Pan Hays California
August 6 - 1922

My dear Brother - My Sweetheart -

My dear Brother -
My dear Sweetheart -
My dear Mother -
My dear Father -
My dear Sister -
My dear Brother -

Yes, this is, primarily a letter to you though I do not exclude dear Helen. It was dear of her to think it would be nice for me to come up the walk when you were having a lonely visit - all by yourself - Your letter, written the 30th transcribing your thoughts, in the old, familiar manner and wishing you could discuss them with me as you used to do once in a while in the old days did me much good, dear. And I hope New York will never be to you really your home until after your mother can visit - you there and lean on the place, an impression, however slight, of Mother, mother-love, mother-sympathy and mother-understanding in your life and surroundings there. I had one of my wakeful nights last night - they do not come as often as they used to do - and I examined your letter in several ways - each with its one left - or center thought - I think the jazz left - was something like this -

(I have not worked that right. I do not mean to say I would leave an impression in N.Y. but in your thought of W.)

the Bible - or the Christ-religion "Antiquated!" how how
do you get that-way!! — Have I needed that-correctly?
Antiquated? The ones who think that - of a follower of Christ -
are "dead ones" worse than "Antiquated" - Dead to the sound
of the strength & power it-carries, blind to the light and
beauty, having had no taste of the joy of it, no sense
of the fragrant odors of it, no feeling for the life in
it - They are dead, dead - and have no conception of
the sight sense of a belief in ^{that religion} it - that sense of absolute
knowledge and understanding - Antiquated? Not yet -
has the inspired Word of God been wholly understood - the
whole book of Revelation is beyond the understanding, as yet,
of all of us - And there are hints in other books of the
New Testament - especially, that are not yet fully understood -
so more than modern is this Bible.
Why are not the writings of modern Saints included
in the Bible? Because they are not inspired in that way.
Do not misunderstand me - I believe every Saint of God is
inspired for the work God has given him to do. I believe
every one who adds to the world's understanding of any part
of Christ's mission on earth, God's plan for this Church is
inspired of the Holy Spirit - But the greatest of the Saints has
shown us, or helped us, individually, to see but one little part
of God's Truth. Ah I think we are none of us big enough to
take it all in - And Paul stands alone - above any of the

to do as she pleases and loves Myrtle - "more than any living soul". She has been out here for long visits - two or three times - Last February she went home - some where in the East - and about the time Myrtle was looking for her first letter from her she received a telegram saying - "Am packing my furniture to come to you - Look up an income bearing property for me" - Inside of a week she was in L.A. again. No sense in living alone and Myrtle living alone - she did not succeed in finding the Bungalow Court property she had in mind - but bought a very pretty house for \$9,000 - a bargain - She has brought the furniture for it and for the Laguna Cottage. Has bought a big Winston car "because Myrtle will take her to school with her and I want to go when I please" - and she has a maid. Well - Myrtle always did love "Percy" - she lived with his father for years - but Kaela is more of a stranger. She wants to be loved by "our own" as she expressed it to Myrtle and so - it will be fine all around. When school begins again Ruth and I are going to leave the children in Aunt Ardell's care and go to the Laguna Cottage and stay just as long as we please - Two bedrooms - two double beds - etc.

Now - just as quickly as possible I want to say two

pleased and proud I am about the intended
publication in his whole form of the article sent to Brainer.

How glad I am that you are out of the stifling
atmosphere in the Youkers Apartment. How glad I
am about the Ford. I want to sound a

warning about trying to do too much sewing while
you should relax & rest - note that - you have the
chance Helen dear. And to say most emphatically

that you certainly must have a maid in your new
home. Also tell you that I had the most decorated

last night with waterlilies in memory of Mother. And
put four pansies in each finger bowl because of Father

and Wilhelmina. Ruth said "I think it pays to have one

favorite flower that every one thinks of being associated
with you -"

Lunch will be late if I do not hurry -

I love you ^{like} the babies.

Mother

Sau Hugo
August-2-1922

Dear Children:

What-kind of a letter am I going to write this morning? — 10.30 My dishes are unwashed from last night's dinner party — Herbert's and Mamma's anniversary. They celebrated with me as I always try to have them do and Jack and Ruth were here, Florence Aunt-Astoria went away almost three weeks ago, visiting in Los Angeles and Pasadena, and has not returned yet. I have washed and put in a new place all the cut-glass used but I am rearranging my shelf room thinking it would be better for the jellies and unsealed jams not to go into the cellar — I have sealed this morning eleven jars of red raspberry jam that has been in the making — My dining room table has not been entirely cleaned since last night for I am to have company for lunch — Ruth and Busy Bee went in town this morning and the other four will have lunch with me — So everything looks at-rips and sevens although in my mind it is quite

orderly. I have been mighty busy with apricots,
green gages, black and red raspberries, etc. etc. etc.
and doing over some of 1921's surplus.

Jack has a new "job" as the Bostonians say - He teaches
from 8 to 12 - studies until then at the High School
and drives a Jordan car for an elderly lady from
3-6 for which he receives \$10 - a week extra.

But he exemplified this week's end, I guess, because Friday
afternoon the Engli, the Avalins and the Kleinkans
Kleinans go to Laguna Beach way down below Newport-
Beach to camp for two nights reaching home again
Sunday evening.

You remember Jack's cousin Myrtle Herbert -? She
teaches in L.A. owns a cottage at Laguna and a Chevrolet
car. Laguna is an Artists' Colony and Myrtle is
one of them. She paints quite well. Paul loves it - and
the Laguna atmosphere. Her sister Keda - devoted,
I believe, - now perhaps I have her mixed up with the
other sister and maybe she is an honest-to-goodness widow -
Well, anyway, she is alone - has no children, enough ~~money~~

me. ^{then} We went first to see House Peters & Virginia Hall in "The Storm". Another fine picture. The Snow scene and the forest fire were very good. Then we had lunch together and went to the Kinema to see Barthelmans in "Sonny". Another picture I enjoyed very much. Margaret Seddon as the blind mother and dear little Pauline Garrow as the sister were as good in their parts as Richard Barthelmans. — Oh these silent-dramas are such a comfort to me. And I realize it more whenever some feature is introduced when I have to listen to try and get the meaning.

Friday night of this week we had an "April-party" — Jack and Bob picked the apricots and brought them to my camp. The two tubs were used for washing & rinsing the jars — The gas plate with its two burners were in use for the boiling — Elizabeth cut them in two, removing the pits — you know this is her second summer at the camp and she works like lightning — She can earn from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day if there is plenty of fruit. And could earn more if they would allow her to work overtime which they could allow until she is eighteen. They would not take Margaret much to her disappointment — until she is 16 — well — Elizabeth cut them — Margaret & Faith filled the jars — Ruth made the syrup and put them in the boiler to ^{boil} ~~boil~~

the very next Monday - Minutes - I did not seem
to do much except to get my own jars ready and
send the orphan children home. And I really had
to do that often. He did forty grafts - The trees
are loaded. He will do some more for ourselves and
will ask Mame to bring her jars over, tomorrow, perhaps.

Will you ask if I remember when ~~we~~ we took our lunches
to St. Paul! How I loved the visits with you! and oh how I love
what you say about it now after these years! - You were
always the most delightful of companions, dear.

Helene, are you rested? Did your trip do you good? How
are the children? Write me when you can, a good
~~gossipy~~ gossipy letter about yourself and family.

Ruth had a letter from Mary. She said she would be
back in New York the 18th of September and hoped to
see you then. I wonder if you will not be in camp
then? -

Love bless you dears -

Mother

finally we went thru a door we had to sit-down & go in
feet-first. the floor went so fast-back we went &
slat-on the back, grasping the rails and trying
frantically to get-into a sitting position ~~there~~ ^{one by one} we
were shot-into daylight-and a solemn looking man
caught us and put us more snow on our hot feet.

I could only gasp "Oh I am so grateful to you." Fortunately
for our feelings, not many spectators could take notice
of our sudden spit-or tubercle.

Then we took the ride on the side walk cars that-run
along gently close to the stores and amongst-the people-
most-interesting- Then with a huge popcorn ball,
the most-delicious I ever ate, grasped in our hands
we started for home, and bed.

Sunday we had dinner at-Ruths and about-then
o'clock Terbul- & Mame & the little boys came for us and
we had another long ride with an ice cream cone- the
biggest- and finest- sold in L.A. Chapman of Minneapolis &
Los Angeles" is the seller of them - Do you recall his
delicious Creams & cakes we used to get-sometimes for
Commencement- or parties? - The Lugis family -
we had promised the evening to the children - came here for a
perk up supper- Monday we visited until they left at
3.30 - Tuesday Morning Ruth met them in L.A. and they
took her with them to Catalina for the day. Jack met them

when they came back to L. A. had supper with them
and brot Ruth home. Margent- and I had
the washing done so Ruth did not have that to
think about.

Earnest- and Mary are the same dear, happy,
carefree people they have always been. Earnest- has
inherited a really fine school desk chair. He has the
pictures with him and is interviewing the different
school boards in regard to the getting them in the schools.
He is doing really wonderful work in the Junior-Senior School
in Minneapolis. Mary says that if in any school in
the city there are problems among human problems that
cannot be handled by the teacher those boys ^{or} are
girls are transferred to Earnest's school and are
always straightened out. Although he is a wizard in
handling the boys he simply cannot handle the
girls - but he has one woman in his school who
can do for the girls what he can do for the boys
and they work together. Now is there any greater
work than school work where a man loves it - and is
fitted for it? - I suppose they spent - his days in

San Diego and one day in Pasadena and may be in
Palo Alto today.

Wednesday, I went - according to promise to L. A. I had to
go to the Library - and at 10.45 Aunt Addie & Elizabeth met -

San Diego California
July 23 - 1922

Dear children:

I have lost track of time, and some events - For instance, I recall mailing you a letter this week, or think I do, but cannot recall that I have told you anything about Earnest and Mary making us a visit -

Did I tell you they came on Thursday? Aunt Addie went in to visit Arthur and Blanche in the 3.30 car and they came in the 6 o'clock car. Ruth had them for dinner - and then they came over here and we all visited until bed-time. They were here for sleep and breakfast & lunches. Friday after an early lunch we four - the Ma's, Ruth and I went into Hollywood meeting Jack at the High school. Jack had an important meeting in L. A. that evening - so after visiting around Hollywood, Beverly Hills & Glendale (we called on the Kennetts, but they

had gone to San Diego we learned later) - we went
to L.A. had supper there and then left - Jack and
went to see the two Orphans of the Storm - it was
a wonderful picture we thought - and saw us looking
up the French Revolution. The two little girls were finer
than ever and so, too, was Monte Blue as Danton -

Then it was too early for Jack and we spent a jolly
hour and a half with Harold Lloyd in Grandmas Bay -
I had seen it before but - was willing to see it again.

Then Saturday after an early lunch we took the wonderful
Topanga Canyon trip through to Santa Monica, Ocean
Park and Venice. We had our picnic supper at one
of the tables overlooking the ocean, then we did "Venice."
Such a lot of foolish stunts in the Venice pier -
did not do as many as the others - but they did get
me into Noah's Ark!! The funniest part of it was
the outside with the animals continually poking their
heads out of the little windows - Noah up in the roof looking
from time to time through an old periscope over the water
and funniest of all Mrs Noah sitting on deck and knitting.
She was certainly the head of the family judging from her
slim, capable features - Inside? - Well, all sorts of
fake doors and fake floors - one hunted for concealed
panels that flew up or in - or slid into the wall - one walked
on floors that trembled, slid, heaved etc. etc. and

2
After a visit of about an hour with the Penfields
in Lanherkin. Both the boys are working on the
golf grounds every day - They leave home before seven and
before the family are up - and get home after seven
or ^{eight} at night and after the family have had their dinner -
and then after getting something to eat - probably go to the
movies - Too little sleep - too little or no family life.

George must be a party the other night - wore his father's
shoes, silk socks, white trousers, ~~coat~~ collar, necktie,
a silk shirt and cap "And I bet he had on a suit of
my B. V. D. for I am shy one suit." Can you
imagine that? - The boys are pretty good golf players
themselves - especially Wilcher. Tomorrow is Caddies' day
and George is to play a game with some movie director
for whom he caddies regularly for two hours every
morning (8-10). They see much of a certain kind of life
and never see or hear anything else - Sunday is their
busiest day -

Jean cares much for dress and parties - talks of nothing
else. Pat is a small little girl as yet - Fred is a queer
fellow with his mother there with anyone else - handsome
as a picture but he has been sick so much he is quite
spoiled - although he is the picture of health now - He has
a quite wonderful pompadour - But Derek is a darling -

that-sounds as if I did not think the rest- were darlings
but-they are - every one of them. I am just-feling a little
cross at-Fred right-now because he abuses Drak-as
all brothers do abuse their younger ones - I guess. It-works
out-all right-in time. And Jean is a good
student-and faithful in her work-and the pains and she
will work out-of her present-funny affections.

Elizabeth and Margert-begin their work at-the Camp
tomorrow. Both are dreading it-but-quite-determined!
Elizabeth bought, cut out, and made-with some help from-
her mother-a pretty white dress this week. "I am going
to take advanced sewing next-year and I thought-I ought-to make
at-least-one garment first"- Jack and Bob begin summer
school tomorrow-Bobby passed but-he is a little slow,
was out-several weeks during the flu-and Jack went-
him to do the work over again that-he may be sure and
be well grounded in the foundations.

Faith will be "Mother's helper" this summer but-will have
two hours a day for picking berries on the Whitsett place-
on this street. She will be a busy little girl-but-so she will
be with the mother she adores. She will enjoy the summer-
David is the cutest-little fellow. It was cold early in the morning
and Ruth put-on him a coat-much too large for him and put him
on the porch. She thought he was very quiet-at-first-then she
heard him talking-"Where hand?" then he lifted his hand poked
back the sleeve-"Here 'tis"-over and over again he played the
same thing dropping his hands and out-of sight-then lifting them-
This afternoon he had a boiled dinner and had the four children here.

Leaving Jack & Ruth and David alone - just as we were
 finishing we heard the patter of little feet at the door -
 Elizabeth ran 15 ft. in - the look of surprise when
 he found all the play-mates
 here was funny but -
 he himself but an
 nothing and mumbled
 as Aunt - Adeline 15 ft
 Nat. up - then he
 looked around at
 us all going
 east of us a grin
 as he called our
 names - he was
 in the circle and
 of it - in a moment
 we 2 peep - round -
 and Mary for a
 little wink - saw
 day this week -
 But - now -
 you are going
 to bed.
 I love
 you and
 love you
 Mother
 California
 July 9 - 1922
 a letter from
 will say
 Unfinished is still
 Unfinished & he
 (Kien 15 ft 15 ft 15 ft)

Did you get my letter sent to Boston? -
 Did you get my letter some time in early
 June with a check for five dollars to be used
 for the childrens' birth days -
 And did you care for that sample of blue &
 combine with the brown for the suits for the
 children - I have some goldens too that looks
 better with it. I guess -

Monday we had our beautiful trip to Brent's
 Mountain Crags, as planned - The ride had been
 fine, and finally we rounded a curve at the top
 of a hill and we all exclaimed at the wonderful
 view - just like that - those
 Crags were and glimpses
 between of narrow little valleys of ripened grain or orchards
 all the shades of yellow and green in between the blues &
 greens of the crags and the glorious blue of the sky & the all

A wonderful breeze all day - The children used
the swings and ladders and the swimming pool
and we read or napped or bathed as we
pleased -

Again on Thursday Jack and Ruth, Aunt Addie
Bobby and I left here about nine o'clock for an all
day trip - Our first stop was at the Kernotts in
Glendale - I had begged for just five minutes -
Jack and Ruth wanted to see them but we had planned
so long a trip - Well, the five minutes became
twenty minutes that seemed not more than five
minutes - I was grateful for that little glimpse of them -
Then we went to the Morrison Nurseries - I bought
a baby fuchsia and two ferns that Aunt Addie wants
to put in a basket - I was looking for dwarf fruit
trees - but the Armstrong Nurseries in Antain look
so much more - wholesome. Then through many
small pretty rooms on the Foothill Boulevard road
and lunch from the baskets near Pomona - sitting in the
car under a big tree. Then to Antain when I put in
my order of 74 Walnut Trees to be delivered in March -
On our way home we had the left over from our lunch
at Lincoln Park in D.C. ^{we gave up going to Whittier as he had some ^{fire} trouble} and reached home about 8.30

Red should marry, (What in the world is a man
left with children to do but marry again!) but
that it should all have come so suddenly and
I should have heard of it in such a round-about
way.

Mrs K. will miss her so dreadfully, yet - there
will be a relief with it too - for she made Dr very
nervous altho he loved her dearly - I know Mrs K.
did not know just what to do sometimes for it
is not right to always curb a child - yet she
wanted to protect Dr. I hoped Herbert & Mame
would be out sometime today - but I presume
they went to Glendale.

I am so glad you had such a good visit with
such congenial friends as the Halls. And here is hoping
you may have such visits often.

I enjoyed the glimpse I saw thru your eyes - and I
am sure I can visualize the doorway and the
graceful picket-fence from your drawings -
When you found that house, Wilcox, I hope it may
be out here in California and that I may truly grow
younger each year until you come -

Did you read in the Literary Digest - Kitchin's Article
on Hollywood? Taking it for granted that you did I
am sending you an answer from a Hollywood paper -
eight-years ago the San Luis high school opened with
twenty-seven pupils - Last-week they had a graduating
class of forty-eight -
I must stop and read a bit in "Dwarf frail -

ines -

I love you dearly - Mother.

San Luis
July 2 - 1922.

My dears - John.

I am wondering if you were in New York yesterday during the terrific rain storm - Wilber says he does not like these long gaps between visits - Amee neither do I! When we come to think about it - I do not believe there are so very many Mothers and sons who have been as close, in real sympathy and understanding, as we have been ever since you were a baby - Sometimes it seems as though I must - get into closer touch with you - and then I stop longing and let a feeling of thankfulness fill me full of happiness that - you are you, and my son, and that love and understanding are ours even though we cannot - touch each other. And I am so grateful to believe that - she is an added link to bind us together instead of a separating force as

as happens in some families.

Jack and Ruth came over this afternoon and spent a couple of hours - we had such a quiet, nice visit.

Aunt Elizabeth went back to L. A. on Wednesday after a visit of $5\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. She does not know what she will do - probably go to Long Beach for the rest of the summer -

Tomorrow morning we go to "Camp Butte" for the day. The Austins and Luigi and we too - I have four or five dozen sandwiches to make in the morning before eight o'clock - Aunt Addie has made the salad for the crowd -

Then on Wednesday we are going to Catalina to the Armstrong Murray - and I am to order my walnut trees!!!! "He" means Jack & Ruth - Aunt Addie & me - Two long drives and beautiful ones and the weather is perfect -

A letter from Aunt Elizabeth yesterday in which she says "Did you know Ned Herriott is married again and Mary has gone back to Hudson?" - I can hardly credit it - Not that it is so surprising that

David was convulsed with laughter to see his father rolling and tumbling on the lawn for his amusement last evening. Right after that he insisted on bringing his mother over here - then ~~for~~ before a delighted audience of "old ladies" he went through the same performance as nearly as he could repeat it - leading us in gales of laughter, some of his tumbling was involuntary. He is a great mimic - with a temper that is terrific - and a determination that usually brings success along his life - And a beauty in spite of his one smaller eye. His hair curls in actual light-rings.

Faith came home delighted because she had her class in the final examination in Spanish. "And Elizabeth only loved thine in her Spanish of." Margaret does not lead - she can't - she is too conscientious in her work having the letter-perfect as far as she goes - she cannot get over the whole ground in time.

Aunt Addie & Elizabeth and I met in town on Wednesday - went to the movies before we finished the day -

I have not a thing to write about today - My brain is noozy - I am thinking of you as being in Boston today and it is hot then - without the cool nights - but I suppose it is cooler at Nahant - Yet - after all I believe my brain is

fairly clear - why I can actually recall Clarissa's name
and even that of Turkey too!

I know you are having a good time. I wonder how
the children are liking the trip - I am going to my
room and read a little by myself. Some of us have
gone to church today - I wish I could see Herbert - and
his family often - I do not feel in touch with them
as I would like - Their interests in Lanchester are as

different from ours -

God keep you dear -

Mother.

San Diego - California
June 25 - 1922

My dears:

Such strange weather! - Yesterday and today - Muggy - sultry, thundering weather that we have in the East. Not a breath of air stirring this morning to cool the perspiration that-covers me from head to foot. But-the night-was gloriously cool.

We are much disturbed in this neighborhood - The Brockspens - next door - have had a wicked cur dog - the kind that will bark all night-long without cessation unless shut up. Last summer he bit Bobby mice although he knew him very well as Bobo played with Clarence B, the owner of the dog. The last-time he bit-him Mr. B. promised to kill the dog - but-grudging to Clarence's entreaties ^{compromising} by keeping him shut up - most of the time. Friday he bit a little neighbor boy - And "neut-crazy" Clarence told Bob.

Mr B. shot him but not before he had bitten him
clean thru the thumb. Dr. Canby went by last ev. and
stopped to speak with Addie. He said the dog should
not have been shot but turned over to the authorities
that there should be no question as to the animal's
condition. The body was sent in to L. A. yesterday. They
cannot be sure but the examination showed there
was grave suspicion of hydrophobia. The Pastor
treated costs \$250 - and neither the Kumbels nor
the Brooksifers have the money!! - Dr. Canby went
in to L. A. last night to see if he could have them
treated for less or - nothing. Poor things - I am so
sorry their anguish of spirit must be terrible. Mr B. is
to blame - of course - and that will make it all the
harder for them. He is a sensitive, fine minded man. And
if he should be taken from the family in such a horrible
way - how dreadful it would be. A wife, three daughters
and an eight year old boy - And another little girl for
whom they care. Trying so hard to pay for their fine
acres and give their children advantages - The Kumbels
have moved here this summer - and have just buried
the grandmother of the children. Oh how many sad homes
there always are in this world.

I am sending you a paper with some interesting items about Jack. "The most popular member of the faculty" - Overheard by one of the Teachers - 1st - sweet girl - "Oh wasn't Mr English handsome?" 2nd S.G. - "That is what we all think - 3rd S.G. - And do you know they say Mrs English is just as jealous as she can be -"

Jack & Ruth went on a picnic with some of the young men married Teachers - this week - Supper on Castle Rock at Santa Monica and later dancing at Venice on the Pier -

The voting for the school Bonds passed 15-1 - and the County is to have \$17,000.00 to spend during the next 3 years -

Yes. we do feel the call of the sea even out here - but we cannot listen to it this year - And another call is most insistent too - I do want to visit you - but I must not listen to that either. I do long to see you too and the babies - oh I do want to see them.

Faith had her birthday - 13 years old - yesterday - a little party of three girls - Hair ribbons, handkerchiefs, a fountain pen and a Japanese parasol made her happy -

You received the letter from Winifred that I sent -? She is getting better slowly - It certainly has been a hard, hard strain.

How very likely Dr Shaw is one of the Drs. Dr Russell spoke of - I think some translation was made - probably the two together - he and his partner booked \$20,000 - That is difficult -

you know. I don't suppose I should say this for Dr. Shaw
is a friend of yours ^{so I won't} but if Dr. West should say he had
made that amount I should not question it for a
moment - !!! - ^{neither}

You see, Dr. Shaw nor his wife made a very startling
impression on any of us - "cheap" seemed to echo in our
ears - Then now - I did say it - Do you mind?

Please do not - for I love you very much -
Helen dear I do hope the summer will be a lovely one
for you. Your Mother

Am sorry I said the above - but have not time to rewrite
the page. I am taking the chance of sending this
in care of Dr. Francis -

Sauveys - California
June 18 - 1922

Dear Children:

Today - if your plans are carried out - you are driving from Princeton to New York. I hope it has been cool enough for you to have thoroughly enjoyed the commencement week - and I am so glad you could have gone. It is good to keep in touch with old friends.

And you have a Ford of your own! - I am glad you bought a new one and did not try to fuss with an old one. You are wise - and I am so glad you felt you ought to have one. How long will it take you to reach the hospital now? -

And tomorrow you start - with your car to make a visit - at Nahant - with Dr Francis and Priscilla! - Good - and I hope you will tell me all about them and their little girl - all about Mrs Hall - how she is and how Mr Hall is - I have asked you several times but you never have mentioned them. Give them all names and greetings from me - and Miss Hall too - I am glad she is in better health - my brain has skipped a cog I cannot recall her first name - And do please give my dearest love to Abby and Mary - and Elizabeth. When are they and what are they doing. Yes I want to be remembered to Mrs Eliot too.

How long ago it seems since I saw them all - and how lovely they were to me.

Now - let me get this straight - As I understand it - on the Riverdale Country School grounds four new nine-room houses have been built - You are to rent one of them for \$1800 a year - But for your work with the foot-ball boys he will allow you \$300 - a year - That work will mean being off for two weeks in September when you are putting the team into shape - and after that you will act as advisory coach one or two afternoons for the football team? Then Mr Hackett has a school camp in the Adirondacks and for \$200 - and board & lodging for you and the family you will be Camp physician - Is that right? - Now! you will be in Boston there coming two weeks in June - Do you go from there to camp? how long will you stay there? And when do you move to Riverdale - You see your letter was rather indefinite, I wish I could compare notes with Mrs K.

That will give you \$500 - over and above the \$7500 coming from the hospital - Then your salary has been raised \$600 - more for taking care of the surgical needs of the nurses? You were to have a month for research, a month for clinics and a month vacation during the year? And you are ~~on~~ on research now?

I am so sorry the animals have died - but you always seem to make ^{seemingly} failures turn to profit in the end.

20 — when I get nervous and irritable I know it is simply the pain I must pay for much love and service —

I do not know when Aunt-Elizabeth will be going in town to look for an apartment — Aunt Lizzie still has much rheumatism, and I am afraid overdoes often — She is trying to get her wardrobe in order — and her great-pleasure lies with David — They are most wonderful charms —

I suppose I have written all this to show you how my leisure time is mortgaged — I read aloud a great-deal — at present it is the Autobiography of Julia Grant, Princess Cantacuzene —

We had a beautiful trip to the Armstrongs' house at Antano — Mame and the two little boys and a friend — a Mrs. Heckerson went too — I sat on the front seat with Herbert — and had a fine view —

Bakke had not brought the citrus fruit; I ordered so we stopped there and told him to cancel the order as I was going to Armstrongs myself — He said "fine" for he would have had to make the trip for them himself — so, I came home with 2 Fajitas, 2 Kumquats, 2 Saturnas — and prices shrank a little so I have still

get another shrub - Herbert insisted on adding another five dollars for some roses he had promised me and had not bought - I brought home three wonderful rose bushes and will have some more when he puts them up for me and I go again, or I may get them somewhere else. I brought home a beautiful Jasmine vine for Addie to plant in a corner she is interested in - And a bag of cherries to Aunt Elizabeth who does not care so much for the strawberries we are so fond of -

I have been putting wire on the trellis this morning for the grapes but had to stop when it came to overhead work - The two Aunts are helping Ruth with the washing - And now I must stop gossiping and pick up some dropped threads -

Are you really well now Helene? How wonderful that blood poison did not result! - How could you have looked as well as your picture shows? I am so thankful it is all over - How glad I am that you must have been suffering with the head - How glad I am that plans are definite and so satisfactory - will ask some questions about that when I write Sunday - I am glad you have rickets - how is the letter coming? I love you all - Mother.

I wonder how the storm of last-summer affected you -

U T H

San Luis -
June 15 - 1922

My dears:

Horribly late in writing this week - And it is a shame for it has been a full week since hearing of the final outcome of last-winter's experience. I wanted to sit-right-down and - condole,? congratulate,? - well, express my great sympathy and love and ask many questions - But - life is a little complex at present and I seem to be obliged to give myself constantly in order to keep the wheels moving smoothly.

Tuesday A.M. Herbert - came in at about-ten o'clock and said "Can you be ready in 15 minutes to drive to Ontario?" I had just-come in from the garden - I flew - He had brought-some seedlings of Delphinium and he planted them for me while I dressed - Ruth did not know I had

gone until she came over for lunch - Later she told me - "Oh but the atmosphere was different - with you away" - so I know I do not imagine it -

This is the way it goes - 1st Voice - "I think you are making a mistake to dig that so deep" - "Oh Jean I think you are a fool to do that" - Later - 2nd Voice - "Are you sure you are not taking out too much dirt then?" - "Oh Jean, dear, I wish you would not work like that, and I don't believe you are making it look any better" - Later - two voices in a distance - "Why does she do that?" "I don't think she is making it any better" - "she would better be doing other things" etc. Some days later - "both voices" - "Oh how nice that walk [or that border, or whatever the subject of criticism has been] looks! What an improvement - but I think you earn whatever of beauty you have here". You know I have to pray many times a day that the Lord will keep me sweet and lovable - for on the other hand - I often hear this - "Oh Jean I do love you" - "Oh Jean what should I do without you?" "Addie don't you want to rip this collar for Jean and we will fix it?" or "Elizabeth have you sewed on those snappers for Jean?"

All of Aunt - Addie's teeth are out - now and I hope there
will be no more chills, fever and night-sweats -

Ruth's color and breath are bad again and she is very
fidgety in her sleep - Of course Jack worries - but I
know she will not be ill again.

"Day" as he calls himself is the cutest little fellow -
His hair is so curly and he is so handsome and darling -
The two aunts are worse than his grand mother for admiring
him.

But - I must - go to bed - Have a big day before me
tomorrow. God bless you all - And hurrah for the
Canadian trip - I know you will love it and it will do
you good - How are you enjoying the researching? -

Mother

Friday Ruth and I went to the High school for a demonstration of the Cooking Class. Mrs Ralston was a bit late and the girls thought she had missed her car - there was not the slightest hesitation. Elizabeth immediately stepped to the desk and in her quiet-soft-voice asked the girls to take their seats for roll call - and then each one took her special work. Mrs Ralston came in and not a ruffle of excitement or relief showed in the girls faces. We had sandwiches, shrimp & tomato salad and ^{prepared} ~~ten~~ ^{and} served beautifully. I thought of you Helen. Then we went to the Assembly room and saw a good movie "23 1/2 hours leave" - a Saturday Post story of Mary Roberts Rhineheart. Mrs Ralston is taking her class to some of the San Diego homes to give them ideas. The girls are to try and furnish a five room house for \$750 - They wanted to come here last Thursday but I could not have them. Elizabeth was so disappointed - "we have not seen a single kitchen I like as well as yours and I want the girls to see them curtains and your cupboards and your woodwork," - (Difficult - you are) so I told them they could come Tuesday all the same. Mrs Eastwood will be here sewing for Aunt's A. & E. Elizabeth said "we went into one house that was really so fine I would not want to live in it."

San Luis California
June 4 - 1922

Dear Children -

I am enclosing a letter from Winifred - Poor child
Her danger has been great - I am sure - Having such
a gentle, calm, loving husband has been wonderful for
her - I guess we all have to work our own salvation
as we can. Because her way seems impossible to
me is no reason why I should cavil - so I don't.
Dr and ~~the~~

This has been a red-letter day for us -
Mrs K. came out for a couple of hours - and Herbert -
and Mamma came for a little while.

Herbert says he will try and find the casting pole, but
they have moved so much they have lost much - Dr.
is so interested in his flowers and all flowers - He fell in
love with my petunias and means to get some seed
immediately. But he ought to have my place and I, his -
His one lot-keep him busy - Mr Burgess was here last
Sunday - He probably has his lot - and wants to sell
because it is too much to take care of - And I have the
impertinence to think I can keep almost half an acre
going! - I admire my nerve - don't you? -

The best way to explain the Figo is to send the florist's
description - The flower reminds me of a glorified
fuchsia. I have two seedlings but - I wanted the same
thing. I also send a bit more of Mr. Grooby -
He is the author of the Mission Play that - Frederick
Ward plays in at - San Gabriel - I thought - I should
surely see it - this spring - I have so much
to send you I am afraid I shall have to send it
in two letters -

I have not - forgotten the dear Laddie's birthday
on Tuesday - I remembered it - several times this
past week but not where I could stop and do anything
about it - Grandmother H. was more prompt - I
seem always to be behind hand, but - I am a "busy
lady" as Will used to call me - I am enclosing
five dollars - Will you please buy something for
Wilcher and for Ruth Mary's birthday next month with
it? -

Yes, Helen, I did say I would send you a book on
Bible lessons - Margaret - and Elizabeth each had one - E. is
using hers in Christian Endeavor - And Margaret - was going to
give me hers - she couldn't find it - and the price of it
has shut off my memory and I have not seen to
ordering another one - I will try and get it -

Roselle before - the fruit makes a jelly that takes the
place of our wild plum or red currant - deep red
and tart. It is an annual - My Mother's Day
shrub has not come yet, and I have been busy
preparing the beds for them.

Friday afternoon Ruth and I spent at the High School
an entertainment - in charge of the Girls League for Mother's
Day. It was very delightful. Elizabeth had charge of the nursing.
The teachers said many lovely things and like to hear about
Ruth's daughters - Miss Hubbard - vice principal - Father
Spanish teacher "Oh Mrs. Lupton Faith is such an inspiration."
Elizabeth is an officer in everything going "so dependable."
And I guess she is - committees are always failing and I.
has to do the work. The other day she planned the menu,
and committees and all arrangements for the dining
hall club luncheon - 100 plates - fine practice - but
she is not quite sixteen yet! Margaret does what she
is given to do - but she is dreamy, and fond of being -
all these are athletic. Bob is not as much of a rowdy
and all-around boy as Jack would like - but he
will be all right - He is slow - slow in talking, moving
and thinking -

Thursday Blanche and Fred, Deane and Jane came
for the day. Mamma & Herbert went down to San Diego &
Blanche came over to keep house for them. Ruth & I

were washing but I happened to have a pot-roast - and
and we soon got up a mighty good dinner, and
enjoyed the visit. Fred is just about the kind of
a handsome, fresh kid that - one would expect - a
boy who has been so idolized and petted and spoiled
by a dotting mother ^{to be}. She spansks him often enough now
but the last thing that ever happened to Fred was the
coming of happy-go-lucky, hard-headed, independent-
Drak. He is a mischief and a darling. Little four
year old James is a dear. Please, I do not mean to say
Fred is not a dear, too - but he really is just what they
have made of him.

On Wednesday Aug. 2. and I went in town and
I was her guest. In the morning we saw Jackie Coogan
in "Trouble" - (He is a wonder) and Buster Keaton in the
Palace. After lunch we saw Harold Lloyd in "Grandma's
Boy" - Grandma in real life is 79 years old and is fine.
I love Harold L. as a comedian. And pictures are a
comfort to me.

Dr Russell of Johns Hopkins is a brother-in-law of Mr Frank
Prince - He told Mr P. Dr Finney had written him of the
offer to you. Also - He said two J. H. men had come
out here two years ago and were now doing a
business of from \$25,000 to \$30,000 -!! - But it is not
money yet and after so I suppose it will be years and years
before California draws you. God bless you all four -
Mother

San Luis - California

May 28 - 1922 -


Dear children:

When I sat down to write Aunt Addie and Aunt Elizabeth both sent a message to you and for fear I will forget to deliver them I will send them first: Aunt A. has been much pleased with your messages when she and I have been together - wishes she could see a picture of the two of you both - wishes she could see a picture of the woman who looked like her - and says she is coming in fine now - she cannot get keep ahead of the two of us but she is gradually getting able to hold her own against us - Aunt E. sends love and says "till then you are keeping an old ladies' home here in California" - she is making a lemon pie for dinner and Aunt Addie is doing up her own dishes after her late breakfast - and getting ready to pick and arrange flowers - I have washed dishes prepared the vegetables etc - and am going to church this morning, a little later.

Ruth went on another picnic to Brookside yesterday. The High school - ~~held~~ had a class picnic and they wanted Elizabeth to bring her car and take some extras - Jack said all right - if Ruth would go with them.

The best part of Ruth's day seemed to be the seeing the
Hermots. Mary was then ~~for~~ on a school picnic and
Dr & Mrs H. came after her in the afternoon. She says
Dr. is looking fine - so much better than in the winter.

I have a hollyhock out in front of this west-window
that I am facing that is over seven feet tall by actual
measurement and is still growing. It is full of buds
from near the ground all the way up - won't it be
a glory? -

I am fighting gophers - and begin in the most
determined fight on the pesky aphids as soon as I can
get my tools together. And I fear cut-worms on
beetles on at the strawberries. The life of a gardener
is not one of ease - is it? - Your garden is in - And
the radishes - at least - must be up and getting ready to
eat. Jack's garden grows more artistic in
appearance each season. His beds of radishes, carrots,
beets etc. - each line a furrow for flowing water -
ne are not - expected to sprinkle out here - are
interspersed with  round beds with a cucumber
or melon center, and bordered with some quick growing vegetable
than the waving asparagus bed & the celery bed & also in
rows. The Rhubarb - always green - the Roselle, the
prettiest - shrub like plant - coming in - I never saw the

2
certain percent - in every study may join the society -
Elizabeth has had to be out of school so much too. She has
made up every study however. Her Spanish teacher gave her
an extra period until she made up the Spanish. It was so
good of her. Margaret did not make the society this
year but she will next year. She is slower than I but
more thorough.

Aunt E. came out yesterday and will be here for some
time doubtless.

When I think of those four story houses I grow truly
blessed you could not do the work in such a house and
take care of the children, now could you? - You would
have to have at least one maid if now ~~was~~ - And
you know maids are so impossible out here that it
is quite a far to realize that it is possible for any one to
have them - And 1800 - a year for rent!!!! -
Oh a bungalow is so simple compared to a four story
two room deep house -

Would it not be simpler living in a suburb? - Would
you not be happier then? -

I am glad of the honor that has come to Sir Charles
Sherrington - Will of she be especially happy about it? -
I am afraid, Helen, that every one is like you in being rushed
and never catching up. When I read what you said to Ruth her
eyes glowed like two stars - She was so pleased to know that her

very competent - sister was in her ~~class~~ class in one thing
any way - You know she has a most exalted idea of
your ability - and a very humble idea of her own.

I am glad you sent those pictures I gloat over them even
the one of Wilder although he looks like a starved prisoner -

Oh where are I ever going were you all in the flesh! -
Such waves of homesickness come over me sometimes.

But - I must go and get lunch - God bless you my

four dear ones -
Mother.

San Diego -

May 21-1922

My Dears -

I am sitting at my desk - 7.30 P.M. Aunt-Elizabeth is writing at the little table a short distance away and Aunt Addie is reading and waiting for us to say "bread & milk time" -

Aunt-Addie had her teeth out - Thursday - and I guess one of them must have been one that has been a mischief-maker. She has suffered so much from swelling, inflammation and pus - But tomorrow she goes down for some more trouble -

Yesterday Ruth and the children & I went to Brookside Park - Sunday School picnic - The Methodists and Presbyterians together - Our neighborhood combined and had our lunch together. Twenty three of us - It is beautiful there.

The baseball diamond is in a hollow surrounded by hills - the tennis court with rose covered trellis on one side - Bleachers with palm covered roofs and really comfortable seats because so deep on another - and hills & trees

showing terrace after terrace on the other two sides -
Right opposite us in a break of the hills the two beautiful
bridges are in view one much higher than the other -
One just-breathed in content - because of the beauty. The
Methodists played the Presbyterians and well - you know
another. Of course I had to keep score and when a
good neighbor kept up a continual chatter of foolish questions
it did annoy me until I came to myself and asked
myself very severely if I was 64 - or 34 years old. One
lady came by - "Why Mrs Pinfield are you keeping score!"
"Why you must be a baseball fan as well as a Missionary
fan" - I met a good many people who said "Oh yes,
I am glad to meet Mrs Pinfield - I heard you speak last-
Sunday" - Truly I did not know there was so large a
congregation last-Sunday - (the Presbyterians won the game - of course)

David was such a darling all day. Elizabeth took most of the
care of him. You know how Jack puts his hands at the sides of his
head and flaps them as he says "he-haw - he-haw." He did it
to David today - He watched him a minute - then up went his
little hands and he flapped them and said "he-haw - he-haw"
but he can't make the whistle come - He calls me "Nan" -
and how he loves to work in the dirt - with me - but some-
way he really does not help much.

Elizabeth is vice-president of the Scholarship society - which we
think quite an honor. Each student in High school who makes a

May 14 - 1902

Missions Society meets with Mrs
a. Campbell.

There are a few - a very few - churches
that are not Missions Organizing -
The Presbylin Church is not one of them
and two great commands of our
Master are often to be heard on our
lips - Go ye into all the world -
and preach the Gospel.

Pray that laborers may be
sent out into the harvest -
the P. Ch. This is a Missions Church. The
members of ~~this~~ Church are men &
women who believe in missions, & who
pray for missions, give to missions &
work for missions.

Some years ago it seemed that to
the East-Assembly of the P. Ch. to
give into the hands of the women
of the Church a certain part of the
Home & Foreign work for which
they were to be responsible. No
great work can be accomplished
without a great organization. And
the women found their strength &
have completed a wonderful organization.

Associate members?

Our membership list has become a little confused and
there have been some embarrassing complications because of
that. We have appointed a committee who look to see each
member of the Church are Congregational and ask for your
cooperation with us in this great Missions work. Will you help
them in every way possible? We are almost all of us new-
comers into the neighborhood, and that makes the taking
work harder. Our appointment - This year is \$400 - we need your
help - your money - but it must mean that your money
we need your prayer - your sympathy - the knowledge of
your love for the Missions work. Went you cooperate with us.

of which the whole church is proud.

Now when the P. Church gave us P. women that work is done - It expected that the women would put their Missiary effort to work in their own organization - We are Missiary. You are Christians you know. So when any woman joins the P. Ch. she automatically becomes a member of the women's Miss. Society of that Church.

Let me illustrate - a child born into a Christian family - automatically becomes a Christian child - born into the church. Later when he reaches an age when he is able to understand his personal responsibility - he signifies his desire to enter into the fellowship of the Church - and we say he has joined the Church - yet he had always been in the Church.

All women in the P. Church are just naturally in the Missiary women's department - of the Missiary work of the Church by virtue of their sex. But each woman should (when she reaches the age of discretion? shall I say - that does not sound just right) - signify her intention of taking her personal place in the appointed work - and as we say she joins the ^{local} Missiary Society -

Now we know there are many women who cannot - from one reason or another which lies wholly between herself & her Master become an active member of the Miss. Society. But cannot each woman put her name identify herself in some way with the working Society? If you cannot give of your time and become an active member can you not give of your prayers and your money and become an

skirt - & underarm. If that is wrong after the
sheers are all in so much would have to be ripped -
If that length is right - I do not think I shall have much
trouble. Be sure your Taperline is right - for some of the measures
seem so very large. I am sorry to bother you so much -
Indeed I do prefer colored bloomers for little girls - But the
girls near them yet - excepting Elizabeth who wears white
bloomers this year. They match their dresses when
possible otherwise they are black satin - I send a sample
of the brown for Ruth Mary's skirt - brown satin would begin
for bloomers with this - I thought you meant knitted bloomers &
that seemed so warm to me.

So New York is to be your permanent - a fitting place!
Well I am sure you have chosen right for you have been
over the two propositions so carefully.

I think it would be fine to have a home of your own
in Riverdale right in the river - Ah I do miss the water
so much here! - You like that suburb do you not? Is it
near New York? And soon and soon you will not
be in general service now?

I am so glad about the hydrocephalous patient - that
is better and the Epileptic case - Ah Wether what intensity
work it is when you do get a clue to follow -

I gave a bit of a missionary talk in church today - a copy
lies here - I will enclose it - Also a few statistics about
schools that show how L.A. is growing - San Diego is as
bad -

Jack Ruth & I went in yesterday to see Norma Talmage in
"Smilin' Thru" - It was fine. Most artistic.

Mimi had been very ill - A nervous break down I guess -
The Doctor said she was simply worn out - and he sent the
children away - I wish I knew more about it - I would
like to ask her down here but do not know how I can
manage it - just now -

I am sending you love - and mom love -
Mother.

Aunt Addie appreciated your messages.

Do you like this blue for binding on the brown?

Now guess that - I never
mentioned the thing that
gave me so much
pleasure - the dear picture
I do love them - And I
want the breakfast - one
enlarged - Do that -
from my Christmas with
you? It is the best - I
have seen of Helen & so
dear of the children - The
one with Cora Robin Case is
another I love of you all -
What is Ruth May doing?
How you must enjoy
that - porch.

May 14 - 1922

Dear Children:-

Such a lovely surprise came to me this morning!
How ^{blest} ~~blessed~~ I am in having such dear children! -

Instead of getting something that might or might not work into the scheme of the garden plan I have been studying for weeks Jack thought it would be better for me to do my own selecting.

I had fifteen dollars to spend and so he proposed we should go down to Bakkes' yesterday. I was delighted and was ready for business - I wanted to fill in the space under the dining room window in front with shrubs of some kind. And I wanted a row of ^{dwarf} Citrus trees on the 80 ft line between Ruth & me. I proposed going as far as I could with what I had - so Jack was keeping tally for me. Finally I stopped and said that is all - I can't have those two figs - "Yes you can for them is another five dollars that has been growing in the fund" - I wanted to know what he meant - but no explanation was given. I was told not to worry but - give the order - This morning

he and Ruth came over with your card & greetings & the money. The thought - was so dear of you and when the things come - (in about - ten days he will come to plant - them) - I shall mark them on my copper box (bought at Galahad) and mark the date. A thought of love from my dear children on Mother's Day - A thought of love that will make me happy for a long, long time. I had my usual Mother's Day greeting from Ray - he never forgets it either.

I saw Herbert and Mame for a few minutes Friday evening. Herbert has been at home for two weeks but expects to go to San Francisco the middle of this week. I hope they will come out - today but I doubt it.

Aunt Addie went to the dentist on Wednesday afternoon. She had her whole mouth x-rayed. Expected to have one tooth pulled - but almost collapsed and we got her home as soon as possible. Friday noon Dr. Canby brought the dentist up here. And he ^{pulled} pulled three teeth. That makes five. but I guess they will all have to come. She is getting stronger each day and I hope and believe that she will continue to get stronger now. Without doubt the teeth are to blame for her trouble.

Helene dear I do not dare go on with the knitting for Ruth until you send me the size length from bottom of

judge it right. It is most-farrinating but-the
most-aggravating bit of knitting I ever tackled - Do you
recall how bothered I was with the blue suit for
Milder? - This is worse - I cannot-read while knitting
but-worse than that - I cannot-even think of anything
but-my knitting without-being more than liable to be
mistake and the least-mistake will throw the hell-
pattern wrong - So - I am going slowly because I do
not-have much time to myself - I can not-be with
Aunt-Aldie so very much and when I can be I
but I must-read to her - Just-now we are
reading another of George MacDonald - "What's
Mine & Mine."

Do not-think from what-I have said that-this
knitting annoys me - I love it -

I hoped to get-into L. A. last-week but-I
do not know when I shall be able to go -

Herbert-thinks he has hold of a wonderful
money-maker in this new business and he and
Mama are very enthusiastic - I hope they will be out

some time today -

I hear Aunt-Aldie moving about - I must go
and help her -

I love you all -
Mother

Vau Mays California
May 7. 1922

My dears:-

I did not have a letter from you this last week - perhaps you were too busy talking and thinking over the pros and cons of New York vs. Baltimore to be able to write. And probably tomorrow's mail will bring the results of your talking and thinking. And then, too, the paper that had to be finished by May first - has kept you too busy to write. I expect.

This cottage - Good Cheer - tries to live up to its name in spite of its still being a hospital. Aunt Addie is expecting to dress and come out here for dinner, but she does not act very enthusiastic over the idea.

Arthur came out again yesterday - the doctor

says he has every "bug" that - is known excepting T.B.
^{the Dr.} is injecting his own ^{Art's} phlegm as a serum and he art-
thinks he feels better although after a double dose
on Friday he was quite ill. He seems to have enough
elasticity in his lips to cover his teeth ^{more effectively} ~~better~~ and that
is about - all the change for the better that - I could
detect. Poor boy, it seems as though he had a hard
pull - but - he is so happy to have a family and love

Things are moving on about - as usual here. I
am still trying to be gardener and housekeeper
at the same time. Sometimes the garden suffers
and often the house suffers. I was told by one of
the neighbors that - I had the prettiest - flowers in
the street - they make a brighter show, probably
but - I have not the roses that - many of my
neighbors have - yet.

Helene dear, did you ever see knitted that - dress
you sent me for a pattern for Ruth Mary? The knit-
effect is lovely - so much prettier than ⁱⁿ the pattern.
I am puzzling somewhat - over the length for I know the
pattern - as I knit it, is too long. I hope to be able to

Saukays

April 30 - 1922

Dear children:

The pattern & book came yesterday and I set up the dress for Ruth Mary last-night. Certainly there will be time to send for the knickerbocker pattern. I never have seen one. This pattern you send - is so English - while the book patterns are French. The Jaspus pattern is my favorite too. I also love the ~~Sie~~ dress for Ruth Mary. Did you think it too scanty?

I am going to write a short letter today. Aunt Addie was able to help herself and come out on the couch in the living room four days of the time that Mrs Eastwood and Mrs Harker were here sewing. She is back again in bed helpless with inflammatory rheumatism now. She groans and cries much of the time she is not under the influence of morphine. I am so thankful Dr. gives that. When at-night she eats nothing and I suppose I have got to give

her an injection some how today - I don't know how
to handle such things & with one who cannot move
without awful pain!!! - But I am thankful the

neck of sewing is behind me rather than before me.

Now meals were funny. Addie had her lunch
with tea on the couch. The four women had our
lunch with coffee on trays, where each one was
sewing. (I did not sew, I cooked, served and
washed dishes etc.) Babby, coming in a bit late
perhaps, had his lunch with water on the kitchen
drop table. A three service restaurant -

Do you want bloomers for this little dress? They would
be too warm would they not? -

I am so interested to know what decision you
have come to about New York vs. Baltimore -

Will I spend a part of the coming winter with you? -
How I wish I could say "Certainly" - send me the address
and I will make arrangements -

If you go to England I shall be green with envy - how
if you were thinking about going next year and the Bank
made a dividend in the spring, and I could send the horse
and Ruth kept well - I don't think you could keep me
from begging to go with you - However - we will see what
is coming in the future - Just now I am somewhat - tired
with overtures of love for you four - Mother

little book - and you will have the pegs on which
to hang the people you study with the children later
according to "Literary Landmarks" -

I had about decided to send you a set of books
I have that have helped me wonderfully in getting
the history of the Bible well in hand and Elizabeth
came over this afternoon asking if I was to be very busy
or could I help her in some Bible history. She
had this little book - I am sending ~~me~~ to you that
Margaret has - they used them in their Junior work &
now Elizabeth is planning to use the idea of the arches
in the Intermediate work - and when I saw
this arch idea I knew it would help you - and to help
her got out my Ederheim. So - I must send them
to you but as soon as I can get in town I will
get one for you and send it in. But you
can not depend entirely on even Ederheim but
be sure and read over - and into and through
each story from the Bible after getting the outside help
in details and give to the children a real live character.
Also have them memorize some one idea ~~or~~ ⁱⁿ some or

phrase in connection with each story or character.
some thing that stands out in your thought - or perhaps
in their special interest. It is the most-fascinating
study. Just before we left Hudson Winifred was
Primary superintendent - and had me tell a bit of Bible
history to the children each Sunday - consecutive history -
the story of creation (put a lot of imagination in it &
it will grip them) First-things - that is the meaning of
Genesis - and they will connect all first-things
in that book. First-light - first animal - first-
man - first sin - etc - And the children did
remember. That idea of connected history had
been a hobby of mine and she wanted to test it - but
we left them too soon.

Here comes Ruth - God bless you four dear
ones - Mother.

of their clubhouse fund. Elizabeth, Faith, Bobbie
and I went in the afternoon. and Ruth and Margaret
in the evening. Elizabeth staying with the Austin
children in the evening so they could all go. Jack
has always taken small funny parts before. This
time he was the father of the hour and a well-to-do
soap manufacturer. He did splendidly - so did
they all - in fact it seemed to me a very finished
product. But it tires me to listen. I could hear
just enough to have an idea of what they were
talking about - depending on the action for most of
the understanding - missing all of the jokes, of course.
No - the silver screen for me -

Helene, I expect the collar on your sweater is doing
like Ruth's - curling over? - I took hers off - ripped it
up and knitted it over in garter stitch. Knit 16 - throw
over knit two together knit two ^{knit back} making the pattern.
The holes ease up the extra fullness needed to keep it flat.
I am sorry - I wish I could do yours for you.

Fred fell on his elbow and tore a ligament - making
him trouble. I have not heard from Maime directly -
Herbert has been in San Diego all week. I hope they
may come out this evening -

Arthur and Blanche men out-for supper one day
this week. Arthur is pitifully thin. Whooping cough still
rages and the pain from it has given him
rhumatism - every joint badly swollen - feeling better
since seeing the Dr. last Sunday. I said "but I don't
see how you could go on with your work ~~feeling~~ feeling
as you have - " "I had to do it" - And he did -
\$130. a month. a wife, two children and a mother-in-law
to support! - Yet he is happy - The first-time in
his life when he has lived for others - The first-time
he has felt the whole responsibility for caring for any
one else. He is loving the new home - garden work,
carpenter work - chickens < Hard daily work in the
store on his feet every minute - and sick!!! Well,
whatever failure he has ~~been~~ been in the past - he seems to
me quite a hero now -

Heleu dear - I have not forgotten your question
about Bible study and am sending you a little book that
will suggest much to you. You know biography is the best
medium for the teaching of history - the biographies of the Bible
are the most interesting in the world - Teach the children the
stories of the individuals, following the idea of the Archers in this

San Diego

April 23 - 1922

Dear Children - so far away:

Aunt Addie is getting up and on the couch in the living room for at noon - for the past-time days - today is the first-time she has felt really "better" - Her hands are not so swollen - she can move more easily - her ankles not so painful - and things seem brighter to her.

Unfortunately the coming week is sewing week and Mrs Eastwood will be here - Mrs Hocker also comes in to help her. Ruth has not been able to do her full program of work so she has things piled up like all the ironing of last-week and she must give her time to Mrs Eastwood. That is what is bad for her - the feeling of being pushed but what in the world is one to do to avoid it? Really life is complicated isn't it? - And yet she seems to make it as simple as possible - I suppose I ~~can~~

give up all garden work and so have more
time to help keep the pile down - but I hate
ironing - it already claims four hours of my week -
and I do like garden work and what is the
use of taking all of the joy out of life!

My great trouble this week has been to find
something Aunt Addie can eat - she is most
ridiculously thin - and Dr said "I turn her over to
you - feed her up" - and when one does not want
milk, eggs - or even toast!! The only things she
wants is cheese - ^{raw} onions - vinegar - raw apples -
Dr said "anything" but found in raw apples and vinegar.
And this week I shall other menus to plan and execute!
"Pity the sorrows of a poor old" - woman who
has to do things that are a little bit irksome to her -
still - I guess she does not need your pity after all
for she is glad she can do it - and is feeling better
in health today than for some days past - thank you.

Yesterday afternoon the great play "It pays to act up" -
came off for the first performance. I think I told you
that the American Legion was giving it - for the benefit -

San Diego -
April 19 - 1922.

Children dear:-

I am late with my letter but these are busy days, and when I have time to write I am too tired - for we have had a three days dust storm that takes the fun out of me.

Aunt Addie is getting better - she took a bath by herself in the tub today. She felt very weak and tired after it - but seems to feel no worse - Also, today, she is reading to herself - we finished Bonaventure last night - Have you ever read any of George Cable's Southern stories? I did - when they first came out - but they are worth reading more than once - Bonaventure is a story of the Acadian people of Louisiana - read it when you can - there are so many simple, lovely characters and it is so well written too - you will enjoy it some time when you are having a vacation.

Oh dear how hard it is going to be for you
to decide between New York and Hopkins - for I
know Dr Shipple is going to make you a good offer
to stay there.

It is queer how things strike different people. Herbert
told his doctor about the offer from Hopkins - He said
"Why in ten years that brother of yours will be earning
\$50,000" - Jack told his doctor - Dr Canby said
"Tell him not to accept it - A man never makes
any money in a hospital - Tell him to go to a
city - as a specialist - and he will get some where -"
And get - Dr Canby does not seem to be looking for
the dollar for himself - His charges are most moderate.
all day

Ruth had a terrible sick headache Sunday - vomited so
much that in the evening Dr Canby was called - a
hypodermic gave her some relief - and she is about
again. "Cerebral congestion" - Her face was so red and
bloated! - Had she been taking her bromides would
the old epineurium have occurred? - She had a hard
week - she cannot be pushed. She must take things
easy - but with three girls needing clothes plus other
things it is hard to keep out of the way of the steam roller -

This evening, as she left me, she said things still seem
so unreal but - I will take a bromide and go to bed -
Will she always have to depend on them? May the removing
the torments help to remove the sinister cause of her trouble?

How busy you two dear children are with the paper & in
finished by May 1st - ! - but - will you excuse me if
I do not write any more? - I have been cleaning the
house all day today what time I did not spend
watering a few of the dusty, thirsty things in the garden,
getting meals etc. - Then I took a bath and washed
my hair and I feel - oh not so tired - but - woozy.
If you know what I mean - Jack is busy with a
play to be given by the American Legion next week. He
says if he lives through the month of April he will live
to be 100 years old - but I wish he would not - take
things like this that keep him from home every night - I
think Ruth & the children need him - but then Mother
in-law - hold your self quiet - It is his business and
he is a mighty nice husband and father -

I love you

Mother

excitement stimulates Ruth Mary - but Wilder is a
difficult-temperament - and forcing him to do things
he dreads doing will cause him intense suffering -
What-an awful thing it will be when he goes to school!
But kindergarten will ease that trial, when he and
Ruth Mary can go together - so she always insists on
going first - I have the Calendar
pictures in my desk and love to look at them, especially
after you tell me things about them -

Oh yes - let's build air castles about a visit - let me
see - I guess you would better come out - here for them
we could all have the visit together - would Mrs K
and I quarrel about who should have you? - Let's think
it out -

Oh do send back my knitting book and the measures
I bought - a lot of games the other day - I must go
to Aunt Addie she groans so much and looks her
weakness is so great she cries - I am reading "Dear
Enemy" to her - regular - in a way - to Daddy Long Legs
but only read about fifteen minutes at a time. Now I
must comfort her by trying to induce her to eat
something -

Loving you - she so much and wanting
to see you all - and hoping all problems may be solved
(as they will) and believing that it is probably better for you to
have Jenny and babies for the present, dear Helen, (though my sympathy is
with you) - Mother

I am glad Ruth Mary is going to have
a wardrobe - if she gets Mrs Ladd's

2 Teach me child one thing and not teach the
other the reverse - As an illustration - I always
think of a mistake I made not when Herbert -
was about three years old - he played with Frank
Gore a little girl about his age - Herbert - was very
domineering - It distressed me - I tried to make
him understand that Frank was a little girl and
his guest - and he must be nice to her - It was not
long before Frank thought I meant she was boss and
Herbert - slave - and the way she treated him, and
the meekness he showed nearly drove me wild -
And I always did dislike that little red-head after
that -

I wish I could help you in your problems - they are
such real problems - but I believe every mother and
father have to solve them for themselves - After prayer -
for each problem is an individual one. We do get
helpful hints from other parents - but only hints -

Wilder's dread of going down stairs and out - to
meet his father alone was natural for a timid,
imaginative child - His being timid does not mean
cowardice, you know - Timidity is physical - Cowardice
is not - Don't you recall how frightened he was when
that little boy wanted to play with him in the Park in
Boston? - You must remember he has not been much
with other children - but has been your constant companion.

April 10 - 1922

Dear Children:

Wilder dear - I am as glad that you have been fortunate in getting a partner
 who can and loves to help you in your work. That makes for happiness
 and success - Bless you both.

April 10 - 1921

Dear Children:

Such a week! - Aunt Addie has been -
 and is - very ill. She has had two teeth out - and
 much pain - Another one must - come
 and probably others when she is able to have them out.
 yesterday the fever abated but her intense weakness
 is very trying when - She suffered so much pain and
 Saturday noon while she was trying to get rid of the
 thick frothy phlegm that fills her mouth continually
 she suddenly stiffened - with her eyes rolled up - mouth
 full of the froth and hands drawn in - she lay back
 in my arms - and I was one scared woman - but it
 lasted but a moment - The Dr came soon and
 gave her a morphine tablet - That seemed to relax
 her so much that she not only slept - but has
 been getting better - I guess. The kidneys are very
 bad with albumen - The intense pain is gone from legs
 and arms - but the side & back are still very sore
 and her hands so often numb and her head still

feels detached from her body - and weak!! - yet the
same joking Aunt Addie - The Dr this morning asked
me - "How are the mental symptoms?" - He did not hear
what Aunt Addie said and I repeated our battery - "Why
darn you, do you think I am crazy?" In her weak voice
and her funny quirk she gives with her eyes when she says
something she should not - it seemed funnier to me
than to the Dr. who does not know her yet.

You know I am not fond of nursing - don't you
think I have had my share this past year or more?
every body else is well I am thankful to say - At least - I
hope they are well at Herbert's - They think it is our
duty to go down there - They do not know how things
are here. I wrote them Saturday so I am hoping
they may come over tonight -

I have laughed every time I have thought of Ruth
Mary shutting herself in the bathroom and having a
good time by herself and poor little Wilder ^{conspicuously} crying
on the outside - No, he cannot understand ~~conspicuously~~
with her and teaching her a lesson but - would it be
possible for you to teach her a lesson? If some one
was only with you so you could take him off on a
little trip of some kind - and leave her alone - or
could you do something lovely for him and keep
him interested until she was ready to come out - - Somewhat
she could not share - "because she had been unkind to
brother?" - Ah it is so hard to settle such things and

I took it - stood a trifle over the average - what - surprised
me was that - I stood higher than Ruth - needed not -
get to bed before midnight - while he was here - and I had
to get up at 5:30 in order to get breakfast - to get him
off in the 7 - with Jack - then I took the 8 ²⁵ and
went to the Presbyterian - It was some week. He went
home Friday eve. He has his B. A. will have his
M. A. at Christmas and expects to stay there until he
gets his Ph.D. - He is working with Parker on a
text-book - having certain chapters that will appear under
his name - He is working in Psychology with Tumburg?
Is that the name of the big Psychologist at Stanford? - He is looking
well and happy -

I love you all so very much -
Mother

unconsciously with younger associates - yet you
would have younger men to work with as well.
The doctor in New York does not know you. But -
you see - I know only the disadvantages of New York -

Helena dear, if you are still pregnant - you should be
feeling life now - should you not? - How hard it
is not to know how to please. I feel - feel as though
I must - go to you this summer - and if you go to
England I want to go - and if you are due at the
hospital I want to be with the children - but I could
not pay my fare there - so what's the use of thinking
about it! -

Send measures & pattern right away for the suits and
I will do it - There is a beautiful brown wool at Robinsons
that is on sale now that would be fine - I don't know how
much I will need - but think I will get some tomorrow.

But Aunt Addie has come out - she is miserable. Had
one tooth out - but more must come - she seems full of
poison. Her thumb is still bad - Her face is swollen,
Her legs ache so she cannot sleep - I really think she
is in bad shape.

Will surprise us by coming Tuesday P.M. He was
sent down - during vacation - to give the soldiers tests in
Musical ability (The Seashore Test) Most interesting

of the many little things that finally helps one decide between two propositions - but sometimes when an outsider gives his views it helps to clear the vision even though it is done by proving his views all wrong - so this is the way it looks to me.

You like Baltimore - you have friends there who know and love you - if you are successful they will be doubly proud of you because you belong to them and came from them. You do not

like living in New York - you have no real personal friends with whom you can keep in touch because of the business of the place. If you are successful the hospital will

be proud of you because you belong to them - but you are a John Hopkins man, after all. Baltimore is smaller and you will be known personally there as a citizen as well as a surgeon - You would not be a citizen

in New York - your interests would be only as one of the surgeons - Living would, without doubt,

be cheaper in Baltimore and probably \$5,000 would go as far there as \$6,000 in New York. Baltimore has

many lovely parks in the residence section - Close in near your work where you could have a yard bracing space - you could have a house with a yard - and could probably get help for Helms more easily than in New York. Dr Thomas and others on the staff are old men who would rejoice in and assist you in your work without the jealousy that is apt to come consciously or

2 other boy must-never go out-with you. The thing you
were not-afraid to do, was something others were not-
allowed to do. Your self-respect-gave; and your self-confidence
and when you grew older you came to swim and had
not-been taught-that-you were a coward. If Wilder
cannot-jump with Ruth teach him how-gradually-
and give him opportunities to do the things he can do. He
will be no coward he does not-come of coward stock.
Intense rather than nervous? - yes, I can see that-is the
letter, truer word. The Draw boys were intense- and their
intensity was increased to a fatal degree by urging on their
ambition - Intense people must-go slow. Poor
little fellow why must-he have cold terror oil when he is
more than average in height and weight? - I think it is
a big shame - So Wilder Sr. does not-like the dose either?
Well Homeopaths! never give it, I think. And we grow too-
What-a good time you had with the Halls. It-is the first-

I have heard about-there. How is the father and mother?
(yes, you did cry when pushed too hard - you needed to go slow
and work things out for yourself - Crouche bottomed you unless
left-to yourself. Don't force Wilder when he is bottomed. Is it not
that-you and he cannot-assimilate easily and quickly? Herbert-
was not-troubled that-way things could not-come to just-you
him - but-he did not-go down beneath the surface - he did not-
try to understand - he simply enjoyed the sensation of repetition)
Surely you have a proposition to decide! - Of course I cannot-
offer any advice - And outside person does not-know all

April 2 - 1822 -

My Dears:-

I've letters from each of you - the pictures - the puzzles - My think of how much I want to talk to you about today!!! I got up at 5.30 this morning - had been awake for an hour - and thought - I would accomplish so much this day and have a good Sunday, too - I have done a lot - but have not accomplished what I had planned. It is 9¹⁰. The water is running in the garden and I think Aunt Addie is stirring - Seasons? the thrill of changing seasons? why we have them here just as much as you do them! - The change from brown and brilliant - flowers to green and other flowers - and you change from white & gray & no flowers to green and birds & flowers that you know will come here you again - we have dust - but - no cyclonic storms, no sunstrokes - You have occasionally whiffs of fragrance - we revel in delightful odors - The ^{roses} acres of Plum, peach and apricot-trees with beautiful blossoms now - are real spring beauties & the Mocking birds - Meadow larks - Crows, etc. etc.!!! -

And those pictures! - Oh thank you for them - The Coal-
of the "Mayor of Pumpkin Center" (Should be not-say
Punkin?) shows how thin he is! Herbert - could only
see the place "when the hair ought-to grow" and stammers
Wilder will be "an old man before I am" - Ruth cannot
picture you as anything but - boyish, Wilber, and so "why
how much older ~~the~~ his face looks!" was her exclamation -
I reminded her that - you were no infant - Ruth Mary
does not look unlike a picture I have of her Auntie Ruth
taken with long bangs - bless her, how she has grown - And
Wilder's is a beautiful picture. Every picture of him that
comes makes Ruth feel more and more drawn to
him, the little darling. Now you timid, you ask, Wilber -
Do you recall that you had to learn to swim after we went
to Hushow? I do not remember about - the pumping but
you could not bear the plunge into the water nor could
you start off to swim - but, on a raft built - by yourself
(with some help from Herbert, probably) you played away
out in the bay for hours together. Had you fallen in
nothing could have kept you from drowning - People
who did not know you thought I was dreadful to allow
you to do that - It tormented and shamed you not to be
able to swim with the others - You were happy "poling
your float" and you felt a responsibility - You were
cautious - you knew what would happen if you fell in - and
you were always obedient - you knew I would worry if you
went around corners out of sight, and you knew no

write a letter with me to you about the violet ray
machine but she is lying down now.

Jack has sent our Sunday dish of popcorn over
and its fragrance is mingling with the fragrance
of the stock and is quite enchanting.

Thursday Afternoon Aunt Elizabeth with Mrs. Prince
and Grace & Earl came out for a call. I served
tea and cake — fruit-cake, rocks and snap-

Bobby goes back to school ^{on} Tuesday and I hope
their troubles are over. ^{as to} Mrs. Hutchcroft has been
quite ill — so I hear. I have not seen Herbert and
family — I expected to go to see them today but of course
Aunt Addie could not go.

Aunt Elizabeth sent over "The Age of Innocence" for
me to read aloud to Addie. I have enjoyed Roomell
so much — I told you Jack and Elizabeth are anxious
to read it too?

I do not seem to have anything very exciting or
interesting to write you. My mind is so busy trying
to make the days gardening and the gardening needs
fit into each other — and it is impossible — that I

Cannot seem to think of any thing else.

Reminds that - I must stop and get our supper tray ready -
Aunt Addie wants bread and milk - but I want a salad -

Tell me how you are feeling -
Loving you - Mother

Sau Mays
March 25 - 1922

My dear children:

I did so hope for a letter before this —
but — perhaps it will come tomorrow. The last
one was from Helen written March 9.

I have been trying to get as much done
in the garden this week as possible, but there
have been some interruptions. Tuesday afternoon
I broke the ice as secretary in the Missionary
society, and promised to go to L.A. for three
days this coming week as delegate to the Annual
Presbytrial — On Wednesday I took Cottie
home. We went to L.A. in the 8.30 car — did
shopping — had lunch and went to the movies —
I left her at the station at 4.40 to wait for her
niece to come for her and I came home —
Friday was washing and I went to a delightful

luncheon at Madame Cuestis. Her daughter, Mrs
Kleinhaus, gave the invitation to ~~the~~ ^{my} Aunt-Mrs
Mills of Syracuse, N.Y. As usual after a
visit from Cottie or Aunt-Addie I was so tired that
I need- to bed every night- (on Thursday and Friday
nights) at seven o'clock. I think the reason I
am so tired after their visits is that- they do
not speak distinctly and it tires me to strain
to hear them. Aunt-B. speaks very distinctly and
it does not tire me so much.

Yesterday Afternoon Aunt-Addie came for a few
days and last night- her thumb pained her so
badly she could not sleep. It seemed quite serious
this morning and we sent for the Dr. The thumb was
badly swollen and the nail had run in two lines up to
her elbow. He cut into the thumb four times- (not
very pleasant) but- this evening she is much easier
although she still has little chill- she is keeping it
wet in salt and water. Poor thing- it does seem to
me that- she has more than her share of trouble
physical and in consequence mental- she wants to

hard to get between Lankershim and us - Herbert & Mame
started out here Thursday evening - It had been raining here
and snowing in the mountains - The wind was cold.
They got stuck at the head of Salinas street - and had to
get the L. A. street-cleaning outfit to haul them out.
They were there within a short distance of us from 8 to 11 -
Mame got so cold she had to take the bath and
ride to San Francisco & back to keep warm. They were
just recovering from the flu too. I hoped Jack would
take me down there either last night or today - but
tonight Jack & Ruth & Margant - are going to drive
in to Hollywood after Elizabeth & her girl friend Kathie.

I shall look forward to the kodaks -
Do you know the stories you tell me of Wilder remind
me so much of my little boy Wilder - The scene at the
station was quite natural ^{California} ^{is} the best place for doctors he
sickness!! Dr. Canby says ^{California} is the best place for doctors he
knows of -

I always thought Roosevelt's birthday was in February 1858
but no - it was in October 1858 - Do you know I don't
believe in ourselves - ever grow old. I am certain that I am
the same I that I was fifty years ago. A little more
judgment? well I don't know. Just about the same foolishness,
the same viewpoint, the same fault, the same virtues - why
should not one change more I wonder -

Well, I love you heaps and must stop for my hand is tired.
Have written a long letter to Cousin Florence - Kiss the dear babies for me
Mother

Mattress going through Hollywood Thursday bearing
the sign Christian Endeavor Convention. And
Elizabeth had two new dresses to wear! An orange &
green plaid ~~kindergarten~~ Devotionism trimmed with plain
green and a blue linen (one was Mary Anderson's)
trimmed with Porto Rican Embroidery - so pretty -
she still need a hat - and gloves etc - but she did not
seem to know that.

I think Margaret is growing prettier. And how they do
love their school!

I wish I could see more of the Hermotts - They have
not been out here since Christmas and I have been
there only once.

How I am enjoying the Roosevelt-book! I am
reading it aloud to Lottie who is still here while I knit.
And by the way - I wanted to make the children
knitted suits at Christmas time but - could not -
would you like them for their birthday? - I will send you
my knitting book - Mark the suit you like best for Wilhelmina
and the dress you like best for Ruth Mary - Tell me
the colors you like best - and give measurements for
sleeves - trousers etc. If I make them I want to get
at them soon.

You know those rains sort of maroon us. And it is

Van Mays —

March 19-1922

My dear children:

I mean to answer Helen's letter first - I am so
sorry Helen dear! - Perhaps it is not so - and if it
is we will make ourselves believe it is all for the
best - but I know it has been a hard, hard time
for you, dear. You are sorry you told me so
soon? - No dear, do not feel that - The joy of real
love-friendship is the living the joys and sorrows
of every day together. I want to know all of the sorrows
and joys and hopes that come into my children's
lives as they come - not afterwards - While you are
adjusting yourselves and, ^{not} after you are adjusted and
it is an old story to you. I want to live with you
not on the outside of things. And another thing - I am
glad you do not feel I worry too much to be able
to worry with you. I am well and strong and so
constituted temperamentally that - I should worry more
if I felt you tried to keep things from me because I worried.

You and Wilder do have the loveliest friends! -
You two poor, dear, children! - It was not an
easy thing for you to be sick in two separate
hospitals and some one else looking after the
dear children - but was it not lovely of Mrs
Whipple and later of Mrs Ladd. I am so
grateful to them - I love them - Oh how many
kind people there are in the world! -

But now tell me, just how are you really feeling?
Sometimes it takes longer to recover from a illness -
than from a natural birth. I went through it
with Mame and with Winifred - so many
miles between New York and California!!! -

The Lugs family are all quite well except Bobby -
he has had a relapse. And seems so very weak
and indifferant - to getting around again.

Elizabeth forced herself to health because of a
wonderful happening that she could not miss -
The greatest event in her life - A Christian Endeavor
Convention held at Hollywood - from Friday evening
until Sunday evening all delegates to be entertained by
the Hollywood people - Jack saw a big load of

fragrance that is disagreeable to some but
to me seems wholesomely strong and vigorous.
Ten-Weeks-stock - the old "Cul-and-Come" - and
I never saw such large beautiful florets as this
bed of mine produces. The fragrance is too
heavy in its sweetness to please Maude - but it
does fill the room with a delicious odor that is
kept from being too heavy by the fresh air & the
Calceolula. Then - at last - I have a tiny offing
from my panny bed - And Wilder's bouquet is
here - the half dozen pansies being set off by some
tiny seedlings of Summer Larkspur - the delicate
foliage shows off each individual purple panny.

Wilder, you asked why California towns must always
boast themselves so - I think because the people
cannot help it. Of course the real estate men
boast here as every where - but we are so filled full
with the wonder of the sunshine, the delicious air,
the bird-songs, the growth of things we cannot
help boasting. For years the East has sneered because
we are always talking of our wonderful climate and
said that is all we have - so I suppose we have to
turn about and brag of our manufactories etc.

Van Duzee

March 12 - 1922.

Dear children:-

I surely was glad to hear from you yesterday. It was the first letter I had had since February. The letters you write on Sunday usually come Saturday or Monday. And the last letter I had came Monday Feb. 27 — It seemed ages. I feared Helen was ill, and thankful I was to see a bit of her hand writing again.

Today is such a beautiful sunshiny day that you ought to have a real chatty letter brimming of flowers and sunshine. Let me see, what have my hands been handling this morning? Oranges - small (15¢ a dozen) but sweet and fresh. Radishes - fresh from Jack's garden. Californian Poppies - so rich in the sunshiny color. Calendulas also full of color and the aromatic

around - through Ruth and ~~they~~^{it} went -
into the two Citrus Trees - I think I shall
get something in Citrus this year - and associate
her with that growth as I associate Herbert and
Marion with the growth of the rose garden.
They are to send me another rose for my garden
for my birthday but - it has not come yet.

Wilder William went back to school this last week.
They are all out of the woods now. Faith is still in
bed. Margaret feels all right - tho' her eyes look
haggard yet. Bob could only have one paucake yesterday
but - this morning "I ate mine". yesterday afternoon he
came over here because he had nothing to do - the
girls were playing cards and had no use for him -
I was stumped for a few minutes to know what to
do with him - but I had some Lit. Digests to look over
and cut out some things so we went to work together -
I marked what I wanted and he cut - Then with a
plate of cookies and an orange we spent our two
hours very happily - Elizabeth does not get over her
attack of flu at all well. Bobby looks thin but it
did not bother him as much, I think - David is not
quite well yet. Ruth is looking better the past two days -
Aunt E. went home yesterday - Mrs. Prime, their daughter

2/ in self-defence. You recall the wonder some
of Wisconsin's June days used to bring to you? -
Could you help talking about it? We have so many
of such days. We have enough of the other kind to
make a comparison and make us love the beauty
more than ever. Yesterday we woke up to a heavy
rain - cold and raw - About noon it cleared
and the mountains on all sides of us were covered
with snow. In the afternoon we had a hail storm
and when the sun set - Oh how I wished you
could have looked at the mountains with me - Such
a glory! - Last night in the moonlight it seemed
almost as though we could touch the snow by
walking the length of "our street."

Thank you for your dear birthday greeting - God
has been good to me in giving me my children -
I shall welcome the book - dear children - I had a
beautiful birthday - A lovely greeting from Ray and
from Winifred - Cousin Florence - whom I have
shamefully neglected - sent me five dollars to buy
some thing for the home that I would not otherwise
get - (Last year you recall she sent me the same

I waul- wail- some man- but- I must- say
farewell for now-
God bless and keep you and may
you see the shining of His face -
Your mother -

Aunt- Elizabeth surprised me the other day
by bursting out- with- "I see do you always work
every minutes?" - "Why I suppose I do - don't you?"
"No - you tell- I don't -" all the more credit- to her
when she comes out- then and does work ^{every} ~~every~~
minute for me -

3 and her husband and son expect to come to Pasadena next week for a month and Aunt E. is wild with delight. - Cottie will be here the rest of the week.

I expect a man to fix the cess pool that is filled up tomorrow. He brings as helpers his son and his nephews and promises that the boys will be glad to do any work in the garden I want done. - so — the digging and fertilizing and grading and trenching for the irrigation ditches for my flowers will be done for me and then I can go ahead and rake and cultivate and plant and water etc.

I must have some flowers this year annual or what — is the use of living — in California? I hope no more sickness or any other obstacle will be put in my way.

Oh I hope you will be able to rent one of those houses. - Could you not rent a room to students so that it would bring your rent within reaching distance? Of course, in a house you will have more expense than in an apartment. - but still it will be so fine for Helen and the children. They do need a play ground.

Do you know — I love living alone? Doesn't not seem selfish and horrid?

March 6-1922

Dear children:-

I have not time for an honest- & goodness
gossipy letter- Cottie comes at 9.30 - Ruth and
I meet her at Sherman Way and then go
down town for "Eats" - Aunt-Elizabeth is now here -
Elizabeth and Bobo still in bed with flu - Margaret
and David are up and well? - Not quite, for they
and Ruth feel pretty bad. Dr. Todd Jack he
must be in quarantine and Ruth felt-relieved
because she thought of the many things he could
do to relieve her - but to Jack it seemed a
trial because it would make it so much harder -
when he should go back - so Dr. relented -

Last week was not an easy one for Ruth.
The no sewing nuisance - the foolish desire to get
things done - and sickness at home - but -

that - is over - and nothing left but physical
weakness and weariness and a big pile of sewing
to be finished before Mrs Eastwood comes again
in April.

Yesterday morning the Penfield family - excepting
George who was on the golf links "at work" - came
over. They are all better - and Herbert - was happy
because he has given up the Real Estate business
and gone into banking work - I cannot explain it -
the promise to send you literature that you might
understand it. Commissions on selling to the banks
something. It will take him away from home quite
a little. The work begins in San Diego. Now, Helen
will not misunderstand me and feel I am slipping
at little Mame when I say that - I think that is the
best thing about it? - I understand Herbert
pretty well - he is a Penfield, you know - Real Estate -
sitting in an office waiting and gossiping, and
brooding and wishing - then going home to the
everlasting routine of children's complaints and quarrels
and the small ~~man~~ ^{man} trying to keep up with Hazel

and Ella and so on who have more money and
better responsibilities and a still narrower outlook
in life - is a killing environment to any man.

Now he will get-out-among bankers and in other
scenes and the breeze will blow the cobwebs from his
brain, put more life into his blood and muscles and
he and Mame and the family will profit by it.
I often think of what you said in your "Honey moon"
Wilder. That it was not good for any two people
to be together all of the time no matter how much
they think of each other - and I know it is true.

I was intensely interested in your program for
the coming year. How is the skull paper coming
in? - It is awfully good of you to be so interested
in Aunt Addie's problem. Things are coming
to a head with her affairs - do not send the
machine until you hear from me.

How are you, Helen? Your mother is worried
because you have not written and I again, ask
Wilder to tell me how you are. I wish there were not
so many miles between us -

I love you all - Mother

them in their hands and had them for breakfast-
this morning. Ruth said they were delicious eating but
did not know what they were.

I am going to bed - have to get up early tomorrow
morning - a hard week ahead. Hope Baby will be
better it is hard to sew without - Ruth to dress - two work.

Oh I do hope you are well, and do be careful
Milder dear -
yours with all love, Mother.

Your "silly letter" of midnight
Feb. 14 - did me - and is doing me,
a lot of good Wilder mine -
David is better this morning - Ruth's
cough is better now - and Margaret -
has a headache and is unhappy - How
those girls do hate to miss school! -

I am anxious to know how "you all" are feeling. Are you at home, Wilder? and are you having another good visit and lots of good reading? I hope, Helen, you are feeling fine now - and that the children are well. - Very cold - the paper says you have had it -
Evening - I left Ruth & Baby here and Elizabeth took the girls and me ~~to~~ over to Lanthorn - Two weeks Tuesday next - since Wilder William was taken down with pneumonia - Dr. Williams had days - Dr. there 3 times a day for a while - Up today for all day for the first - looks pretty well drawn out - I am up for the first after six days of the flu - Not very ill - George was not at home but he, too, was in bed two days this week with tonsillitis. Mame is worn to a frazzle, poor little girl. Herbert was the same dear boy - He was working out in the flower garden digging around the roses. I would not let the girls go in the house for fear of infection so they played outside with Jean Pat & the two little boys - for nearly two hours - sort of stupid for them -

You have heard of the land "flowing with milk & honey"? But did you ever hear of the land flowing with fishes? - The stream that divides Talbot Street from Sherman way during rain and flood time was full of them yesterday - And the girls - like many other of the neighbors gathered

San Luis-
February 26- 1922

My dear Children:

Ruth is out of bed today- probably because
David is quite sick- cough and a little fever ^{changed to} high fever ^{very sore} and still high ^{tonight}
and probably headache and sore throat- The
temperature seemed a little more even over
here so they two came over here for the day.
I have been rocking David but- he is now
lying on the couch with Ruth- refusing his
bottle. Ruth coughs some and is quite weak
and rocky- I did not tell you in my
last letter of the night- Jack was ill- That was
a week ago Thursday- He had been to a
Chamber of Commerce meeting coming home
about eleven o'clock- soon after he complained
of cramps in his bowels- After questioning Ruth
decided he needed a laxative- She gave him a
heaping table spoonful of salts- About one o'clock he

wakened in answer to the silent-call and went to
the bath room. Ruth dozed off - but heard a faint-
call - "Ruth" - that seemed to come from a great-
distance. Then a crash - and silence - she rushed
out - and found Jack flat on the kitchen floor
unconscious. Finally he roused enough to say -
"I am all right - just let me alone - let me lie here -"
this is such a good place to rest - I am so comfortable -
It took some time for her to get him up - washed and
in clean clothes and in bed. For his bowels had kept
right on doing their duty. He insisted on going
to school as usual the next day - it was the easiest-
day of the week and he sat down most of the time -
Elizabeth took him to the train in the morning and
went for him in the evening. He looks very white and
feels very rocky even yet. Probably feels worse than
Ruth but has more strength and not so much
fever.

Sickness at Herbert's - Ed. Gilder William has had
pneumonia - but I have not heard from them for
a week - I would I would get over them today - but I
am going to send Elizabeth in my place.

the price today that you may have the happiness
tomorrow - then it is congratulations that you should
have - If you are willing to give up personal
pleasures and ease, give up clothes, friends, fun, and
work with and for the children ^{for many years} - you are grand and
fine, unselfish, and worth a mile - to this old world
that so needs just the fine men and women
you and Wilbur can give to them. And your reward?
God alone knows how great - is the reward to parents
of north white children - I am sorry for the hard things
you are so willingly accepting - and I am glad for the
wonderful things in store for you. God bless you, dear
daughter - yes - I am glad.

Ruth has been in bed most of the past week with
tonsillitis - I guess the tonsils will have to come out -
They are talking of going to Dr. West. I wonder if he
does that work. Might all of her trouble come from
that?

I am so thankful, Mildred dear, that you recovered so
well from the flu - I know you had a glorious visit
and that is to the good - And the reaction you did!! -
Ray Stannard Baker (you know?) is a nephew of our Mr Baker
in Hudson. His father, who is quite deaf, lives in St. Croix Falls.
He had four boys - all of whom have been quite successful in
their chosen lines of work. I think Ray was born in St. C. F.

I suppose - being deaf - his father read and thought - a
great-deal. He had a brilliant-mind, lived in the
country and lived very close to his boys. My
impression is that Ray lives in some ^{the} small or
cities in the East - Perhaps in? - I don't know - but
Mailand Bartlett can tell you all about his most-
interesting personality. He knows every thing - I mean
when he wants to write about ^a ~~and~~ thing he goes to the
source head and studies each little detail so that as
he wrote so much along industrial lines for the
government - it was hard for people to believe that -
"Grayson" was a non-deplum for Ray Baker - I suppose
these different "advertisements" are the real man.

By the way - Mailand Hall's first child is a girl and not a boy.
I cannot find out any more about William Webster than
I wrote you. I am so glad that the scarf was so
"welcome to Penn's neck" - And how I hope the full
\$125.000 may come to you.

~~That~~ "The needle came out" - I hope the crowd had a good
laugh even if the responsible parties were chagrined.
Camping? - fine. There is no doubt but that you can get tent
very cheaply at the Army supply stores and other camp supplies ^{1/10}
Dear little Milsch - I am sure his ^{own} faith will bring that ^{1/10} ~~not~~ in
in time. It pleased me mightily that you recalled the
measles adventure we had together - I must go and dress it -
is almost time for dinner at Ruth's - And I have a lot more to
10th about - ⁴⁰⁰ - ^{your} ^{with} ^{all} ^{love} ^{to} ^{you} ^{and} ^{your} ^{mother} ^{and} ^{father} ^{and} ^{brother} ^{and} ^{sister} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{family} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{world} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{universe} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{creation} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{earth} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sky} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sea} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{land} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{air} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{fire} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{water} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{earth} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sky} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sea} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{land} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{air} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{fire} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{water} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{earth} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sky} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sea} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{land} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{air} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{fire} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{water} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{earth} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sky} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{sea} ^{and} ^{all} ^{the} ^{land} ^{and} 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San Diego

February 12-1922

Dear Children:

I feel as if I wanted to write two separate letters today - one to Wilhelmina because he has been ill - one to Helen because of her - well, not altogether unexpected news - I have been holding myself ready for that - news ever since you have been settled in Yorkers because back in the old time you were both planning for another little one, and I was so fearful that you would not - wait - until you were in America again - All I glad? - you ask - Well - a deep-drawn breath there before I make the plunge into an analysis of my feelings - I look at - Mama with her six children and see how the every day work taxes her strength and the financial worry taxes her mind so that life is too much of a strain to allow her the opportunity of enjoying her dear ones - She loves them so much and yet - she feels a great horror and immense pity whenever

she hears of an expectant-mother. Life is almost too
hard for little Mame. Then I look at Ruth
with her five - she does not love her five ^{any} more
than Mame loves her six but she enjoys them
more - It's the work and the worry saps her
strength - she enjoys more but pays the penalty -
Mame goes with Herbert wherever he goes - Ruth
gives what strength she has to the daily routine and
seldom has the strength or "pep" to go any where
with Jack - so he has to go alone. They are different -
and accept their lives in different ways - but
the dear children do make their lives most hard.

You are different from either, your environment
is different - you, too, have the same love for husband
and children - you, too, are having the financial
problems - you, too, are not as strong and able
to endure as many women ^{are}. Then for my fear -
but that is one side of the picture, not the only side.
The richest gifts in this world are the hardest to get - the
most valuable things call for the greatest outlay - and
when I think of my three children I know the best
thing this world has to offer is a family of children -
the greatest happiness comes to us through the children
who cost so much in pain and sacrifice as well as work
and worry. And each one added to the family brings an
added wealth of happiness. If you are willing to pay