

1022/66/14

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My dear Willie

It was all a delusion when I thought to write you a long letter by Janette she will tell you how little time I had on hand for anything but every-day necessities and today I am almost as hard pressed for time as then but as the Irishman said "I have all there is of it" Church decorations have kept me the last two afternoons and evenings and I am off to the work again as soon as dinner is over. We shall miss many faces at the Christmas dinner table this year but for our poor Nellie's sake it is better that we should not all assemble, the Fris from Staplehurst are going to Toronto to spend their Xmas at Avenue St. and the great preparations are all with Jennie this year. Edmund and Belle I fancy will have to eat their morsel alone. Nellie will not be with us she will try to forget it is Xmas day and being Sunday it will not be so different. Mr. Williamson is again laid up with rheumatic fever but they hope it will not prove so lasting an attack as he had before, as soon as he is well enough and Jessie Hoskin a little stronger they mean to go to Toronto for a few weeks and then Nellie will come to us the Baby is very delicate my impression is that it will get water-on-the-brain, its head was much swollen the other night, and it does not sleep as it ought, it will be a great grief to them to lose it and is a great source of anxiety to Nellie. She is much better and more cheerful than could have been expected. I am so glad that you like Montreal. M. and J. being there must make it much more pleasant than it would have been otherwise. Did you hear that Dr. Bovell was going to take orders in the West Indies?

Mr. Geddes (the Revd.) told Papa so that he had sent to him for the usual letters etc. I posted a pocket-book to you yesterday as a small gift to my Benjamin but I am not donating gifts on a large scale. Chattie had been laid up with cold ever since she returned but is well enough today to venture over to Carries. You are to get a Banner sent and I dare say that Janette has told you more about the Concert than you will gather from that. Mr. Wright is very poorly, Lucy has just come in to dinner and I must close this with much love to dear boy from his ever affectionate Mother

Ellen Osler

Chattie I suppose has told you all the home news if there is any.