

I am very sorry that all this work should fall upon you & hope that there will not be any necessity to hurry through, as this always makes it harder. If only I could help you, but this is not possible. At Miss Hope's & Mrs. Atkins' break up, I got to positively hate everything & my one wish was to get rid of everything. How we rather regret some things given away or sold, which we could now use.

It is sad to think of Mother's home as empty now, & soon to be turned to some other use - I miss too writing my letters to her & hearing about her. But I am so thankful that she did not suffer much & was spared a tedious illness - As Clare says no known mistake was made. All the comforts possible she has had & I really think her old age has been beautiful - no losing of interests, or fault finding or loneliness or worst of all loss of mind - We can always think of her with pleasure & pride - How she is with Father & George & is spared any further trouble here.

It is very curious to me that she altered her will two or three years ago, as you say speaking of the possibility of R's death. I wonder if he told her anything which would lead her to think he would not live long - I wonder too what other people know about R. Was there anything in the Montreal papers about him, except the announcement of his death? We can only hope people will forget him. Mrs. Crawford Williamson wrote to me lately about Mother's death & speaks in such a curious way of R. I will copy it -

"I knew of the earlier tragedy of your brother, & had no courage to write - but sorrowed for you with great sincere sympathy. May I say that we (i.e. Herbert & I) felt that your brother was so ill, so painfully & hopelessly ill, he could not bear it, & could not face a future for himself & his family - Happily no one among us is called upon to blame or praise. I should not like to blame - I know the pain to you must have been inconceivable & must now be renewed -" Mrs. W. is now in Switzerland, her son having married a few months ago - Evidently she must know some doctor or physician or someone who knew R's inner life - It is dreadful to get what may be said & we not know - There was little good I fear -

But I must close this long & badly written letter  
with much love as ever for Eva.

Paragraphs - Mr. Grandmother  
Dawson  
and Uncle Rankine.

Certainly if he had been left money or valuables by will, they w<sup>d</sup> go to his creditors. So it is as well that Mother made her will as you say she has - As to May's you must send any household things as presents - The list left by Mother are not exactly her will - I w<sup>d</sup> also like you (or William) to tell G<sup>o</sup> that if Mother had left anything by will, it w<sup>d</sup> go to Creditors. This w<sup>d</sup> also open the way to the other matter about giving May money - I feel quite sure G<sup>o</sup> w<sup>d</sup> accept it & like whatever was given, & your plan in regard to letting her have 10 shares of Lake & the Wood Stock is I think a fair thing - I imagine that R. really had more than his share during his life - Also May is no doubt better off than any other grandchild - Still I think it's quite right to give her this, but will must put it in such a way that the creditors cannot claim (not as R's share of the estate) also tell G<sup>o</sup> the terms of the will & that R. has had a good deal - Also I advise do not mention what Mother has left in all - I told G<sup>o</sup>, Mother w<sup>d</sup> not have much, as she was living on a pension - I am surprised how much she has left -

I am delighted that Clare gets the cottage & hope she will enjoy the use of it, & it may be a gathering spot for all your family, or the next generation. Mother spoke to me about it when I was with her & I strongly advised her to do this & she wrote a note about it which I hoped w<sup>d</sup> make it quite legal. She made me promise not to speak to any one about it. It is just the right thing to have done & a happy thought of Mother's. It has almost been Clare's for some years & she will always feel Mother's presence there & think of her happiness. I really think the cottage has been Mother's greatest pleasure in life -

Sept 30<sup>th</sup> This seems a long letter & perhaps not very clear - I seem to want most of the things on the list & some are troublesome to send! I decidedly think but to leave the furniture (mine) in the house & try to let it also the furniture may as well remain there. Perhaps it may be easier for you if I make a list of what I don't want & suggest what should be done with each thing -

No 10 Egyptian pottery - I thought Lois might like this - It is decorative & a memento of Mother (with or without the shelf) -

No 17 Two cushions also w<sup>d</sup> no doubt be used by Lois - They are down cushions if I am not mistaken & she c<sup>d</sup> recover them or turn the contents into a baby's pillow & what I had a thin mattress over the hair one in the baby's cot. If Lois does not care for either lot, they c<sup>d</sup> stay as furnishings in his house -

No 11. Terra cotta figure I would like to give to Eva - It is a graceful figure & perhaps she w<sup>d</sup> like it.

No 24 Photos. I have suggested giving to Will & G<sup>o</sup> respectfully.

No 26 Album I think you should have

" 29 Copies figures found in Herculaneum. I suggest that Owen might have for his Club - They are of a certain educational value

" 31 Egyptian Pictures in Spare room - Also to Owen's Club

" 33 Large dark vase, to Clare as directed by Mother -

There remain the two large photos 30 & 32 Ophelia & the Madonna - Had they not best remain on the walls where they are? Also w<sup>d</sup> it not be wise to leave some or all the books or it will mean pulling out the book-cases which w<sup>d</sup> be a pity -