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83 Wellesley St. Toronto
Jany. 20, /88

My dear Willie

The wind up of all the Xmas gatherings was Charlie coming down for a week, and Chattie for a couple of days--they, and five of the family returned home on Wednesday--the house was very still and hushed that evening and all yesterday. Today Belle and Frank are coming to stay out the rest of the time they have to spare--then we hope Ed will be able to recruit, he was well cared for at the hospital, but I fear went out too soon, he complains of continued bad head aches and is very shaky yet it is a grief to me his being so lonely and far away from any of us. He has not made many friends being naturally reserved and nothing seeming to prosper with him--it is true that two thirds of our troubles are bred within ourselves but they are none the less hard to bear and call for sympathy from our fellows and a mercy it is they are often overruled by our Heavenly Father for our best interests. May it be so in his case.

Thanks for your note I am a neglectful Mother and do not deserve to get many letters but my thoughts are often with you and my heart always.

Mrs. W. Smith's sister had written to her and told her she did not think Miss Patterson was at all happy in her position as nurse, it made Mrs. Cochrane and Annie rather anxious as Miss P. herself had made no mention of it and as the month of probation was over they feared she might give up in disgust. Your note which I sent up was most acceptable Mrs. C. was so glad she told Isabel she all but cried with thankfulness. I am sure you are glad that Miss Locke has done so well--how pleased her Mother must be and all her friends--and still another goes up the same work. Mary Mc Kechnie of Dundas I never knew her personally but from all accounts she is one that will do well--there will always be plenty of such work for the willing hands to take up. Amy writes that her Aunt Carrie is certainly much better and Hennie will not be persuaded but that she will be able to move about perfectly before she leaves Rochester. The Walkers were quite shocked to see her when they were there at Xmas. BB seems low when speaking of her and says she can neither walk nor stand.

Father does not venture out much the walks are icy and he is still more and more feeble otherwise tolerably well both Nellie and myself are indulging in nasty colds so are many others.

Ever your loving Mother
Ellen Osler