

Xmas 1889

My dear Willie

I'm quite ashamed of myself to have been so long without sending a scrap to my Benjamin--you know the rush we have when the holidays are on hand, the girls and boys coming in in twos and threes many times a day and as there has been no skating no sleighing for them it has been more rush this Xmas than usual--~~then in between the acts I've been at work for Chattie who needs all the help my fingers can give her so with one thing and another the days have slipped by and many things left undone, writing amongst them that should have been done.~~ I hope the cold you had did not prove to be influenza and lay you up on the sick list. We hear of several here who have it--Nellie has a very bad cold so have the Craighleigh family party but not the genuine attack, for that is unmis- takeable when it appears. Georgie has gone home today stopping for an hour or two at Dundas and at Hamilton tonight it has been pleasant to have her back but I feel quite happy when I think she is adding to your comfort and is herself happy in so doing.

Alec went to Flora on Friday but returned this morning, finding the work at the C. P. R. station altogether beyond his ability, he did not mind the work about the station such as making up fires cleaning lamps, etc. too much but the porter's work of loading and unloading the quantities of freight, was a thing he could not manage--the station master said he was quite unfitted for it. Many of the clerks at the bank are laid by ill and he has gone down to see if he can help in the office, pro- tem.

Carrie is up at the hospital and Hennie told us yesterday she was going on well--Georgie will be able to give you particulars and tell you all the home news. Chattie reports Dundas to be full of Diptheria and S. fever. Norman's eyes are far from well Dr. Rees says he cannot take to his books for some time yet, so we shall keep him with us when the other boys go to school. Dark, dark days with almost constant rain is the rule and very depressing it is but it seems to suit Father Cornish man as he is. The two Aunts seem to be improving by Mary's letter last week, she hoped her Mother might be able to get down stairs on Xmas day.

We hear from Amy who was in just now that Carrie was suffering a good deal all day yesterday. Hennie is there now and is coming in to let us know today's report.

My dear best love to you, let us hear soon how you are. Father and Nellie send love

Ever your loving Mother
Ellen Osler