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Dearest Mother

Your dear letter of 13th December reached me, when I was spending my leave with Sarah in London and it affected us both so much. It makes me feel very happy as well as honored to think that you and she consider me a little but like your husband.

I fear I can never reach his standard and be to her what Mr Britton was to you but you may rest assured that I will do my best to emulate him and my own Father also, but fear I will fall very much short.

It was dear of you to send Sarah money to buy me a Christmas present.

It is so nice to be remembered by those one loves even if they are far away. I tried to get a fountain pen with it at the first opportunity as I lost mine in England before we came over last September and miss it very much. I have gotten into the habit of writing in pencil and fear that some of my friends think it lazy but it is perhaps very convenient.

I appreciate your present so much as also does Sarah to whom you also sent one.

We had a wonderful week together

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and spent it practically all in each other's company. It was far too short and seems like a dream as I now look back at it. All we can do is look forward to our next meeting about the beginning of April. Sarah has likely written about it so I will not repeat. I found her looking very well considering the trying and lonely times she has had, and a little stouter for which I am so glad although she can afford to put a little more yet. I weighed her at the Carleton and she tipped the scales at 125½. It was very hard to leave her and I fear she felt lonely and sad but promised to go at once to the kids which she did (by her letter today) and so was not all alone.

Do not bother answering my letters at once although I love hearing from you but know that you do a great deal of writing.

I received 10 boxes at Christmas with "lots" and "smokes" and have enough to last a long time, and also have a great many letters to write (as did not write during my leave) so you will please excuse a short hurried one this time.

Please thank Percy for his good wishes which I appreciate with very much love
your affectionate son JH