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My dearest Mather

9 Jan.

Your most interesting and welcome circular letter reached me through Sarah yesterday and was read also by Wood this afternoon when he was over with me.

You do cover the ground very fully in your letters and they always make most interesting reading.

I picture you still in Ottawa with dear Estelle. I was so relieved to get the cable through Wood last Thursday both as I was really quite worried as knew you expected the event about end of Dec. I don't quite see why it should take so long to get over from England where it had evidently arrived the day after you sent it. I forwarded it back to Sarah as evidently she had not heard.

Evidently they lost very little time in selecting a name and I consider it most appropriate but wonder what the appellation will likely be.

I pictured you and Alice in boudoir from your description. It seems funny that it should be used so much as a winter sitting room and hardly entered in the summer. Thanks for circular of



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ministry service. It must have been most interesting especially when you knew Mr. Johnson before. Am so glad that Woodward has given up the idea of getting over as it seems to me that his place is in London. Have not seen Major Green for some time, but must try and look him up.

Just heard of poor Archie Becher and can hardly realize it. No particulars, only a cable to Geo Hale stating that 33rd detained in Quebec on account of sickness. I do feel so sorry for Mrs Becher and poor Topsy too, little more than a child.

We too have little to complain of weather this month. Went for a walk today and had to leave coat off. Sun out and just like an April or May day in Canada.

Thanks also Mother for two short notes which also came directly to me and which I found most interesting and passed on to Wood.

Your letter was finished on Sunday (but undated), I presume 19th Dec as you mention sending parcels to Estelle and Elaine. I suppose Alice went to visit the



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wards in Detroit and hope (Jan) had a pleasant time, although I am sure you missed her very much.

I have not opened your box dearest Mother and hope you won't think that it is lack of appreciation but really we have so much still that I feel we will enjoy it more later. (I am not afraid of a repetition of the joke dear Alice played on me !!!).

I fear I am only making very slow progress with my Christmas letters but try and get several off each week. Working over here is somewhat of a pastime but this week I have been really well occupied and Campbell was away at a bombing course so I had to censoring to do as well.

Monday 3rd January Made a good start for 1st the walking day in New Year with about 40 horses on the ride at 6.30 AM. Beautiful day, like May at home with bright sun. Rode out to some nearby defences with White which he is going to map and survey for me. Wrote two of Campbell's posts as he is at camp. Attended to letters in afternoon. Had dinner with Campbell who thinks he will spend



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same of week night at the school.  
Read and retired early. McEwen O.D.

Tuesday 3rd Jan - Out on ride. Rode down  
to a Squadron of R.F.C. (to whom I  
have loaned three horses) to call on C.O.  
and give him an opportunity to offer to  
take us up, but unfortunately he was  
away and his Captain did not seem  
to trouble to put implied suggestions.  
Made some purchases in a nearby town  
and called on White on way home for  
a late lunch. Called on General Staff  
in P.M. with a map we had made.  
Had dinner alone and spent evening  
reading. Two letters from Sarah and  
one from your mother.

Wednesday 4th Jan Out on ride. Answered  
the mail and attended to correspondence.  
Had lunch alone and looked over 51  
remnants which McEwen brought  
up. Picked out three to try later and  
spent afternoon at bombing school  
with Campbell. Found it most  
interesting and watched some rifle grenades  
fired in various ways and inspected some  
French and German hand grenades.  
Called at 5th Bde to see McArdy but he  
was away on leave. Dinner alone  
and read and wrote in evening.



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Wednesday 6th Jan. Tried a new horse on the road but he was too rough. Received a note from Wood right after breakfast with wire about Estelle and was shocked. Enclosed it at once in letter I was writing Sarah. Told me Cwen, who was <sup>then</sup> helping me to send mail. Tried several other new horses in morning. A beautiful day. Rode to a nearby town to try and hear the R.A. band (72 pieces) which was playing there for entertainment of soldiers but place was too crowded for me to get in. Visited two of our posts at one of which my men are putting up a dug out as the Bosche landed a shell in the middle of manure pit in quadrangle of farm house they occupy and a number of others very close around. Went up to dinner (with Mr Cwen) at White's. He put up a very good meal and we spent a pleasant evening.

Friday 7th Jan. Passed Baldern with his regiment on the ride and thought he was looking very fit. Had a few words with him. Spent balance of day arranging for a Count of Inquiry of which I am President on the awful destruction of clothing by some infantry Regiments. Had to ride around to get some information I wanted and met



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Gram (who goes on leave tomorrow) and  
 who shocked me by telling me about poor  
 Archie Beecher. Says 33rd still in Quebec.

Walked up to Mc Cuen's billet and had  
 a chat before dinner which I had alone  
 again and read papers in evening.

Saturday 8th January. Did not go out ride  
 as had to be ready for Board at 10.00  
 AM on which I sat regarding evidence  
 until nearly 6.00 PM with a short pause  
 for lunch. Campbell back for dinner  
 and Mc Ewen down afterwards so we eat  
 and chatted and Campbell played manthogan  
 (he plays classics on it) until bed time.

Sunday 9th Jan. Have cancelled rides  
 on Sunday in future so as to make  
 day a little different for the men so did  
 not get up until 8.00. Went to church alone  
 at 11.00 AM as men on a bathing parade.  
 Called at general staff office and took  
 a long walk. On my return found Wood  
 waiting for me (a very pleasant surprise)  
 Hamard Ridout (Alice will remember him)  
 and Cameron also guests for dinner.  
 It makes a nice break in our weekly  
 routine. Rode part way home with  
 Wood, at 5.00 PM. He is again acting  
 as APM for 1st Division and on the  
 way back heard a couple of selections



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enjoyed beautifully by the Royal Artillery  
band. Earl Grafton was their first  
bandmaster and they say it compares  
favorably with the Guards bands  
and of course gunners think it is  
better. Really enjoyed it. Had tea alone  
as Campbell out and have spent  
evening writing this (10.15 PM) and will  
add a line in morning. Good night

Monday 10 Jan 1916 Another beautiful day  
for the ride. I am enclosing an  
intelligence summary by which I see  
Col Gartschke is elected Mayor by a  
small majority. It should have a good  
influence to have a man of his calibre  
at the head of things during present crisis.  
Cannot get over poor Archie Becker. Will  
send Mrs Becker and Topsy my card. That  
is all I can do. It seems so little. Will  
open your box today. Mother dear and am  
looking forward to a great treat.

Recd such a nice book from Hugh  
Brinton, one of Sarah's brothers.

Tell Father that I have annexed, I think  
his "Shop affairs" letter of 8th Dec which Wood  
brought back yesterday so will not add  
anything further. Will write Elaine  
mid-week. Ever so much love and  
thanks for all many kindnesses. Ibb