

February 25th. 1952

Dearest Amy;

Thank you so much for your letter of the 5th of February. It gave me a shock to read about your health. Dearest Amy I feel so much for you. What you must have passed through during the last months. I am sorry that you could feel that I only write for the book and then everything is finished. I did write in November but my letter probably also got lost. At first I did not believe that my letters really did not arrive but after a certain time we established here, that not only mine but also Mothers letters simply do not arrive. Up to now I know of 24 letters which never arrived at destination from September on. I made a complaint to the authorities here, but of course it is hard to trace a letter so much later.

Lately, let us say since Xmas I have not been writing at all. It takes so much time from the study and other things, and also I become completely exhausted after writing, that Mother put her foot down and said: Stop writing, wait until you are stronger. On top of it, when your letter arrived a week ago, I had fallen down the backstaircase which is a steep concrete stairway. Fortunately I did not break any bones and got by with bruises and cuts and a big shock. My forehead has a deep cut and also in my hair is one. Besides that I have cuts on my left hip, left knee and my left ankle is thick like a big potatoe and is all wounded. But by the time you receive this letter I hope to feel better. Today I am sitting up and thought of talking to you. You wonder why I write on the typewriter. Well my pen gave out and so it seems less ~~tiring~~ tiring to do this slowly.

How I can well picture Miley doing everything. He is so handy and you can be happy to have in him such a help. How does he feel now.? I only wonder who is cooking for him the various little things he needs. You did such wonderful puffed buns out of his special ~~flour~~ flour. Yes Audrey seems to be enjoying her youth to the fullest. It is lovely to think that she can have it.

How is she doing in her studies? Has she taken up a special branch? Please remember me to all of them, Lee, Mildred, Audrey and Robert. How I remember their new house which probably by now looks much fuller than in that first year. Also their garden is probably very nice in summer time.

Thank you dear Amy for sending Infinity. I went over both volumes with Mother and she really feels that it is very well translated. I am sending you the page I had asked you for, so that your copy will be complete, also am sending the first two pages which you probably do not have at all. I was thrilled with the beauty of these two books. I always thought they were hard to understand but really they are not. They give you such a breeze of far-off worlds to which we also belong, and should think more about it.

Mother said that she read All Mabel Collins books, already some of them in St. Petersburg. in the olden time and she enjoyed them very much. When I come back I hope to read also some of them.

Now another thing Amy dear, please do not pay for any Fiery World. I did pay it and let us forget about it. You had expenses sending Infinity and so let us call it quits.

The little handkerchief I am sending you is from the local artschool. A Scotch Mission started this school and it has given quite a good schooling to many a girl around here. As you see it is not much, as a matter of fact, the whole thing has run down. I understand that in the olden time they really produced some lovely things. Also their carpentry work was very skillfull. So also in this house all tables and desks and sofas are built in and it was done by them. Real furniture would not have much space in this little house and so every corner is taken up. The bedrooms have built in dressingtables and places for shoes and builtin drawers. etc.

Our Xmas was very quiet. The girls made a lovely dinner and had all candles on the table. Then after dinner before the fire place in the livingroom we exchanged little presents and we opened the box which had arrived from Svetig and Devika. The girls

had made me lovely green woolen socks and also a pair of woolen gloves. The box from Svetig and Devika was a big success. No one was forgotten and each received several little things which is special from Mysore state. You might look up on the map. They have their house and plantation of oil in Bangalore which is the capital of Mysore State. Well we all received sandal wood soap and sandal wood papercutter and Mother and the girls received silk for dresses for which Mysore is also famous. George and Ludmila also received shoes which were very much welcomes. So you see it was very homy and nice. Mothers birthday was quite another thing. Mother has been in her room ever ~~ixx~~ since the beginning of February. She is weak and has to take it very easy. Also on her birthday, although we brought her many flowers, she could not take part too much. You will ask, what is it? and all I can say. she is weak. But she ~~feels~~ feels she will get over it soon. Let us hope so, as we expect Svetig and his wife to come soon for a visit.

You must realize that we are living here a very quiet life. and so I see little of the local people, who are mostly Tibetans Butanese and Indians. The other day 2 monks came from the local Lamasery and danced in front of the house. It was very colorful. The garden is starting to be lovely. We have loads of sweetpeas and violets and freezias and cineraria and flox and snapdragons and stock and primulas and Gibraltar daisies and many other flowers of which I do not even know their names. So you see we can fill Mothers room with flowers which she likes very much. She is so fond of all the little flowers which crop up quite unexpectedly and in the queerest little places. I understand that nearby Sikkim is the paradise for botanists. There are so many species in the woods which no other country has. The former owner of this place was a botanist and so he brought all sorts of orchids etc into this garden.

Now Amy dear I would appreciate it very much if you let me know when you receive this letter. If you do not receive it within one month I know that it is lost again and I shall send you the copy of it, may be already from Switzerland. I hope K. will come soon to take me back. I really could not travel alone as I am also weak and see so often black spots before my eyes and then I just fall. That is what happened on that staircase.

How I do hope that the coming Spring and summer will give you more strength and health. It pains me to think that you will never again be so vital and strong as I have known you to be.

Please give my love to Miley and a big hug and kiss to you.