

'Belmont,' Hong Kong  
20 Nov 1889

Dearest Children,

This is the Xmas mail and by it I send you Papa's dearest love. Before this reaches you I will telegraph some money to Ma which will include 3 pounds for Rosie, 3 pounds for Gus and 2 pounds for Millie. This, Ma will pay you out of the money which the Hong Kong Bank will pay her when I telegraph it.

You see that I date this from Belmont. Auntie Etta and I slept here for the first time last night. Uncle George has not moved yet and Auntie Elise is at the peak for a change. She was ordered away by the Dr. but as she got a little better, and the weather being very fine here, she did not go.

Our old house, Millie dear, looks horrible; all the flower pots and some of the furniture has gone and every room looks as if a battle had taken place. I am both glad and sorry to leave it; glad because you are no longer there and sorry because you and I dear had some happy times there together. I cannot bear to go there now that you are gone. I fancy that I see you and hear you everywhere, and that is very sad for me.

Thanks darling for your letter which I \_\_\_\_\_ received. I will not reply to it now but by a separate letter to yourself another time.

I trust my dear ones that you will all love each other very much and be very patient with each other. Without mutual patience, people always quarrel.

Gus was so troublesome and so lazy about his music that I did not think he deserved a bicycle. But I will think about it again.

Right in front of me as I write are your likenesses.

The two little ones in white frames are at the office on the mantel piece in my private office. I was delighted to have them.

Although the weather is good I have not been at all well these past 2 days and am not well now. The least work or the least worry makes me feel dearly ill and nothing but quiet does me any good. How I wish I could get away for a long summer in England.

I saw Isa coming out of Mrs. Hanlon's the other day. Muriel Litel has fever very badly, and so has the whole family I am sorry to say. May have come over from Kowloon to this side.

This is a very nice house but I don't care a fig about it, and I feel lonely and miserable because you are all away. But I will not allow myself to be sad, but trust in God and look forward to the future.

I shall write you next mail.

God bless you all,  
Papa