

Idbury Manor. Kingham.

Boxing Day. Oxon.

Nov 25 Dec 1944
Woe Time

Dearest Gertrude,

Your kind letter with exceptionally kind enclosure came when I had just sent two or three small donations to very deserving charities, and I was pondering what I could spare for China, when your lovely and generous gift arrived. (And solved my problem!!) Thank you very much I am very grateful.

I do hope the book I sent you has reached you? To my mortification I think it was allowed to go unstamped, I do hope not? We have always such a huge mail, that the P.O. van comes specially for us. When a secretary is not on the spot when the Postman arrives, he gathers everything up in his bag never looking whether they are stamped or not. It may be yours was not. I had several packages that day, and missed seeing the man to tell him. (some stamped some not)

I do hope my fears are groundless!

I have not yet heard whether Mrs Mallory has met any of our mutual friends, I hope you will meet her, as I know she is an old friend of Mrs B. Hersey Hague.

We are all so grateful Mr Churchill is so much better, it is amazing how all these important/keep so fit when so much hate is directed against them. You are fortunate being so far from this hating thought! I am still feeling unable to paint, I am hoping to be able to conquer it soon. It is partly having no proper studio, but in China and Korea, I conquered worse difficulties than that!

I have been unearthing piles of sketches I did in Korea, every aspect of Korean life is there. If my sister's Play (or film) does not come off.

I must use them in some form. I always intended to do a book for children. These days when only modern 'stuff' is lauded to the skies, it makes me hesitate. A 'style' is absolutely necessary. M...a'ss Ideas are limitless.

Oh! to know it. I have had ^{so far} only Christmas mail from you and Judy Peacock, from Boston. It is nice that I have ^{all the rest of my American letters} that to look forward to. on the phone Jessie tells me/she has been very remiss and sent no

Christmas letters to U.S.A. We are all waiting for the invasion. I wish Germany would capitulate, but I suppose the wretched ^{people} are watched by that dreadful Gestapo, they are helpless. Jessie is doing a very charming quilt in the old style with old chintz patches, but alas! so difficult now to find even scraps. I have no doubt she will tell you The village is having a 'Social' they call it today, to help send things to the prisoners of war in Germany. I had an old doll dressed in French

peasant costume, given and made specially made for me by an old French woman over 80, when I was living in Fontainebleau. It has lain for years in my boxes.

I brought her out, and a clever village neighbour, tidied her up, washed her undies, and apron, recovered her red/umbrella, we are raffling ^{market} her, she has already brought in over 44/-!! It is amazing how apparently useless things can be made useful these days. Dolls are unbuyable, if you can find them, then the price is prohibitive.

We are so appreciative of the lovely way your American soldiers saved their sweets, cakes etc, and were able to give thousands of our poor children a lovely Christmas. They actually had ice cream!! It was beautiful.

I have a letter from my P.....r today, she tells me at one of our C.S. Depots where she is almoner the tortured peoples they are already packing clothes and food for when we enter the occupied countries! May it be soon, although one cannot ^{help} dread it.

I shall send this Air mail, hoping you will get it sooner than ordinary mail, it sometimes does not work out so!

I hope you have read the Gobi Desert by Mildred Cable. I have no doubt I wrote you of it, it is a wonderful book. As it is by an English woman and an English Publisher, it may be difficult to get in U.S.A just now?

Please forgive all my mistakes, I try so hard to be a good typist!!!

We have had such a mild Christmas, it is like Spring.

I can understand your remaining in the peace of Eugene, travelling must be a little like it is in England. Trains are generally late, and crowds are trying on a long journey. Do you remember those happy peaceful days when we travelled together to Chicago, or was ^{it} from it? I wonder if

I shall be able to come to ~~kind~~ America again. Income Tax is really funny I suppose you ^{rs} are nearly as bad as ours? We should not grumble, I suppose.

I hear that Miss Denton is still entertaining luncheon guests at Kyoto.

Can that be possible, I doubt it. Poor dear it must be terrible for her in the watches of the night, when she thinks of her country, and her disloyalty

to it, when I think of the generosity of America to Japan, I marvel. Miss

Denton alone got many thousand dollars to help the Doshisha. Not to mention

the other missions and Missionaries!! Japan's fate is terrible to contem-

plate, and all her own doing. It was nice to read of the loyal Hawaiian

Japanese, and the other ~~Nissae~~ if that is the way to spell it!

I must finish or I shall miss the mail for today (this is now the day after Boxing Day, but we are calling it so, as yesterday was a Sunday.

Much love and many grateful thanks for your lovely gift

Yours affect
Elizabeth.