

Hello my dear,

Well, winter has struck as you may have seen in the newspapers, and it is cold. Snow has fallen though not heavily in London and now we thank God that the flat is warm. We bundle up well going out & other than Nan having had a slight cold we are ~~well~~ in top form. Unfortunately heating in offices is never adequate and both our places of work aren't exactly hot boxes but one can't have everything.

Have been doing some trans-atlantic buying lately for a good friend of mine at home, Carl Dair. He is one of Canada's few typographers and has been planning for some years now to operate a small hand press at his home in Thornhill. We had thought of doing a few books. At any rate, Chiswick Press here had an old 1858 Albion Hand Press, solid iron and as good as new, for sale at £40. I wrote to Carl and just the other day received a cheque to cover it and the sending home. So when I return Carl & I should have some fun. His wife, incidentally, is a potter and Nan (as a tyro) will be able to spend some time learning the craft - a consummation of a long burning desire.

Been seeing some excellent films recently. "Greed", "October", "Potemkin" etc., some of which you probably know. The silent film continually impresses me with the heights it attained in mime, a seemingly forgotten art in this day of over-bosomed stars. Certainly we now have great technical advantages, but unfortunately it brings with it a worship of the very techniques, and sometimes, too often, forgets the

original principle, that of story telling visually.

We have gotten some excellent seats at Covent Garden to see Sadler's Wells this season, all of them on nights that Fonteyn will be dancing - and very cheap too. About a fifth of what people were paying in Toronto to see them last autumn, and under better conditions than Maple Leaf Gardens. That was a crime!

Oh, have put my £25 down payment in for Cabin 115 on the Empress of Australia on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, so can't very well back out now! As if I'd want to - one winter in England will be sufficient for us, thank you!

I can appreciate the President of Thomas Nelson's viewpoint and realize fully the relatively small amount of books produced in Canada. At one time also we produced enough newspaper pulp to allow one paper only for each community - we now sell  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the world's pulp. This in under 60 years. No, I'd rather do a book when I can at home, than prop up a dying culture here. Canada (and I say this without pretension) needs us if it wishes to survive on anything other than a "storehouse of minerals" basis. The opportunities may be slow in coming (I can supplement from Advertising Art tho' at any time) but they are worth the waiting. All of us yell bloody murder about Canada's lack of cultural activity, but we usually do so, safely in a foreign country where for centuries a pattern is established that one can follow in. If we want any we'll damn well have to do it ourselves. But here am I, who has sworn not to philosophize anymore doing just that. All I want to do is a good job of work, no more.

So glad you're solvent again. What did I tell you in the last letter, eh? You underestimate your capabilities, gal!

Below, you see a typical day at the office —  
Much love from the frozen two  
XXX Al & Nan



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