

Rebet. Jan. 9th 1880. -

My dear ones. -

I am so in debt to you all, that I scarcely know where to begin to pay off my indebtedness, - so although this must be a very poor return for your many treasured letters, - I hope you will accept it, for the present. -

My last letter was written to Mother, at the very time she was writing to me, as I see by her date, Nov. 20th - which letter I have been just re-reading.

You know William is very orderly, & he numbers each letter we receive, & keeps them in convenient sized packages. For instance - on the left corner of the envelope is written - "Mother, Recd. 5th PM, Mon. Dec. 15. 1879. Dated Nov. 20th - "55" - The number of letters received since coming to Constantinople is 87. - Twice a week, when the mail comes in at the British P.O. - a flag is raised to announce the fact. You should see the eagerness with which we fly at our letters, & devour them. -

I know you are most anxious to hear about our beautiful babies, - although Cassio has given you some information on that subject. How I continually long to have you all see them! - Yes, Lulu, I do indeed, as you

ask if I do, not a little, but a great deal, & often,
wish that you were here to take care of your
nieces, & their Mamma. - You are a splendid nurse.
But if you once began paying attention to the little
girls, you would have to say good bye to photo-
crayon. There is very little accomplished in
this house now, except for the babies. It seems
to me there would be nothing at all to do, where
there is only one baby. We have now an Arme-
nian woman in the house, but find a great deal
of trouble to understand each other, as she only
knows perhaps five or six English words, & we
only as many of her language. - She is a widow,
I believe, & has five children, at school, or some
place. The servants here can do very little, noth-
ing outside their line, so it is not as grand as
it seems to tell you that we have a man cook,
a nursery maid, and send out our washing
beside. - Mrs. Rooks is still here, too. - She is
English, & gets more annoyed at the servants than I
do, even, - & scolds them severely at times. - She
reminds Carrie & me of Mrs. Nelson, in her
funny ways. - She is about her age & size, but
~~has not her inquisitive ways~~. We are often greatly
amused at her speeches, - & have had some hearty
laughs which she joins in. She thinks Americans
work a great deal with their heads. She takes
excellent care of me & the children, & is a very

reliable, good nurse, although she is rather
extravagant in using up things. We have
become quite attached to her, & if we could af-
ford it, would keep her for six months. As
it is, she has been here nearly seven weeks,
but I expect to part with her next week
if all goes well. - She has been away for
two nights at different times, & we found
our hands pretty full. - I always take
Mary to sleep with me, & she "snuggles up" as
Mrs. R. says, on my arm, & sleeps soundly for
several hours. Our house is too draughty to let
the children sleep at night in their cradle.

Mary is a nervous child, & it comforts her to
sleep close to me. Mrs. Rooks takes Ellen, with
her in the cot bed, & I have no further care
of her. - Well, the first night Mrs. R. was
away, I tried taking both the children in
with me, one on each arm, & we managed to
sleep a few hours, poorly, that way. - William
who slept in the cot, waiting on us when
necessary. - The next day I was completely ex-
hausted. The last time Mrs. Rooks went we
did not get the children settled till three o'clock
in the morning, one or the other being on the
go continually. William took Ellen with him,
but I guess it would be hard to tell which was most

uncomfortable, -

Since commencing this letter - for I have had to write by piecemeal - we have again tried the experiment, - Mrs. Parks was here, but we both thought it would be well to see if we could do without her, before letting her go for good, so she went off & left us for the night. Mary who usually is wakeful & noisy for several hours in the evening did not become composed till between 12 & 1 o'clock, when Ellen who had slept the whole evening awoke, & did not get settled till about five o'clock in the morning. Mary then waked up before seven o'clock, hungry, - so you see what a night we had, & you can imagine how we felt the next day.

- I am finishing this on Sabbath evening. The children are seven weeks old, & give every indication of health, being perfect in every way, & very beautiful in the eyes of their fond mother. - Mrs. Parks warns me not to set my heart too much on them, but I love them more & more every day. They are growing nice & plump & Mrs. P. every day praises their pretty forms. -

I have done some sewing for them - two flannel shirts, & some other plain things. The little girls & I are waiting for a fine day to go out for their air, - There is ever so much more I want to say in answer to you

but I must say good night for now. Love to all the dear, dear ones, from Mom. Carrie's & myself. - Thank Aunt E. for Xmas Carols - Sorry as ever Ellen.

luxurious downy couches. - This divan, as is common, was only a rude board elevation about a yard wide, & six inches high, made all around the room, except at the door. There was one traveling bedstead which altho' very narrow I managed to sleep in, holding Mary close in my arms. Leanne slept on some heavy Comfortables on the divan, taking care of Ellen, & Susphine also slept on the divan. - Ellen added very much to her cold, so that she has not seemed like herself since. Her eyes have been very sore, so that she could scarcely open them in the morning, & she has also had cold in her ^{nose} ~~head~~ & throat. Mary now is much fatter than Ellen. -

Wed. Aug 25th. I have but a moment to finish as William is waiting to take this letter to the mail. We are all very busy studying Bulgarian, so have to cut our letters short. I intended writing by this same mail to father acknowledging the receipt of his second 2 Ls. which came in the hurry of our last packing at Constantinople so it was not acknowledged at the time. I got 2 gold English Ls. for it. English money is used here too, you know. - Please tell father I thank him very much. - You asked about the childrens winter dresses. We think in this cold climate we must have woolen dresses & skirts. & our babies are growing so fast now, that they are

As large as most babies of their age, perhaps
not so tall, but as fat.

Ever your own loving Ellie.

Do expect Carrie to stay another year? Can
you spare her? - If we get tired of her, we
will let you know, you needn't fear. She is
very ambitious + studious, + studies quite faith-
fully — + expects to accomplish much in
that line this year, + William + I think
she will