

Waterloo, Ont.,
Dec 31, 1917.

Dear Mother:-

This is New Year's eve and I thought I would celebrate it by writing a letter to you. There was service in St. John's Church to night and I had intended to go, but by the time I had supper and looked after my furnace I found it too late and had to forego the privilege. The service was entirely in German, but I can understand it sufficiently to take part in the liturgy and to take in the sermon. There will be a New Year's service to-morrow morning which I may attend. I went there to Church last night. The service there was in English and I was quite surprised at Pastor Boekelman's ability to handle the English. He preached a really good sermon and used splendid English. In the morning we attended Pastor Behrens's Church in Kitchener, but I found it too cold to go down there again last night. We have been having extremely cold weather for several days. It was from 10 to 15° below zero the last two or three nights and the thermometer did not rise above zero any time through the day either on Saturday or on Sunday. To-day was a little milder though it is still quite cold. Bonnie went over to Kitchener to night to attend a

violin concert by some notable or other. She
will be back next year at about 12:30 exactly.
We are having a pretty serious time at present
on account of the scarcity of coal. I got a little
over half a ton last Friday and on account of the
severity of the cold I had it nearly all burnt up to-
day. I succeeded this afternoon in securing a half
ton more, but this will only last a few days.
The coal dealer told me to-day that he could
not possibly supply all the people and that the
only thing to do would be for lots of people
to give up their houses. I was thinking to-day
that I might have to give up house-keeping
for the winter and send part of my family
away. My plan would be in case it came
to this to keep Cora and Herman with me
so that they could continue in school and
send Bonnie and the other children either to
her home or somewhere else for the winter. The
boys and I could then get a room in the
Seminary and board with the club. This is
of course, assuming that we can get coal
for the Seminary, which is also problematical.
At first I proposed to send Bonnie and all
the children to the country near Morrisburg
and board them among some of my former
parishioners, but she would not hear of that.
I don't much like the idea of sending
them to her home on account of Lyndon's

precarious condition, but she could spend
 most of the time in St. John with her sister
 Mrs. Gunn, unless some of you could take them
 for a couple months. The soft water pump and
 all the pipes in the kitchen froze up Sunday
 and we have not been able to thaw them out yet
 so that we have to go upstairs for all the water
 we use and can do no washing on account
 of the hardness of the water. We never had such
 a trial as we are having at present and there
 are thousands of people in western Ontario in
 similar or worse plight. I was down to see
 the coal dealer to day about coal for the Jan-
 uary. He promised to send up a load this
 afternoon, but didn't do it. The boys will be
 returning to-morrow evening and as that is a
 holiday no coal will be delivered and they will
 meet with a cold reception. Besides one of the
 pipes in the building froze and burst. I sent
 word to the plumbers to come up and repair
 it to day and they promised to do so, but they
 too failed to keep their promise. I telephoned the
 coal dealer Saturday about the coal and told
 him I had to know as I had to notify Mr.
 Lunny and the boys in case we didn't get any
 in, and he told me to tell them to come on
 as he had received several orders and

would be able to supply us. Now today after. I had notified Dr. Raury and when it is too late to recall the notification he puts up a different tale. It is a very serious situation and I hardly know what to do about it. The Christmas services came off last week. Carver mailed you a copy of the service they used in their Sunday School on Christmas night. We missed the hour of their service and he got in too late to say his piece but Sorman got this off very nicely, so Bonnie says who attended with them. Pastor Behrens's service was held on Wednesday night. The children did their part well and spoke their pieces fine, but he added a tableau of the nativity which I think was simply awful. They had a real baby, and a girl at that to represent the Christ Child in the manger and had impersonations of the Virgin Mary and Joseph, of the wise men from the East and of Christ blessing little children and even of the star of Bethlehem moving over the manger. All was crudely done and the wigs and costumes were ridiculous and grotesque. The star of Bethlehem also went out before it reached the manger. It was considered a great hit and was repeated on Friday night though with what success I did not hear. The whole thing to my mind bordered on the sacrilegious and was wholly out of place any where and especially in church.

The tree and decorations, however, were beautiful, the lighting being all done by electricity. They go to great elaborateness in the decoration of the Christmas trees here. I didn't get very many presents this year, but sufficient. Besides the pair of gloves that Bonnie gave me, I received a small box of fine cigars from Mr. Stine of Morristown and a book from father Dr. Long. The children have been having great times with their toys especially with the toboggan. We don't have much snow, but enough for tobogganing in the back yard. Mr. Stine came back to the Seminary from his Christmas vacation in Europe this afternoon and we took him in. He is here with me now. I am to meet Bonnie at the car at 12:20. It is now a quarter till 12 o'clock.

1918 - The bells are ringing and whistles blowing all over the twin cities announcing the birth of the new year. I send you my greetings and those of the family for a bright, prosperous, happy and blessed New Year. I pray also that it may be a year that will bring peace to the poor war-distracted upset world. I am reminded of this by the firing of guns by which the incoming of the new year is now being ushered in. With all good wishes,

I am
 Most Sincerely yours,
 Cora Lee Little.