

1895.12.27

Marion to Anita

*Friday night 11 P.M.*

*Grandpa's sitting room*

My own little girl

I will at least begin my letter to you while I am sitting up waiting for my wildly gay son, who is disporting himself at the "miscellaneous" ball of the Saunders'.

I call it miscellaneous, because all ages seem to be invited, that is from people of the Fosters' age down to Mary Saunders' friends, I believe Caroline's certainly. Ramsey went to a party at the Stickney's Christmas night, is going to one at the Borups on Tuesday and is invited to Bessie Winter's on Thursday. I am not sure, however, that he will stay until then. School begins on Friday morning, though, he says that is really for the new boys.

If Grandpa doesn't mind I shall be only too glad to have him stay.

He is awfully sweet, and looks so absurd standing in front of the Library mantle smoking a little pipe.

Grandpa said the other day to me "I smelt tobacco about Alex, do you suppose he smokes?" I said "Yes I do, in fact I know he does." Whereat he seemed horrified and indignant, but has said nothing to Ramsey. I told him I deplored it as much as he did, but it wasn't a crime, or even a misdemeanor and there were many worse things he might do than that. His report came yesterday and is very good.

The shaving brush came today and seemed to fill his soul with joy.

His presents were most prosaic simple and trifling. I gave him envelopes and two writing pads (this is one of them), handkerchiefs, two white cambric ties and an umbrella, all of which really seemed to please him immensely.



*Ramsey Furness in 1895*



*Marion Ramfess Furness in 1895  
Courtesy of Minnesota Historical  
Society*

Laura gave him a pocket nail file in a little silver case. Mrs Selmes sent him a necktie. Uncle Dawes a beautiful edition of "She Stoops to Conquer" and Aunts R. + L. a book by Archibald Forbes – "Czar and Sultan". Cousin Alex – a knife.

I fared beautifully. At last, one of my daughters, after years of the broadest hinting, has made me a bureau cover, and a beauty, too. Hemstitched all around + embroidered in pink and green. Cousin Katie made me such a pretty cake doylie done on the Delft pattern and color. Cousin Pauline gave me a beautiful piece of Cousin Katie's work, a center piece. Sophie Foster made me such a pretty little pin cushion. She said she supposed I would have need of various pretty little toilet things now that you were coming home.

Eleanor sent me a beautiful big Munchener Kalender, Mrs. Goodrich such a pretty French one, and Alice Allen, an equally pretty English one. So I can keep the run of 1896 in many languages.

Mrs Selmes sent me a very pretty silver pencil. Martha a bunch of the sweetest violets and Mr Tighe a dozen American Beauties. Grace sent me a very pretty and useful little arrangement for sewing silk.

Grandpa got towels, handkercheifs, a necktie, and three live chickens from Mr Schmidt.

I shall leave Miss Laura to tell about her own.

I sent Jim a package containing the 'devil' a card case – from Laura and a cheque for \$5.00 from me. That was t the most extensive present I gave.



*Munchener Kalender 1896*



*Anita Furness in 1895 Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

We had dinner at two o'clock on Xmas day, and Cousin Pauline was our only guest.

Sallie gave a large party for Isabella from 5 to 7, and about half past six I went to fetch Laura and Peggy, but they were all having such a good time that the party didn't break up until 8 o'clock. Mr Patterson and Mr Squires were there making things lively. Laura says she shall never give a children's party without Mr Patterson. They played stage coach, Mr Squires as the "axle" being called on to turn around oftener than anyone else. Fitzhugh Burns was also there.

After the party, we, Peggy, Laura + I went over to the Fosters where Mrs Hammond, Hattie and Ogden were, and we all had supper. The servants were out, but we cooked the oysters in the chafing dish, had cold duck and dressed celery and grape fruit. It was very jolly.

I saw Mrs Merriam for a minute on Tuesday. She told me about you, and asked if you had written of seeing Mabel since she had been at \_\_\_ something or other. The Hills sent my sleeves. I hav'nt seen any of them yet.

*Saturday evening*

Again I am waiting for Ramsey, though it is only half past nine.

Laura, however, has gone up stairs for that terrible ordeal – a bath – before she goes to bed.

Ramsey and Martha are dining with Carrie McClurg.

Today we had a saurkraut dinner Mr Sloan and Mr Bickel being our guests. Tomorrow evening Mrs Bigelow and Nellie are going to take Tea here – chicken croquettes and dressed celery. I wish you were going to be here.

Here comes the boy!

There is quite a lot of gayity on hand for next week.

Mrs Schurmeier gives a reception on Monday at which I am going to receive. Wednesday, Mrs Tom Scott, whose new house has been finished for some time gives a Breakfast from 12 till 2.

Wednesday evening the young ladies give a Leap Year German at Litt's Hall and I have been asked to receive there.

You haven't told me anything about your gymnastics, whether or not you have begun.



*Laura Furness 1895  
Courtesy Minnesota Historical  
Society*

*Sunday morning –*

I sent Ramsey down to the P.O. hoping there might be a letter from you but there was none. I dare say it will come tomorrow also Laura gloves etc – and I will write in the middle of the week and tell you.

Now I must get ready for church. Grandpa wants the whole family to go to the House of Hope today. He says he wants to see the pew full.

A thousand kisses, dear little girl and wishes that the New Year may have nothing in it but happiness for you. It will be our greatest happiness when we see you again.

Dearest love from us all

Ever your own loving

Mother