

Murray Hill Road, Malden, Mass.

New Year's Day, 1901

Dear Cronies,

I am writing to you my first letter in the New Year. We have been under terrible anxiety of late. While my brother-in-law was convalescing my niece had two bad attacks of acute indigestion and it was decided that a gall-bladder operation was necessary while she had stamina enough to endure it. So she went to the hospital, which is close by, a few days before Christmas to be "under observation." She was allowed to come home Christmas eve and stayed with us Christmas day, then went back to the hospital and was operated on the Monday morning following. The operation proved to be necessary and is said to be a complete success. Four specialists stood by and she had an experienced nurse who was an intimate friend. At present all seems to be going on well and we do not apprehend any set-backs. We have had over the holidays two visitors--friends who have been a comfort to us, but it has been an extra care for me the chief housekeeper, although we have a very efficient ^{woman} who comes every day except Sundays to help.

I can't express how much delighted I was with the exquisite plaque of Christmas roses and violets. Have you ever tried Christmas roses in your garden? They thrive in Massachusetts. And then the bounteous supply of lotus seeds! I expect to have "Crone Plantations" in all the ponds hereabout where protection can be guaranteed. I have written to the Director of Harvard Botanic Gardens to ask if he wishes any seeds for his gardens and the Arboretum. What a

wonderful discovery you made!. I embodied in my annual report to Mr. Wirth. your account of the bombardment of Birch Pond. I want your work to be appreciated at headquarters.

I hope that you will have a nice winter and be hale in health.

With joyful anticipation of the spring, resurrection,

Very truly your friend,

Elvise Butler