



Mary Lee – Mary Lee to Mrs Dawes, 25 December 1899

"Bronta"
Molesworth St N. Adl
Dec 25 1899

My Dear Mrs Dawes

You are so constantly with me – so continuously in my thought that I cannot help thinking you must be conscious of my being frequently near you – tell me if it is not so? So much of sorrow & seemingly (sic) calamity the circle of months just closed seems to have covered – that it is hard, very hard to realize how much of sorrow could be crowded into one year – only one year! Ah – well! Who can tell how near they may be or how much their presence – tho' invisible – may be helping & strengthening us to bear & to hope This has comforted me in hours of deep despondency. Let it comfort you also darling friend, "Are they not all ministering spirits" are they less so now than when held down by our poor clogged humanity – Ah! surely not – loving ministering spirits then. What must they be now when translated to a higher plane of duty to work the Father's will. Yes! dear one, I too have experienced how hard it is to say "Thy will be done" but it is done & we cannot, as He, The All Father can see the ultimate – How is the precious boy? is he like ?

I can well understand how painfully you anticipate the going home – never to be the same home again – but my sweet-friend, it is peopled with crowds of precious memories – try to live in them & in the dear anticipations – only think of the meeting where there are no more partings. It is gratifying & comforting to me to learn that you are all so much brighter & better for your change of residence, it must be a relief to get near the sea at this season, so good for the precious chicks, they will grow & thrive, it was a wise arrangement. No doubt it is very pleasant, especially with the children to be by yourselves & do as you like – it will be very helpful if you not get over-much by yourself, I know by experience, that this may be & is a mistake. Anyway dear Miss Bell is a bright hopeful & helpful spirit & the dear wee ones have constant claims on your attention, this is solacing & helpful – Look up dear-one

"There is Mercy in every place
And Mercy encouraging thought
Gives even application a grace
And reconciles man to his lot "

You say the weather is so cold you have had to have fires! We on the contrary have been almost "burnt alive" but I am thankful to say we are enjoying a splendid rain today which has revived both animal & vegetable life & recovered us greatly.

A friend who has been staying with us for some months presented me, on leaving with a book which has been much talked about, by Florence Marryatt, recently dead, "There is no



Death" I should recommend it to you — I am sure you will like it very much. Give my sincere love & ardent good wishes to our dear Miss Bell & tell her I am dead nearly from the heat of the last two days but she shall have a line in a day or two & kiss our wee ones for us. For your own sweet self, I just want to put my arms around you and not attempt to speak ---

May the new year tell us more emphatically than ever before that God is Love.

Love from your old friend

Mary Lee

P.S.

Eva sends loving messages to all — especially to the wee folks.
Lottie respectful remembrances & affectionate good wishes.