



The Minamar.

Minamar.

Santa Barbara. Cal.

Dec. 29th 1915.

What a wonderful present yours
was, Laura Mia! I arrived
Christmas Day, and I had
such a good time looking at
the lovely photographs - what a
joy they turned out so well.
I shall always prize the
look, Laura dear, it is a

beautiful record of our trip,
and I thank you sincerely.
I do hope the threatened
bronchial cold didn't develop -
it would be such hard luck
to be housed just at this
time. We have been here now just
two weeks, and on the whole
like it better than Al Mirasol
exquisite as it was there.
Minamir is much less formal,
and I can be out of doors

every minute, which I love. Mrs. Markley's
cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Sellers staying here
are delightful. You would be quite
wild over the Hungarian violinist here,
Sivalon Nachez by name, "Siv" to his
intimates. He is by way of being quite
a celebrity on the Continent and in
England, has been decorated by most
of the crowned heads. He has two
wonderful violins, one a "Strad" on
which he played divinely Christmas
night - the Andante Religieuse by
Thomane - Liebes Abend by Kreisler,
and a lot of other things, ending
with "Drink to me only with thine
eyes," and the Sweet Old Song was
deified. I have always wanted to hear
music by a Master in the intimacy
of a drawing-room. Most of us have
to hear it in a concert hall with
the garish lights and massed people
crowded! Mrs. Nachez is the artist.



Very pretty, and exceedingly
well dressed — then there
are some charming Canadians,
and a rather mild Englishman,
also musical, he looks just
like Dumas's "Sabbie" in
Trilby. There is a very nice
Mrs. Wilson and her daughter
from New York, and a bearded
lady (like myself!) from
Syracuse who plays the

Most atrocious Bridge with
the sweetest imaginable smile -
She fell to my lot to-night
and I nearly died of her!
I have been playing golf
every morning at the Country
Club, walk back to the hotel
about a mile and a quarter,
and after a bath and rest
it is lunch time. Then
in the afternoon sometimes

I walk again, but usually sit in the
sun and read. I am going to try
to stay through January. The climate
is such a marvel, and I can't help
but do good. Hope you received the
letters I wrote you from El Mirador,
not that they were important, merely
appreciation of all your kindnesses etc.
and I addressed them only to Colorado
Springs. I walked up to Siemasi
one afternoon, and had a nice
little chat with Mrs. Marley. She has
been very kind. I was delighted to
find the pictures of the Santa Barbara
Mission in the book you sent.
Curiously you sent just the view of
the old tower in the garden that I
wanted! With love and best wishes
for the New Year Affectionately
Margaret H. Tolson.