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STUDIO

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NEW YORK, 19

Laurie Dearest:

Just a brief line to express my appreciation of your appreciation! Of course it means a tremendous lot to me to have you like my babe so much. Indeed everyone has been awfully kind, and I've had lots of dear letters from people I'd almost forgotten, all so generously patting me on the back.

I put a price of \$2000.00 on it, but I intend to make three of it. So I think that is a fair price.

Mrs Kasebier has been, and I think still is, out of town, but in a day or two I shall take around the portraits of me that I have left, and show them to her. Will the others be sent back to me after the competition, of is an exhibition to succeed the contest? I want 'em back! Did I write you how impressed A.V.H. was with them?

You lost a portrait order the other day, by not having a studio in New York. A Mrs Fletcher, who had worked with you and me at the American Women's Hospitals a thousand years ago, called me up and asked how she could get hold of you to take a portrait of her sister's baby. She had remembered your photographs as being the finest she had ever seen, and was terribly disappointed when I told her you were not here to do the job. I advised her to get in touch with Mr White as next best!

Glad to hear Batey is getting a new belt that will really help her. It must be Hades to have your insides all out of kilter, and have to keep on crawling around just the same. I can't for the life of me

recall any action or words of mine that could have impressed her so favorably. I feel as though I'd hardly exchanged half a dozen words with her, though her letters this summer did make her seem like an old friend of mine as well as yours. I think she must be thinking of someone else, but I'm glad she gives me credit for it, whatever it is !

Am delighted to learn of the vanished 6 lbs. Fine! And of course you feel heaps better. Hope the good work goes on within safe limits, and that even your Mother approves your straight and narrow path of the daily diet. What things are you cutting out?

Must be off to bed. I shall probably take a pre-Christmas vacation for a week in Washington with Mother. May start the 16th, if I can get away.

By the way, your little Christmas gift is starting on it's way to you tomorrow. I had it sent to the studio, because I want you to open it there, in the window looking out on the mountains. It was made by a dear and earnest artist, a worshiper of the Gothis, and she and I have had lots of fun with it. I made what I believe they call the "cartoon", giving the drawing and approximate colors, and she worked out the rest. It seems to me she has just caught the spirit of the thing; I know it gives me a thrill to look at it, and I hope it will give you the same. When you first open it, it won't look like anything at all, but hang it in the window against the sky, and see what happens. Don't wait til Chràstmas if it arrives earlier. Enjoy it while you can.

The maker's name, by the way, is Mary F. Wesselhoef.
You'd like her. Most people think her quite mad !

Goodnight, dear -
Your Brendie