

"SCALEBY"
BOYCE, CLARKE CO.
VIRGINIA

December 29, 1966

Dearest Laura:

I am so glad to have your good note along with the very interesting book called "Quiet Triumph", which I am looking forward to reading. I remember so well when you took me to see the Collection, and I think it is splendid.

What a long time it has been since you were here! I have so much to tell you that the words come tumbling out, and I think will get to you more complete in typewritten form.

I am very distressed that you are having a bad time with gout, and that you have joined me in the crutches brigade. It slows one up, and I keep wishing for a third or fourth hand.

This is a sad Christmas for us. On December 23rd., in the morning, Tyson's wife, Cath, had a muscle spasm in her hip at about 4 A.M. Tyson got her the medicine which she took for this frequent trouble, and she went back to sleep until almost noon, but on awaking her whole leg was numb, and Tyson took her to the Winchester Hospital, and at their advice in an ambulance on to the University Hospital at Charlottesville, where they discovered a massive embolism at the base of her aorta. After a four hour operation, they hoped she might have a fifty/fifty chance of recovery,

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but alas, at seven o'clock on Christmas Eve she died. Tyson and the four children are wonderful, but they are absolutely bereft. She was such a devoted wife, and wonderful mother, and the whole County is in mourning for her. Lawrence is ten, as you know, Donald sixteen, Drew nineteen, and Tys twenty-three, now in the U.S.Navy, and scheduled to sail on his Destroyer to Vietnam the middle of January. It has been the most sudden and terrific shock to all, as you can imagine. Lucy and Kay have been a wonderful help, and seventy-five of Tyson and Cath's friends came down for the services, which were on Tuesday, the 27th. *A real tribute / Flunk at Christmas.*

I do hope that you will come East when your Book is shown in 1968, but it seems a long time off! I would love to see you before, if you can come to be with us at Scaleby. You must give my love to Betsy, I am sure she is frail, but I think you two keep each other going, so take care of yourselves, please!

Howie, who is Bettie's husband, has his PHD in Economics, and this Fall was made a member of the teaching staff of the London School of Economics. They have gone to London to live, for five years, just at present being on their four-week Christmas Holiday, and traveling in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and then Greece. You can imagine how much I miss her, especially in this family crisis.

The Kentmere family is flourishing, Kay doing very well in his brokerage business.

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Kenneth III at St. Pauls, John at Exeter,
and Tommy still here at my Powhatan School,
where Lawrence goes also.

I will show your lovely book, along
with your letter to all the children. We
are always so interested in you, and your
stimulating life.

Dorothy Allen is ill with a bad back.
Her son Lewis, has become a successful
Theatrical Producer, and I am very fond of
him and his wife.

I still get around on my crutches,
though I find the mere daily round very
exhausting, however, I am interested in lots
of things, and thankful for my dear children.
How I ache with Tyson and his, at this moment.

Much love to you, dear Laura, and
remember we are always here, and very, very
fond of you.

Happy New Year!

Devotedly

habella.
