

sugar ration.

You had better write me c/o of
Jasha for mail getting here later than
Dec 16th. R.F. D#1 - Contoocook.

If Peter is alright I will stay there a
while and breathe deeply of the North air.

I also want a Xmas picture for my
Beautiful World — also a picture
of my grand-daughter.

Robert is going to take this
with him to mail so I must
close it for now —
always like best to write you at
night when the house is still and
your ghost and I can make merry
together.

But this will be an Extra.

Give my love to Arthur. I have talked
with MELINDA — she is coming
to dinner with me next week.

Keep well darling — keep close to Joel —
and to ME.

Ever. D.

West Branch

Dec 6, 1945

Thursday

Dearest # I MAN.

I was sitting here at the round table
with Monday at my feet, dictating a letter to
you to our friend Robert, when John came
back from the Mail-Box with your second
letter! How nice to feel that close — just
a few days away! So good to hear all
about Estrada — she is England's finest!
yes, the tales that could be told of courage
and humor — we have missed
something here. It makes one ashamed now,
to see our politicians and leaders jockeying
for position in the race for financial head-
— shameful!

You and I both love the same kind of
people — instructively. Perhaps that is why
we were drawn to each other — that, and
other reasons.

I love England's ideal — and its people
and its way of life — better than the American.

3.

I try to return it to her by helping her get started on her own. I have backed her to her first order of supplies and am helping her with some Xmas orders. She is going to be a good photographer - but even now she is a good asset to me. Your Christmas gift has entailed a great deal of work - I hope - I hope it pleases your Highness! I will not send it abroad, just for fear it miscarries and all my love and labor is lost. I will however send you a copy of two end. pages which may amuse you, and I think won't spoil the surprise.

I go in to-morrow to NETTIE'S for more Xmas shopping. N.Y. is a bed-lam:- plus the crime wave, makes it a good place to avoid. The W.B. is heavenly sweet, with the winter woods so inviting and the tasks so homely and rewarding. Next week I make Xmas cookies - what a happy task. I have been hoarding my meager

2.

There is another nor'easter storm outside with the glass falling by the hour - sleet and wind - a good day to be by the fire. Are you warm enough? Do you get enough to eat? Did you wear your fancy "Parker" on board? How many questions I could ask you if I let myself. I imagine my John sleeping 'til 9!!

I asked Gos to send you the market reports which he promised to do. Robert shows initiative, intelligence, thoughtfulness, and willingness to serve - I can't tell you how helpful he has been.

Oh John my darling how I will love to "pop over" with you when the time comes. Goldthwaite thinks you should go to Judge next - I hope I can go with you. He may be out this week-end - Virginia is not home yet. He didn't mention Jack but I had the feeling that he wanted to talk about it to me.

I will enclose a couple of the little snippets of NETTIE - just proofs. Oh so much to do - do - do. Lucia is a rare and precious aide.