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16 HIGHLAND STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASS.

RECEIVED
OCT 16 1958
J.V.N.D.

Dear Uncle John

You must be thinking rather ill of your ingrate niece, who takes into the middle of October to acknowledge two books she received in September! Please don't, but believe me instead when I tell you that I love them both - not that Mother and Child is new to me, but that Nell's inscription moved me deeply, and I'll particularly treasure this copy- and the book about the Spicers is fine. It manages to create through these collected poems and delightful "appreciations" a vivid picture of two most living people. Thank you for introducing me, but particularly for your part in having made it possible for them to have been captured in the pages of a book.

I so enjoyed our few days together at P int O Woods this summer. Somehow I felt it was the first time you and I had ever really become acquainted, and I'm only sorry that there are these awkward miles between us now. But maybe something will bring you up this way this winter - and I'll certainly be coming down sometime to New York - though always my visits there are breathlessly on the wing. Maybe I'll just come and see you -once in a while I feel the need of the refreshment of an adventurous spirit like yours. No, that's not quite it - what is exciting is the way you put that spirit to work.

Things here are on the whole very well. Steve seems to have settled in nicely at Exeter, and

his letters are quite bubbling with enthusiasm now. He is like a child in a candy store with all the extra-curricular activities offered - you'll be amused to hear what he wants to do:

mountain climbing club -(rock climbing)
greek club (they put on Greek plays)
glee club
orchestra
Inquirers club (discussions of comparative religion)
soccer team
literary magazine

I'm afraid he takes after me - and even possibly you?

Jennie had a fascinating time in Pakistan, and seemed to get a tremendous amount out of her most unusual opportunity. Her family were lovely to her and she came back with a real appreciation of Muslim traditions, customs and art and a real desire to go back. She seemed somehow to have really been in the country, not just an outsider looking at it, and I gather was considered a pretty fine little ambassadress.

Please give my love to Nell, and to Nett, and have yourself a pleasant interesting winter.

love

Ray