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December 10, 1954

Mrs. George Worthington King  
Northampton, Massachusetts

Dear Kay:

Looking over some old letters, I find one that is dated February 20th, 1952 to you and that brings up something I should have thought of before.

Family News: I think the most important one is that we lost our middle daughter, Betty Howe, at the end of January. She died at Hopkinton and leaves two lovely children, nine and seven, and a husband who is a fine man. He has had a very fine woman taking care of them until recently when she had to leave. Now he has a country girl who takes a great sense of responsibility and gets along fairly well. I have felt, however, that, if he could find some one who would take it on as a job for the good of the Lord as well as a chance for internal development, etc., it might be possible to get something that would be useful all around. If there were a college woman, for instance, that had one or two children of her own, the place is big enough to hold them all. At present he travels a great deal but hopes to get away from that. He is in the insurance business.

I called up one college bureau and found that the one in charge of it was the daughter of an old friend and she suggested a woman up in Maine who had worked in schools and might be interested in doing it. It occurred to me that, if you should contact the employment end of Smith, they might know of some woman who graduated within the last twenty years who might like living in a small New Hampshire home where things were extremely pleasant but simple and undertaking the job of looking after the two youngsters. They are most dear children and have taken their mother's passing in an amazingly fine way.

Now I will get into the second part of my story. I do not know whether you remember the first book that Nell got up but, within the last six or eight years, she had been working on another which Bet's death focused on finishing and it has been finished and brought out by Harpers last September.

It was impossible to bring it out as a money-making proposition so the Dorr Foundation, of which I am Chairman, undertook the responsibility for it and she presented it to them. They met the difference between possible



returns and total cost and so are obviously greatly interested in its marketing. In the expectation that the first edition of 1500 copies of Mother and Child might be used up before Christmas and therefore it was important to have additional ones, I personally took the responsibility for getting out a second edition--we have all the pictures ready but have not had it bound and the printing done yet.

Even this second edition as laid out with the 40% going to the retailer and another percentage to Harpers did not make it a profitable job even if every one were sold. Therefore, Harpers told us that, if The Dorr Foundation wished to sell any of them directly, they would waive their interest in it and of course we would get the retail 40% as well.

I am sending you herewith some blurbs describing the book and will take pleasure in sending you a copy of the book as soon as Nell can write her autograph in it for you. I am also sending articles about Nell in connection with the book that have come out in Connecticut and New Jersey.

It has occurred to me that there might be some place at Smith College where this book can be placed for marketing. If so, and it could be done directly with the Foundation, we could undertake to ship what were needed directly there and handle the business end of it. As you will note in what I have typed on the blurb enclosed, we say it can be bought from any book store or through Dorr Foundation, 99 Park Avenue. I do not know whether you would find any group interested in marketing it for some compensation but not on the normal basis.

Because her young grandson of nine asked her to explain the book to him which she did and then he remarked "Dornie, I wish that you could explain this book to everybody in the world, then I know everybody would buy a copy of it", we decided to get slides made so that, if Nell were invited to do so, she could discuss the book before any group of women's clubs or what would you. She is a wonderful talker and I know that anyone listening to her for half an hour or better would get a remarkable treat out of it. I am therefore hoping, as soon as we get the print and the talk put together, to have her get opportunities to do this. This first few we will do very casually and we have no thought at this time of asking any compensation for it other than the chance to tell about the book.

Please think all this over and write me after you have had a chance to digest everything.



White Line: Another thing that the Dorr Foundation has been interested in is explained by the documents I am enclosing herewith. It is a thing of very practical value and I think we are well justified in putting our efforts on it until it gets the publicity it deserves.

General: The Dorr Company as of January 1st will merge with a company from the Pacific Coast called Oliver United Filters for whom we have been agents in Europe for 20 years. The headquarters for the combined company will be at our headquarters and my nephew, Del Hitch, will be President of the combination so that it will be run mostly from this end. It has some advantages, not the least of which is that I shall have more time than I have had before and this means that I hope to have a chance to pick up some of my dear friends like you.

Well joins me in best wishes to you both,

Sincerely,

John V. N. Dorr

JVND/vm

encs. - *Brochure, County Fair and New Brunswick Town Crier*