

Have you been looking for pictures. We have not sent them yet. We have not had printed all we want to send, and we shall wait a little while. When we make up the lot, which will come by slow mail, we wish to include in it one of Betty. The reason we have not sent one of Betty before is that we never can seem to get a good one. Perhaps the one we took on Sunday afternoon will turn out well.

Needless to say we did not care to hear much news like that which has come in your last letters. I have taken our map of Maine and marked on it what facts I know about the disaster, which is the very word the Portuguese would use, and shall have a look at it now and then during the years we are away. How terrible that there are people who cannot control themselves but must set fires when conditions are the best for fires. A terrible affliction, and worse for the countless sufferers of the result of the affliction because they are more than unaware - supposing the pyromaniac does not know what he doing quite but may have some inkling - of what is going to happen. By the way, that latter is involved. What I mean to say is that the pyromaniac is afflicted with a disease which must be terrible for the individual who suffers whenever he thinks of fire and wants to build one. But those who are ignorant of the pyromaniac's disease and activity go through the agony of surprise and suspense and the horrors of the fire. I glad you did not have the big fire in Strong. I sorry that so much of Dr. Clarence L. Little's work has been wiped out. It was a tremendous work and most important in these days when cancer takes such a toll of lives. What a lot of destruction down in his section of the state. The fire must have swept a wide area there. I know something about the roads and stretches from town to town. The research laboratory was eight or ten miles from Bar Harbor as I remember it. Of course it is also terrible that so many people lost homes and other possessions which were priceless to them. We wonder about Ralph and Edna Hayward and others whom we know in Machias. By now you will have rain enough I hope to put you somewhat more at ease.

We are aware here of approaching rainy weather, winter weather. Today is warm, but has been cloudy with threatening rain all afternoon. The sun shone for several hours this morning, but did not shine at all during the afternoon. We shall expect to see many cloudy days from now on. Indeed we expect to see several days at a time when the sun does not shine and the rain does fall. We ought to have nice stout umbrellas to take with us, but don't have and as yet are without rubbers for the adults. We do have raincoats, but are told that even when the weather is occasionally fair that rain clouds suddenly appear and rain falls for a while. I guess that this is also good preparation for Africa.

Well, we cannot say how long we'll be here. This week we will know whether the police will extend our visas or not. If they permit us to stay longer, we hope that it will be for a year. That is, we hope that we can stay long enough to go part way through the summer with our studies and then go down the coast to our life work. We need to know the Portuguese language as thoroughly as possible, and a year is not too long a time in which to learn we are informed. We account with this knowledge the other, which is this, that we shall be going from here to learn another new language. What confusion will exist in our minds if we do not have good grounding in this language before we begin the study of Umbundu. The boys will learn readily I think, just as Tommy is picking up Portuguese now and speaking it with the maids and our teachers, those he has seen for any length of time. In another year or two the boys will be telling us many things we don't know probably, although we may be able to get it out of them by dint of persuasion.

Tommy is growing up so fast now. He is talking a blue streak, mimicing the other children as well as Kenny, and then mimicing the older folks too. What a