

Rua Maestro António Taborda, 6  
Lisboa, Portugal  
3 de Junho de 1948

Dearest Mother,

What a lot of things are happening these days. We have read of all sorts of things going on in the world around us, Palestine fighting, political battles in the States, bickering in the cold war between Russia and the United States, revolution in Colombia, Communistic advances in China, hopefulness of Europeans about to be aided by the Marshall plan, or ERP (European Recovery Program). We read now in the Portuguese papers about the visit of the cardeal patriarca of Lisbon, Cardinal Cerejeira (In Portuguese the name is Cerejeira. Translated it means "cherry tree.") in Spain, his blessing of the fishing fleet going to the Grand Banks, the coming of the U.S. Navy ships to Lisbon and to the Mediterranean on the summer cruise, which will be this year a great show of naval strength in a demonstration of the power of the USN, the arrival of a new ambassador in Lisbon, the Communism of Henry A. Wallace, and other things of lesser importance to you, but interesting. We also try to keep posted on happenings in the church at home, in as many phases as we can read about.

Besides this we try to keep up with all the home town news, which means the news of Boothbay Harbor and Strong, and also Pelham. What a nice way the Collis-Kimball family has of getting the youngsters of whom we were so fond to write a big letter full of news about the youngsters and the events in Pelham. We have kept up to date on goings-on in that town. We still think fondly of Pelham, and shall continue to think fondly of it. We have many fond memories of the place and its folk who were so good to us. I'm afraid we have not kept up our letter writing to them as we should have done.

You remember the Collis-Kimball family of course. We have learned that in March Muriel, now married to a rector of the Episcopal church, and living in Silver Spring, Maryland, gave birth to a baby girl. Two of the young people who were in our young people's groups in Pelham are now married. One of them has a baby. Another couple is going to have. Several others have married and very likely will have children. I cannot imagine things being otherwise with them. I sort of get homesick when I think about them, and should like to drop in and pay every one of them a visit. We hear word from Sophie Boyden, the little girl who used to help take care of Tommy and Kenny. Her father died just recently. That is, Olive Boyden's father.

Well, I seem to be telling about others and not about what we are doing, and how we are. All back to normal, or almost so again, I guess. Tommy is not going to school now; it was a bit too much for him. Kenny decided day before yesterday that he was not going until he could go by himself; so he hasn't been since. But we think he will go back. If not, we feel the money was well-spent. At least, Betty thinks so, and I agree. For Tommy has learned to do his duty in the hopper and not in his pants, and he tells us every time now when he has to do tinkle. That is worth the ten dollars it cost for Thomas. Kenneth has seemed to grow up quite a bit in the process. And he understands a lot of Portuguese. His pronunciation is exact. Of course he won't hang onto the language long when we reach Africa, for he, like we, will be busy learning the native tongue.

Both boys have had colds. Kenny is almost wholly recovered after another bout with ear infection, this time in one ear only, for which we are grateful to our Father who watches over us in our need. Tommy has bad tonsils now, but had them when we left America, and we expect he will be all right until we get to Africa.