

309 Markham St,
Toronto, Canada,
March 20th, 1917.

Dear George
Yesterday we received
your two letters of Feb. 24th and
25th and they weren't very welcome
as they brought definite news
that you were really in France
and in the midst of things. However
it's bad to come and we sincerely
hope that you will be among the
lucky ones who come through without
hurt or at least that any wound
may be severe enough only to send
you to "blighty" for a while.

Mar. 21st - Evening.

Got started last night but
broke off middle leg. The mail
closes tomorrow at 9 P.M. so I'll
have lots of time. Not sure I'll need
it for as you so often say it
seems hard to find things that are
interesting to write about. Usually
I chatter away saying little of

anything and then suddenly
leaving off. And after all I see you
there are quite everyday things that
might interest you and I never think
of them. Everything here goes on in
much the same way as when you
were here and after you are back
for a while you will find it hard
to realize that you have been away.

Dot says she is feeling better these
days and she certainly is careful
^{as to} ~~of~~ what she eats. We can't induce
her to take any nice beef pies, or the
good "go to" - she is a regular
heroiner. Today was rather busy at
the office and she had quite a lot of
letters to write which she did in
her usual capable manner. She
does splendid work and is a great
help to me besides saving me a lot
of worry. She came her riding all
right and unless she gets tired of us
and leaves she will likely get more
before very long.

This letter will be interesting I
know, if I don't write another word
for I am - loving three crops we
took at Parkhill and wonderful to

relate: Fred took quite a decent picture. The two taken on the balcony are very good and I am also sending the flashlight although the expressions are rather odd. We sat on the piano bench - I Mary pressed the button. We tried a flashlight of all four in the big mirror but it was such a silly one that we had only one print. I sent it to Fred with the others and told him to send it on to you so that you could have a laugh. You can see the little china figure which stands on the base of the mirror.

The papers say that it is cold and snowing in "every France" whereas we are having fine spring weather. Practically all the snow has gone - a bright warm sun fills the air with its real spring feeling. If it continues for a week or so longer the flowers will be stirring and shaking of getting their eyes open. It is the most beautiful and interesting in the new spring.

I can't delay much longer
there and you will be surprised
as far as hair is concerned but
I fear it will be little of
beauty in your surroundings
if the accounts of German
destination are correct. Their
things are under way now and
it is to be hoped that the Germans
will not be able to stop
permanently until the allies
leave them - except those who
filled as they go. It is a great
retreat but there do not seem
to be as yet any signs of
great disorder or large captures.
Perhaps that will be delayed when
the retreat is not at all
voluntary. The Germans term it
some masterpiece - "Voluntary
elasticity" - they had better be
careful they don't stretch too
far or the "elastic" will break.
Perhaps it will stretch on both west
and east and meet at Berlin.

The sweets from tomorrow
morning 20th will be going to
Parkhill for Easter. Mary and
I will likely stay at home
as we have been gambling enough
and spending our money. He just
broke most of the wire in
spite of my bigger cheque -
we are trying to pay all we
can on the house. The folks
in Parkhill will be glad to
see us - lots more to
Fred and Mary and she is
sure to have a good time.
There are some of the
Parkhill girls in Toronto now
that Tot is often out with
some of them. Sometimes
she goes to the theatre with
us - other times she won't
spend her money! We make
her go often enough.

things in the city are being
but quiet and no recruiting is
not at all brisk. The Government
has announced a scheme of
raising the militia regiments
to full strength by voluntary
enlistment but I do not know
what this will accomplish
and if more men are needed
in the near future, enforced
enlistment is the only means
by which they can be secured.
If the new Russian Government
can get things into a better
shape and do their part in the
east no more men may be
needed - rather lots of food
to supply Europe after the war
is over, May that be soon!
The days go drifting by, months
follow and even years and
the war continues, kickers

and it is possible that his govt will
be high but it is so - - - - -
probable unless a sudden
big smash comes. It would
be great if the ~~German~~ people
would take a lesson from
A. and ~~forget~~ the govt
the papers every day seem to
indicate the ~~German~~
... but it is a stable
which is good news as the
Govt. can devote its attention
to the war.

Are you in the big chase?
Don't let the devils stop when
they want to but ~~put~~ them
into the Rhine and let them
drown. It looks as if open
fighting were beginning and
if so our generals will have
a chance to show what they
have learned.

Yesterday, ~~we~~ ~~was~~ ~~all~~ ~~and~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~day~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~
many a family but we must
trust in them. They will
all things and I hope that they
will see the ~~truth~~ and you ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~the~~
do ~~can~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~it~~ ~~who~~ ~~are~~
for you so do ~~it~~ ~~and~~ ~~let~~ ~~you~~
do work in the future for
the country and the civilization
for which you ~~are~~ ~~now~~
~~opening~~ ~~your~~ ~~eyes~~ ~~and~~ ~~may~~ ~~you~~

be happy and well and
may we hope to see you well
too - lots of food, warm clothing,
a place to sleep and a
little fun when possible.

Once more I'll say

"Love and good luck"

Your loving brother,

Harry.