

Fresno,

January 2nd, 1939

% Thomas Cook and Sons,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Maud,

I am sorry to hear that you have not been well - but do feel that West Wing with its hopeless worries is just too much for you and that you were very foolish to take it on again - You would have been much better off to have remained here in this sunny climate. You may be bored up at Alice's - but at least you escaped the worries that seem to arrive nowhere at West Wing. You told me you would not stay on hopelessly. You can sell the furniture that remains in the house for enough to get you over here - with very little more help.

I don't like to write you what I am going to when I know you are having difficulties, but I had a letter from Glenn Martin enclosing a copy of a cable you sent him on the 27th of December. I am appalled that you would presume to send him such a cable. I told you a very long time ago that you must never, under any condition, appeal to him for any help - that it was useless to appeal to him. I can't understand your sending him such a cable and representing to him that I had left a personal overdraft there, when you know it was made with your knowledge to secure money to send to you and to pay the property obligations that had to be met to save the place for you at all. It was not made in any way for my personal use! And it was made under your power of attorney. I gave your interests many years of my life and I think it is a poor return that you do this. You know I value Glenn's friendship very highly and this has made him very cross - He says he does not ~~intend~~ intend to answer the cable. You must remember that he is a rich man with many many demands upon him all the time and the majority of people are just trying to chisel money out of him for their own ends, and he is naturally always on the defensive against such efforts. He one of the kindest, most honourable men I know and I value his good opinion more than that of anyone else in this world and I resent your cable very much.

Without Prejudice.

I can't understand your mentioning such a thing as "Verna's overdraft" - and especially even dragging it in in any way. Before I left London I went to the Bank Manager, as you know, and arranged that it could stand over this coming year and left enough there to take care of the interest for the year. Then I cabled you that if you were unable to meet it during the coming year I would take care of it at the end of a year - and I expect to have certain funds at my disposal during this year, and I felt I would gladly make any personal sacrifice to help you. Well, I think you appreciate now how I feel about all this so I won't go on any further about it.

I am truly sorry and worried about you, but I think you will never have any happiness with that property when it is such an anxiety to you, and I really can't feel that you will be able to see it in the spring when there is so much war scare about. Glenn is strongly of the opinion that England and Germany will go to war in the spring. And many authorities here are of the same opinion. I haven't regretted at all that I came home - it is all so sensible and sane over here. You may laugh at that but I do think it is fundamentally.

We had as nice a Christmas as we could under the circumstances. Auntie Grace and Frances were here for a couple of weeks - but oh, I missed my Mother so much - I could hardly get through Xmas without her! We trimmed a tiny little Xmas tree and put it on her own little garden spot. It is very pretty out there. Today we went out and took the tree away and left a corsage of gardenias that had been given to me last night. It is very near, only about fifteen minutes drive away from here and only about five minutes by car from Dorothy's and she runs out there with flowers ever few days. She is a dear youngster - still very much a baby even though married - Her little house is a doll's house - very much newly married - Her husband is a dear and just the right one for her. Maurine and her family are driving up in two weeks and then I will probably go back with them. Vera would like me to stay on with them here, but I am going to try and get going on my own - Her house is sweet though - she has a nice large drawing room, and has had a wall removed between that and the dining room so it makes a nice large L shaped room - from the dining room is a nice glass sun room - Jesse has his desk, a divan, some easy chairs and the radio out there. The kitchen is not large but most convenient with all the labour saving devices - frigidair, electric egg beaters, etc, and a very modern sink - there is also a sweet breakfast room, large enough to dine very comfortably in - Then there is along hall from which open four bedrooms and a bathroom - the house has

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gas

gas floor furnaces and is warm and cozy all over, though it seems quite warm to me all the time outdoors after London winters. It is hard to realize this sunny warm day that you are probably wrapped in a dull cold damp day there. They have a double garage, and back of that a laundry room, complete with two laundry trays, electric wabher and ironer and a gas cooker for canning fruit in the summer - and beyond that a nice sotrage room - so you see wheil it is a bungalor it is very spread out and roomy. They all seem very happy and busy George is in his last year of college - had a girl and a new motor car so his joy is quite complete . Dorthy lives not far away and is here about half the time. She has a nice roadster. Then Vera and Jesse share a car. I had a driving lesson this monring - it is quite as easy as ever - I only need to become accustomed to the traffic again - I thought I would take the d4iver's examination here this week so I can drive when I get down to Los Angeles, as there are several borrowa ble cars down there if I have my license.

Vera badgered me into speaking at the Parlour Lecture Club here just before Xmas (Fresno's leading club) It appeared to be quite a success - I practised before with voice culture so my voice would carry and wrote the lecture out several times and then destroyed it and spoke only from a few notes on a card. It lead to my bein' asked to speak at the Scri bbler's club and they have asked me to speak agaln to them. Vera thinks it might be a good thing for me to go in for. "Nⁱce work if you get enough of it.

You asked about the glass house and my permitting Lee Bebbs to take it down. I didn't even know it was down until he had completely wrecked it. The Crown have raised no objection to it and have even had surveying ot the land done there since, so I think you have nothing to fear if you don't bring it up where they must notice it. I built the other little green house to take it's place. It could be moved up there but it is much too shady in the old position to grow anything. Whoever told you that I allowed Bebbs to put a sign on the outside gate misinformed you. He tried to and I made him remove it. He then wrote to the Crown, unbeknown to me, and they refused him permission and sent a copy of his letter to me. They were very nice about it. I finally let him put merely his name up on the little wodden gate at the side of the gardener's lodge that leads around behind it. This last summer the gardener built on that little lean too and used up scraps that were around - that is all there is to that. You are worrying needlessly and going back over ancient

history. Anyhow I can't see that any of it matters at all if you are unable to keep on there. If you should leave West Wing I wish you would have someone level the little graves on the mound where the animals are buried. I think Dr. Milner would do it for you if you asked him. If it is level no one will disturb them, but if they are plainly little graves they might dig them up.

In that box that I left up in the upper storeroom, next the college - are my notes taken when I studied furniture at the Victoria and Albert that winter - some are typed out and some are only in shorthand notes in shorthand notebooks - I would like you to keep those for me and send them over the first time someone is coming over who will bring them. I want to arrange a talk on furniture and while I am doing quite a little research work here at the library those notes are more personal to me, and will bring back many things to me.

I am going this week to Stockton to visit an old school friend who is married and lives there - she came right down to visit me the day after she heard I was here. She is about the dearest school friend I have. It is nice to be back with all the old friends again - one of my friends had a tea party for me to meet my old sorority friends again - they are much more settled down than I am - One of them said - "We have just settled down and brought 'em up." Fresno looks very nice just now - there are so many pretty homes here built since I left - Vera's house is just a block from the college - They bought it on account of the children as there is a nice high school near and the college. Now they have only George at home and he will graduate this June, and most likely get married then, or shortly afterwards.

Sammy is very good - we go for a walk every day in the college grounds - there is a large playground there all fenced in and Sammy takes his romps there quite safely. He and Vera's cat, David, have arrived at the point of an armed truce - they ignore each other now.

Tell Mrs. Bristow I intend writing to her, but time just slips away these days - I thought yesterday I would write several letters, then a friend asked me to go for a drive with them into the country and we got home about half past four and found Vera and some friends of her's waiting for me to return and start some New Year calls - we made the round - egg noggs and etc at each house we called - and then on to a turkey dinner with a friend - We had dined the night before with ~~xxxxxx~~ with other friends of Vera's - turkey dinner again - and a rich widower, whom they had hatched a little plot about I am sure - He is very nice, but too old, and besides I'm not marrying anyone because they have money - It has even been

pointed out to ~~m3ax~~ me that he has a gorgeous big garden that would be lovely for Sammy! I am learning to play bridge - everyone here plays - it is rather fun if you don't get too serious about it.

I didn't try to send any Xmas presents because I knew you would just have to pay duty. I did enclose a hankie to Mrs. Bristo. When I get things furnished about I want to send her something really nice - she was so very kind to me and so helpful and I know she is with you. I put a return on her card to her daughter's business address in case you had sold or gone away from West Wing - I haven't got her home address.

Well, I wish I could wave a fairy wand and get you out of all your difficulties, but I can't - but you must try to be sensible - even though it is hard - I am having enough difficulties of my own at present - trying to get things unravelled out here. Did you know that some of the land Mama had has oil wells on it now - and so far we don't know exactly how it was transferred from her - it was not her intention to dispose of it. I may have to spend some time in San Francisco for while ~~getting~~ going into some things there - so for the moment you had better address me in care of "Thomas Cook and Sons," Los Angeles for they will forward it to wherever I am, for I am undecided at present just where I will be. I am going to Los Angeles for a week or so in about two weeks time and then probably on to San Francisco, but keep in touch with me at Thomas Cooks, Los Angeles.

I hope this new year will open up happiness and security for you, Maud - Have you thought of doing any writing about your life - or any newspaper articles - perhaps you could get some interesting articles together that the papers might buy of you.

Well don't strain every ~~xxxx~~ nerve to stay there and worry - I think the war cloud is too large .

Love,
Elina

P.S. Here is a story for Alice.

A lady was entertaining at a large party when she discovered she was out of toilet paper, just before her guest arrived - She rushed in and cut up some paper dress patterns and put them on the nail by the W.C. A man guest emerging from the bathroom, met a friend and laughed outright - "Well, I've seen blue, pink and green toilet paper, almost any colour but this is the first time I have seen any marked front and back."