

Letter to Miss Katherine Stevenson, 30 Great Victoria Street, Belfast

Thorndale
Temple Road
Rathmines

Dec 26th

Dear Aunt K,

It is a very long time indeed since I have written to you, and indeed I don't think I've done so since I went to school a year and a half ago. I was very sorry indeed to hear that you are not well, but I hope you are getting better. Thanks so much for the money you send me and the rest of us. We schoolboys were sorely in need of it, as we are never very wealthy at the end of a halfyear, and Xmas had come very near. It was very useful to us indeed. Christmas has come and gone very quietly, but I think we mostly liked it better than if there had been a great party of people we hardly knew and didn't care about. Eatables formed a good part of the Xmas gifts, and it's a mercy if there are not at least three of us in the doctor's hands by the end of the week. Arthur and I have managed to get 6 prizes between us this halfyear in different subjects. We had a great piece of excitement in the school this halfyear towards the end of it; one of the boys had behaved very badly all through the half year, and at last was detected in taking the masters' tobacco to smoke; it was evening and he was shut up in a room by himself till the Warden should decide whether to expel him or not; the dorm was about 40 foot from the ground, the door was locked & the windows bolted; but the boy was desperate and determined to escape at all costs. After everyone was in bed he got up, knocked the frame out the window with the poker, tied his sheets together, tore up his rug and tied that on too, and let himself down from the window in his nightshirt. He had to drop about twelve feet, but he got down safe, went to dormitory & got his clothes, and ran away. The Warden would not have any more to do with him ...
Etc

Lucius H. Gwynn