

Fri. November 9, '49, Bethesda

Dear Father,

This special communication is necessary because Laurenceohn has just become the author of two whole words on the blackboard, and celebrations are going on all around in honor of the event. It is, of course, also Armistice Day, but at 208 Glenwood there is no doubt as to what the shouting is all about. I told him how you spelled the word "dog", and he up and wrote it, in neat letters. This morning, again, he asked me how you spell the word "cat", and proceeded to write it in large thin letters. I remarked that it was a large, undernourished Tom cat, apparently, so he made me another, small cat to be the baby of the big daddy cat. Then at breakfast I proudly asked him to tell his daddy what he wrote, and he replied unerringly, "I wrote the word cat, C\* A- T. That's how you spell it, you see." He also remembered the spelling of dog, so there is no longer the slightest doubt in the world that your grandson is a Remarkable Child.

We are having one of our periodic social whirls, which always tend to bunch up instead of spreading out evenly. On Wednesday we were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Gerberich. Mr. Gerberich was in the Foreign Service for many years, but had to get a job at the Department when his wife developed heart trouble. He is now the Colombian Desk Officer. He has a most wonderful collection of historical, biblical, and language books, part of which I saw. They made my mouth water. Not all of them would I like to sit down and read straight through, but many, many appealed to me as the kind of book I'd like to take a nice long look at on a winter's evening. Eusebius, Bede, Tacitus, Augustine, the Saxon Chronicle, the Gothic Bible, the Gospels of Wycliffe and Tyndale, and many other books I've always merely read about, or seen quotations from, Mr. Gerberich used to teach Gothic and Old High German, Middle English, and the like. Fascinating subjects! We were overly well fed by Mrs. Gerberich, and listened to a Mr. Lockett tell of his experiences as Chief of Mission in Manila until the new Ambassador came. He has just returned from there, via England.

Last night we went to dinner at the home of Mr. Willard Barber, who is Deputy Assistant Sec'y. of State for Latin America, under Mr. Ed Miller. He and his wife are distinguished ~~xxxxx~~ by serving no hard liquor whatsoever, only sherry and wine before dinner. They are both very pleasant people. He also used to be in the Academic line, teaching American Government and the like. We enjoyed the conversation very much, and really had a pleasant evening. Tonight we are going over to our Caracas freindsthe Skardvedt's for dinner, along with the Manns and the Kuhlmanns, also formerly of Caracas. We had the Manns over here to dinner last Friday night, by the way, and had a really pleasant time of it, if it was our party.

Re the diamond ring which I planned to send to Annie, William pointed out very logically that it wasn't mine to send, but his. He came to the conclusion that Annie has enough rings from her mother and grandmother, and that we should keep this one, but give it to little Barbara in case we have no daughter of her own. So that is how it is to be. I suggested William might have it made up into a diamond stickpin for his tie, but he informed me they aren't being worn this season. What a pity!

Love