


Betty had prepared a cake with four candles, sandwiches, jello ( a Holland gelatine which is quite like Jello ), cocoa. The table was set for children and at each place was a favor and a colorful hat. The hats Betty and Ki Henderson made last week on Wednesday night. The radio, which we can use here since the current is 110 volts alternating, was decorated with greens in a little cork bucket, and two flags, one American, the other Portuguese. One of the tables in the room had a bouquet of brightly colored flowers in a red pitcher. Sorry I can't now tell the species of flowers. Here let me backtrack to say that all this took place in one long room which serves as dining room and living room. An archway divides the room into two parts, not quite as well as the house in Strong is divided, but we can distinguish one place from the other by a little stretch of imagination. The radio sets on one of the dish closets. Well, let me draw a diagram. Hope you can follow it. If you can't find your way around, let me know and I'll draw another sketch. But I think you can see how the kiddies were seated. They were around the big table for about an hour, wearing their green and yellow paper caps and eating sandwiches, drinking cocoa and shouting. I'm sure some of them will remember something about this part of their Lisbon stay. Kenneth acted as nicely as he has ever acted in his entire four years. He was quite like a grown-up.

Outside the house we did not do any decorating, but I had gotten several days before the party two boards on which the boys might jump up and down when the boards were placed with their ends resting on two supports about ten inches off the ground.  The children jumped up and down on these for a while. Then they played a little with the stilts which I have had made during the past week. Also a few tried out the little new wooden trucks which came as presents and the old tricycles, always a standby toy. I had asked to have a sand box made, with the hope that it would be ready for the party, but it was not. However, now the boys have for themselves, and the other children, when the others come for a visit again, a sand box about six feet long, three wide and 15 inches deep.

The party wound up sometime about six or six-thirty with everyone full of sandwiches and cake and cocoa, or tea ( for the older folks ), and everybody who was going home went off in a happy frame of mind. We who were left were also in a happy frame of mind. Our boys behaved themselves excellently well. And the only catastrophe was to " Slinky ", a toy of the coil spring variety, a most unusual toy, or was. " Slinky " was just a big coil of flat wire that could walk down stairs by himself. Just resting the toy looked like any other flat coiled spring. But in action it looked almost alive and capable of thinking. One of Betty's friends sent it from the States, and the boys had lots of fun before the last blow was dealt to poor old " Slinky. " Now it's just a jumbled mess, and I don't believe I can fix it. It's more in an engineer's line than in mine.

Now here let me say that your package arrived yesterday, and was not subject to duty of any kind. It was opened, but that was all. We sure do appreciate getting such nice presents without any difficulty at all.

What a difference between the weather here and there now. Yet there are mornings when we wake up and think it's like New England here, because of the coolness of the air. It seems just like Spring, and we have had occasion even to use the oil stove since coming to this house. Well, soon we can both talk about the heat. Then we can talk about more heat and more heat, because about the time of the hottest days in Strong and in Lisbon we shall be getting ready to sail for the Equator and below, and shall pass from one summer to another. We shall think about snow even more than ~~than~~ than we have thought of it here. The pictures of snow always set us talking about Maine and Massachusetts in the winter. Pictures of the Maine Boy in the