

Now they have a sand box to play in, stilts to walk on, but haven't made much headway with so far, plenty of toys in the line of trucks and knowabout toys as well as their tricycles, and even water. We have tried to keep them out of water as much as possible because the weather is still cold and this is an easy time of year to catch cold here. Everyone of us has had one during the past week, in mild form, but nevertheless a cold. Probably the outdoor air has been good for our rascals. And taking them to a house where they can be outside and still not have to go into the streets has been helpful. The climate here is good, but we have felt that since they are not accustomed to the kind of bacteria which we think can generate in the streets of Lisbon, our better course is to keep them out of the streets as much as possible. We should like to start off with them to Africa knowing that they are in reasonably good health at least. Right now, both are in good health so far as we can tell. So are their fond parents.

We continue with our heavy class schedule, although we don't have to move out of the house for more than two or three lessons a week. I go for one hour five days a week to Sr. Ribeiro's house, and Betty goes for three hours in all during the week. But otherwise we study and have classes in this house. I've told you that two of our teachers live with us. We shall keep on with them for a while, but probably in two or three weeks will make another change, for it will be time then to study ethnology and several other different subjects in groups.

In line with our attempts to see something of Portugal for the purposes of acquainting ourselves adequately with country and people ~~and~~ we are going with a group next Saturday to the north for two or three hundred kilometres altogether, that is, trip going and coming. I have been on some of the trip before, but when Betty could not go. We think we can arrange this time for both of us. Afterward we shall go to Sintra, about an hour from Lisbon, and a favorite spot for foreigners in ~~the~~ Portugal, also a beauty spot of fame, (Probably it was the latter characteristic which first attracted foreigners.) and afterward to the south a bit we hope. This will mean lots of traveling on a slimmed down expense account, but we think that we can manage it, must manage it.

We think about you at home often. Has Spring really arrived? Has the snow all gone by now? Are the maples dried up? Has the mud begun to dry up? How much wood do you have to use now? You tell us about these things, but we still ask the same questions. We like to see such pictures as the one which Richard took, even though your face, Mother, is sort of lacking.

I've told a number of folks about the size of your Sunday school classes. Phew! In that little balcony space! You do well to manage them long enough to keep them there ten minutes, let alone six times that.

By the way, your mentioning (No, it was Olive, but I'll continue as if it were you) the number of pairs of curtains coming in this Spring, in spite of the burning of two mills in the town, makes me think to ask, Are the Foster people really going to rebuild in Strong?

Well, with this I'll close. I must go to the Lower City to buy books and have to be on my way. Loads of love to both of you. God bless you as you work and pray back home for Him.

*Rachel*