28 March 1956

Katie shmatie!

It has been a long time (too) since I was as happy when I got your letter and the children's!! — To know they are in your care in healthy surroundings away from the city makes my heart jump with joy — I congratulate myself on the energy and the scheming it took to do it! God bless you! — Dont overfeed Alice with starches so she rubs out some of her popo (dont tell her I wrote it because she is terribly sensitive about it) Johnny can be stuffed all you want — dont you think his chest and lights are quite nice now?

Yours
Nyak

P.S. In the quiet — as I look from the little kitchen to the cows — I look forward to seeing Esther, Alice, Joe and Jack on Sunday

make them walk a lot that is the best exercise - and make them keep order and Alina to help a bit with dishes etc. - I want to start breaking them in to the governessless days! They are both too spoiled in that respect having had really personal maids all their lives - while poor mama has no one to even hang back a dress (you know how I hate it!)

I can't wait to talk to you about our and your plans! - If only I could bring you coming with us (you know where!) But the financial problem is the one which petrifies me! - With 6 of us going abroad this year!! Write to me if you need more money for the kids food or will it last a bit? -

I have been half in bed and half working like a fiend to clean this mess here - The lack of space is killing!

— spiry
[illegible] comparab- 2 — ry of [illegible] Thank God for us —

The apartment situation in N.Y. is really tragic — to rent only West side and even that is not to attractive otherwise you have to buy — when it is on size the price of the up keep is impossible! Even ours which up to 552! One consolation is that we can sell it any time and with profit — if we should find even something else! —

I have had a very tiring winter — So much cooking, managing everything always surrounded by half wits — or dimbs, or morons! — No privacy ever — Grama is with us since Jan. 4th I think she begins to be tired of N. York — the enormity of this town crushes her — yet she has been more active and entertained than she has been since a long time, and really loves it!

The last cold wore her out a bit, I think and lack of fresh air — I plan to send her back to K.C. around the 14-15 of April — unless we decide to do it sooner with Arthur maybe when we go — Not to leave her alone with Eva who is not much home — she might get lonesome — Mlle, who is a good old soul is ready to leave any time it is convenient to us — so you can have her soon any time! — The best would be if you could come back with the kids — and stay all through our European jaunt in May — and June till we go — and then perhaps..... all so together ??!!! Anyway your influence on Eva is very important to me not to have her alone in N. York after we go — so she does not start getting involved again with the priest, or somebody undesirable!

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