

The Roxborough,
Ottawa, January 13th, 1917.

Mr. Starr J. Murphy,
20 Prospect Terrace,
Montclair, New Jersey.

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I was glad to receive your more than kind letter. Though you never met my mother, I have somehow felt that you and all your family knew her and my father. Your own home circle with its loving and united relationships and reverence for the beautiful and true things of life being so like that of our own home. The world has too few of such homes, and it is like the breaking of a pure crystal to see them vanish. When my younger brother and sister married, our home circle was diminished in size, though another circle began to emerge around it - my father, mother, elder sister and myself were still the home. Now they have all gone, and, as you say, have left me much alone. I feel like some victorious warrior who views a dismantled and shattered world. I survive, but the world I knew is forever gone. Still each has left a wonderfully beautiful heritage - the memory of lives singularly pure, singularly unselfish, singularly tender and sympathetic toward all the spiritual needs and aspirations of those they knew and loved. This wonderful gift which is, in part, a memory, in part, an inspiration, makes possible the creation of a new home in which to dwell - the invisible realm of unbroken communion with those who love and serve God. My life seems enlarged rather than narrowed by this losing of all its cherished host; perhaps it has found its setting in a truer perspective.

Your words are very precious to me as your friendship has always been, and I thank you anew for them. I hope it may not be long before we meet again. May the Florida trip be a good one for you all, and may God spare you many such opportunities of enjoyment together.

With kindest remembrances,

Ever very sincerely yours,

V. L. Mackenzie King.

● King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 16) Mrs. (Isabel) John
● King - re: Death of Isabel King -
● Correspondence n.d., [1917]-1939