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JOHN GRIER HOME,

December 30.

O, dear, Gordon, I have been reading the most up-
setting book!

I tried to talk some French the other day, and not
making out very well, decided that I had better take
my French in hand if I did n't want to lose it entirely.
That Scotch doctor of ours has mercifully abandoned
my scientific education, so I have a little time at my
own disposal. By some unlucky chance I began with
"Numa Roumestan," by Daudet. It is a terribly dis-
turbng book for a girl to read who is engaged to a
politician. Read it, Gordon dear, and assiduously
train your character away from Numa's. It's the
story of a politician who is disquietingly fascinating
(like you). Who is adored by all who know him
(like you). Who has a most persuasive way of talk-
ing and makes wonderful speeches (again like you).
He is worshiped by everybody, and they all say to his
wife, "What a happy life you must lead, knowing so
intimately that wonderful man!"

But he was n't very wonderful when he came home
to her — only when he had an audience and applause.
He would drink with every casual acquaintance, and be
gay and bubbling and expansive; and then return mo-