

4 Rue de Cherbourg.

Dear Cousin Lucy and Cousin Pierre -

This week I have been comforting myself with the thought that your knowing the excitement of competition would let you excuse my not having written you before - for I have wanted to tell you how friendly the New Year Day Calender has made the room seem - ~~has~~ given it quite a homelike air in fact - as well as your two letters - I don't know just how to thank Cousin Pierre for his kindness in sending the "American Architect" - but I do, very much, as perhaps you can guess -

Mrs. Pichette has just remarked "It's so cold I have got to go to bed. Today is Sunday, and the chief activity of the day has been trying to keep the fire going - eye off for minutes and its out - then the moaning and creaking and hands, before its started again - It is very cold, a heavy snow

unmelted outdoors, with all the fountains & gutters iced
over. The fountain at the Chalet today, broken in pieces,
must have been three inches thick. The chief trouble
from it is chill blains, - in spite of two pairs of fur
lined gloves one over the other, the hands are so swollen
with them it becomes hard to draw or write, let
alone the sensations. There has been seen the sun
but one day this year.

The holidays were not very exciting - Christmas
morning was very early, but we went out to La
Sinite for the Grand Mass supposedly - to arrive
at one of the silent ones where there is no sound,
whatsoever? - In the evening Mrs Van Pelt had
very kindly invited me to dinner - There were many
people there, her guests, her boarders and their guests,
naturally few I had met at all, - she is
very proud of her son, and from what one hears,
quite rightly so. He is the "Laureate" of the
French "Societe" des Architectes des Beaux Arts, having
had more "honneurs" in his school course than
any other member. They gave him a dinner
monthly, to which he refused to go until she
made him, and presented him with their medal.
New Year's day I called on a friend of mine
living at Neuilly, and afterwards had a fine
walk around the Jardin d'Acclimation on the
outside, seeing the houses facing it, their size,
styles, people, etc - interested greatly - Some of them

being renovated are having the most astonishing
amount of Renaissance carving put on them - big
cartouches held by modern angles in place of the
old capitals. Perhaps the most interesting thing
since last winter was St. Gervais day - or
rather the service of her day, at St Etienne du
mont - The arches around the apse were hung in
light blue velvet with gilt lambrquins, long blue
banners from all the pillars of the nave, she
was her robes on the retable of the altar, with
hundreds of lighted candles, the gilt shrine moved
just inside the jube, the choir filled with
the representatives of many of the religious orders
from the brown gowns to the brightest or red and
gold, the archbishop under his canopy, - all
seen framed in the dark arches of the jube
like some middle age picture suddenly come
to life in its frame. Outside all along by
the library and the Pantheon they had put
up pilgrimage booths, until the whole aspect of
the place was put way back in time. Another
very picturesque service was at the Russian church
on their Christmas day, January 6th. The church
has the least "churchly" air of any, to me, here -
that is, speaking only of the building. Another
day was spent in going quite thoroughly over the
Hotel de Ville, and the Palais de Justice - It was
quite startling at first to see "applied Impressionism"

- though perhaps unreasonably - It is used very largely
in the ceiling decorations of the Grandes Salles and
Salle-a-manger - etc - of the Hotel de Ville. The want
of the time has been put into the lectures and
atelier work. Mr. Despuettes has been very kind,
always seems astonished if I do anything showing
the least intelligence "Ch-mais, c'est intelligent!"
as though that was the last thing expected. The
present work is the 1st Class Programme, - a
suite of rooms in a grand appartement of a palais,
and is rather too ambitious as a rendering - have
never had any interior work. It is due the 30th.
This week there was given Monday a Prix
competition, 3 days, - the only one during the year
those outside the school can enter. It is a sort of
trial test for the Grand Prix de Rome name, and
is fought very hard by 1st class men as well
as those already having the Diploma - but
entered by new people as well. Our atelier
was very anxious to at least get hung, though
there was no chance for more. The men have
been very 'pohke' lately, if that does not
quite express the idea - and said if all would
try one day, they would choose the best,
work one day on that, every one, then narrow
down to the two best, and put them through

to end in. The programme is enclosed. It was
somewhat hard. Two days brought no result,
but the evening of the Wednesday we had one
scheme good in its idea, but not in its
grace, and one pretty, but not good in scheme.
& they decided it was better to try with those -
I had one, and worked from 6.30 till 11.30 ^{P.M.} ^{A.M.}
with us for coffee and rolls, some others
making hospital to fit spaces etc., as did Mr.
Stokes who had the other. And they got in by
twelve at the school. It was the quickest work
I ever did. In the afternoon we went up,
Miss Budd and I, to see them living. There
were about 100 or 125 entered, but one ^{at least} was
the only one from outside the school, in spite
of many who began. We decided on the plan
of a Mr Chifflet who criticized us last summer
when Mr. de Moncel was in the country - it was
very good. with Mr. Van Pelt as 1st mention etc.
The next day Mr. des Puthes who was on the
jury of award came in in great excitement
saying "it was a shame, horrible" - Mr. Chifflet
was "hors de concours" having exceeded his
terrain, as were 30 others for various reasons,
and then were left good enough to be

either prize or mentioned - so the prize next
year would be a double one. Mr. Van Pelt
was not "hors", but considered poor. Both from
our attack were "hors" on account of "insufficient
indication"; for we did not show the rooms in
the hotels, as they were not specified - just giving
their outlines and making them of ample size -
The general conclusion was that the Programme
did not allow enough space for a really
ideal solution. It was good ~~work~~ ^{practising}, and
when being ~~done~~ with so many, showed where
my own work was weakest, - I'd like to put
in a year of study, and try again - not
for the prize, but for the test of progress.

Mr. De Moncloa is expected this week. If
Mr. Maybach is here, he has not been seen yet.
Letters from home say Emma's eyes have given
out quite badly, but Papa is better, and all
seem in good spirits - There has been no letters
from Nina since early in December - so I
judge she is having a fine time.

I wish Mr. Paine Jr. were not growing
so fast - he will be in short frocks by
the time I see him - It is good he is turning

out so well and jolly -

Thanking you both, indeed - with much
love,
Julia Morgan -

Jan. 24th 1897.

P.S. It may interest Conni Lucy to know we
had to lay in an entire new stock of hamps - there
are two originals only. Also that I allow ten
minutes by the watch for initialing them only.

Please excuse the dirt on the Programme - I only
found the condition now on going to envelope it - and there
is not time left to copy in. Many thanks for the ones
Conni Purse enclosed - and a great many for the "Architect".

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Mrs Pierre Le Brun

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