

than it really has been, as we have had full possession for a month — so far as workmen were concerned. But the inefficiency of the furnace forbade the use of the lower floor until last week, when the entire heating apparatus was pulled out and another installed. Happily this one works perfectly and so we are now comfortable.

People who have lived in the same house for x years (not to speak of people who keep the same cat for n years) have no way of realizing the labor of settling in a new house when all one's household stuff has been in storage for 2 years

306, 56th st.

Chicago, Dec. 25/04

My dear Deane:—

As usual my Christmas remembrance to you is belated and has to be apologized for! But I've just been working my head off for the last two weeks getting ready my Philadelphia address as retiring President of the Botanical Society of Am., and really I could not give a thought to Christmas until yesterday. Then we searched the house for some photos I had taken some weeks ago. (You perhaps know that we've moved into a new house lately, which accounts for such mislaying). No pictures were to be found!

And they did not turn up until this afternoon! So I sent ~~out~~ along, hoping that it will get to you by the time this letter does. Did I send you a copy before? I'm getting so rattle-headed that I can't remember what I do and don't do—

I do wish I were going to see you at Philadelphia this week. Too bad if you not to come either to Chicago or even halfway!

We're quite ready now for that long-delayed visit of yours and Mrs. Deane's to Chicago. We have at last a house of our own of which I'm going to send you some news before long. I think I should have taken some long ago had my camera ~~not~~ not been stolen. When Chamberlain (my colleague) went to Mexico after Dia he borrowed my camera—a Hawkeye that I carried all over Europe—to take small pictures on his journey. While he sat down in the market place in a little town down there (new Jalapa) putting plants into his press, ~~some~~ ~~some~~ he laid the camera along side and some "greaser" deeply abstracted it! He set the whole governmental machinery in motion to recover it (he had some special letters to high officials) but to no effect. Well—the house. We occupied it in company with carpenters, painters, plumbers et al. —On Oct. 21. The last workman left yesterday! This sounds worse than

without attaining corpulence!)-
She weighs more than she ever
did, does a great deal of work
daily & walks with a pace
that a few years ago would
have been impossible. - Indeed
since we returned from Europe
she has hardly been even
ill a day. So much, that ~~it~~
is, to be thankful for.

I hope to hear as good news
of Mrs. Deane, to whom espec-
ially Mrs. B. sends warmest
greetings and best wishes
for the New Year, though she
does not forget yourself.

We have some hopes of
going to Italy in April,

to Vienna in June for the International Botanical Congress, and the Tyrol for the summer. But that may not be possible. Will you join us if we go?

University matters go along smoothly. I hope you don't believe of the University what you hear in the papers. Noth, if not all of the newspaper stories are absolute fabrications. We do try to be dignified, scholarly, and sensible, even if we do have some ideas that are not wholly Conservative.

This is the twenty-second anniversary of our wedding as well as Christmas. Congratulate us on so long and happy a "dwelling together in unity."

As the pen is on the verge of giving out I'll stop. I'm looking for your Christmas letter tomorrow.

Ever yours most sincerely
C. R. Barnes

As I know you always read my letter to Mrs. Steane, as I do yours to Mrs. B., I have the one message and subscription for you both. May the New Year bring you all possible joys & satisfaction. B.

I got a glimpse of some chapters in the Ladies Home Journal & thought I should get the whole thing & read it. I'm taking it along tomorrow on my way to Phila to read on the train.

Thank you, ever so much, my dear fellow, for your unfailing thought for one who cherishes as one of his pleasantest memories the many hours of intercourse in the Brewster st. house.

Mrs. Barnes keeps wonderfully well and strong. Under all the care and work of settling the house she has actually laid on flesh (you will remember she can bear a good increase

and over. To have such an accumulation of Chicago dirt cleaned off of woodwork & coverings renewed is a work of time. And when your

Penates are ready for installation the hangings & decorations of their temple requires much consultation, long planning & deep contriving — if your means are limited.

But at last most of the work is done, though there are some rugs to go down & some pictures to go up — Now comes the pleasure of having a house that you can stay in x years! (We're now looking for the Cat.)

Aud to have a home-like place where
your books are, and a dining room where
you can gather your friends is truly
a great comfort.

My wife's sister & her two children
are living with us this winter. Her elder
son who is at the Univ. of Wis. for his first
year is home for the holidays & so is my
boy who is at Culver Military Academy.
(That fountain pen is empty, so here is
another!)

By the way, did you see that picture
of Gibson's in Collier's Weekly for Dec.
'10, having the title "Home for the holidays"?
If not get a look at it. It's Capital &
of course we specially appreciate it.
With our two boys we have ~~seven~~ ^{seven} in family.
Last night we added five and had a little
dinner of relatives. Our Christmas gifts
were distributed this morning. A small tree
on the breakfast-table, a late breakfast,
gifts from the family away & from one-
another in the household made a delightful
Christmas for our first ^{in the new home.} Four young folks
are enough to keep Bolder ones lively -

Not least by any means was the delightful
book you sent as a Christmas reminder.



Barnes, Charles Reid. 1904. "Barnes, Charles Reid Dec. 25, 1904." *Charles Reid Barnes letters to Walter Deane* –.

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