Charlton House
Feb 4th 1898

My Dear Gertie, the
very pretty but
very little thing is
a hundred times
dearer to the Girls
since I met your
Cousin Mr Yorke Stephens
Office Journal

Blackheath

It has so long to get
a letter from you, but I know like
myself you have not much spare
time. Tomorrow I am going down
to Blackberry Strand for a week,
the Dr says Bess must have a change
to the sea side, and Mr. Smith has
asked me to pay her a visit, so
I am going, and I intend trying
to write letters while I am there.
I don't wonder you knocked up before
Xmas, the extra anxiety, and sympathy
for your Mother has quite enough to
do it. Xmas has a busy time for
me, as I see short of a servant. Still
they are seeming happy, and the

letter was thoroughly enjoyed it — The Card I sent you, was the work of one of my boarders (the same who took the wedding group) Ella and her husband are not in the group. the little dog belongs to Miss Barrow one of my boarders — Ethel took Rags with her, he was her property, she also has a Monkey called Clorette that she has taught to shake hands, hold a piece of bread on her nose, catch things in his mouth — &c &c — I will enclose an outline of the photo — Please ask Edith not to write, as long as she got the Cake that was all I wanted — My last letters from Ethel have been very cheerful, her health is much better, in fact the Doctor says she is better all round, you know the climate does not agree with her, and she has been suffering from boils, and I think a little homesick though she will not own it —

She is so pleased with St Louis -
We are having a very cool summer,
it is almost like winter frosting with
rain, and cold enough to have a blanket
on the bed. Please give my friend
love to Miss Lucy and tell her she
shall have a letter from Blueberry -
Mon Fourier - I send two receipts
one for Lucinda, the other J. Conrad
rents, which I should have paid a
year ago, I have seen the letter in
the paper, how did they know send
me a letter. It appears the letter
was sent to a Capt Blake, then to another
Capt Blake - then a summons was to
have been taken out, and Mr Larkin
of Roseland, told them to send to Mr.
Knight, which they did, and I
paid it at once - Now I will have to pay
the same rate, for this year in a
day or two - I am so sorry about it -
There are other accounts which will

become due soon, so I shall not send a cheque –

This year I am sorry to say I think the weather gale and the frost of the house should be painted and there is plastering in several places, that must be done upon the water sets in – The court yard wall also requires attention, that I shall see about as soon as I return – I can't bear the thought of coming from home, but if it is left it will be so much worse in the end –

George has just been gazetted Lieut & Engineer he is now stationed at Shurnsdorf, he tells me if he asks Doris when Fanny is, she says far away – When his life around from Kimberley (where she had been staying with her Father) George went to meet them Kelly did not recognize him, but as they drove to the Hotel, she turned to her Father he saw beaming and said, Mamma,