

OAKTHORPE,

PALMERS GREEN,

MIDDLESEX.

17 Mar. 14

My own Precious,

Your little box was kept religiously under my pillow for the night & gave me my first birthday-greeting. At about 5.30 this morning I opened it & was delighted with its contents. My best & most loving thanks, my darling. The little brooch is just the thing for me to wear now - I had nothing

Suitable - I am glad that it  
represents our favorite saint.  
I told you, I think, in my letter  
yesterday that I could not resist  
opening & devouring your dear letter,  
but I kept the enclosure for today.  
I have had many blessings -  
kind greetings & lovely flowers from  
the family & household & glorious  
Sunday as an augury of good  
things to come. When the fatigues  
& difficulties of the upheaval are  
safely over, I hope that complete  
rest & peace with my dear children  
will give me fresh strength & enable

me to be of some little use before  
my time is over. At present I am  
but a log I have scarcely done anything  
for the last ten days, but I needed  
some smoothing out & competent  
Lilla has done everything that I shall  
otherwise have had to do. This left me &  
restorative illnesses. I feel very much  
better & trust soon to be more fit.

Now my darling, for your birthday  
my best, very best & most loving wishes.  
May it bring you a rich blessing,  
an increased measure of bodily  
health & all that is good for spirit &  
soul. I am sorry you will be alone,  
but I know, even without the sweet  
messages you have sent that your

Self-sacrifice gives you the best of  
happiness for this attribute is more  
Christ-like than any other we can  
practice. He will give you His presence  
& comfort & strengthen you - to make  
up for all earthly companionship that  
is wanting. This will I trust be added  
very soon in darling Matilda's "return"  
& you will be supplemented in due  
time by the long-tailed mother who is  
yearning to take you in her arms. It is  
indeed a joyful wonder that we may now  
meet without hindrance.

I enclose part of my present with  
every loving wish. Your kind letters  
will be another part I am sending  
by book-post some little trifles of old  
times. The little note-book was a wedding  
present. A whole heartful of love,  
My Precious & many blessings on your dear  
head.  
Your ever-loving mother.