Dear 21 one-birds All yours just arrived and I feel moved to reply at once. I have just come back from lunch and as work is peldom begun tile two I thought I would seize the opportunity aux write a few lines at any nate. You don't know how surprises and pleased I was when I spenies my luce box, for you must know I die noch espect anything this year from any of you. on acct of so many maiordable expenses. Right eté. The places are lovely my favorité tour as & suppose you knew. I'm gring to keep them for very best. The luce pièce of lace is very pretty too, and however much I might wouth its Cometing I wover not have made for misperf. I opener ste bois in the office and of course them I have to olive the contents to every hardy of they all shink I am very lucky + must have some people who think quili a lite bit of me. I cholody about here I have of the momentons fact that I celebrate my 24th 6 days dis out want chang to 1 know because she is hard up. I as \$ 700 to meet in March. She makes a look of money but her

esipenses are very heavy. \$ 300 for her place aux about \$ \$00 a week to pay the girls, then the espense of luping house po you see she huds to do a good deal. She takes of foring to Dawson or bretonia to some place where she could make a food deal of money aut not spent much, for a few years, the she made mongh to be able to retire aux live on her peace. I don't puppose she'll do it but she likes to like about it! It seems strange for any one to be De abolitely alone in the world as she is ellactuff is the only one ple has left. our by the way phe is out the only one who is Talking of going west. The Memedys say they have made up Their boeste, aus ste others are to follow later. They think it will be to South Alberta, a do not peem to known whether they were ranch or farm. Orrhably the former. Also. Charlie Blair aux porchase hem home misiting from out steer aux steep have done so were our tree such glowing haves of the What that the others have eaught the fever. The it seems a

July risky Thing to me, two old men, one almost as formas heless. aux stru delicate airy girls, who cant even pet à lable alone. Mulle Alex aux Dunt Sarah will have te hard part as usual. huble John Just trust to Alex aux providence and reads hay the day long. I Think myself Alec has a heavier load stau Providence. Aunt Darah sais something about marrying the ques Th aut perhaps they will, I am apair that in the ordinary Course of events, it would be a much more difficult matter hele. Hison is a rather a nice que aux quet pour lorking, but a buth brusque in manner. She seems to be its shongest of the three afti auc. The other two haven't an idea more than 1/2 an inch deep. but that a nice way to be tacking about my own consens, windel. neel au J.m at the height of my mahimonice chances am I. Stacky, & you insinneyate I. d lest be patheting my rose-buds of while I may. also I, on apaid I we a very indifferent taste for rose-bads our dont care if there are any growing my my farden patch or not. I we here doing some

calculating lately aux I. we about made up my min to 90 to the charmal Collège a year from this face. I cant save up enough to go his year I guess by daging my very best I d only have about \$100 by sept. but by the Inest year I ought to have I 200 or more enough to pay every cent of one expenses if what I want. If on see I.m stee Thinking of that European ton and I don't see how I comes ever manage it in this weeks holidays. There's not much Thow her for anything but the plowest advance. You see the Non. Davids out of it nour aux perhaps are the librals will be in a few years. I le only be 25, then, [saprish. I dionin show a person feel so horriby juvenile at that apparently advanced age, and that's just about the nighting to recommend they to ochoice boards eto or here is clidded smith have you ever heard anything about her, Wish I could be home to per the benefit of some of the backeriology experiments, it will be fine I'm phone you should read The Tempestto understand baciban, & the interesting thereis connected therewith. De are to have a borgan part to-morrow night. It is fine weather. It ought to be mornlighted Just starry of Dan of Genaer Brown of ell. Bud's homme to manipulate the tobograms. Its very eggsciling. If you please I hope you are not grown to pend me any think more for my brithday or I would know with to pay. I wonder how many more bulk days it will be before we are logether again, sorrugh Juggy.

MB to Home-birds, Feb 1902

Transcription / Additional Information

Feb 18th 1902

Dear Home-birds

All yours just arrived and I feel moved to reply at once. I have just come back from lunch and as work is seldom begun till two I thought I would seize the opportunity and write a few lines at any rate. You don't know how surprised and pleased I was when I opened my little box, for you must know I did not expect anything from any of you, on act of so many unavoidable expenses, signs, etc. The gloves are lovely my favorite kind as I suppose you knew. I'm going to keep them for very best. The little piece of lace is very pretty too, and however much I might want it something I would not have made for myself. I opened the box in the office and of course then I had to show its contents to everybody & they all think I am very lucky & must have some people who think quite a bit of me. Nobody down here knows of the momentous fact that I celebrate my 24th b-day I didn't want Mary to know because she is hard up. Has \$700 to meet in March. She makes a lot of money but her

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Expenses are very heavy. \$300 for the store and about \$50 a week to pay the girls, then the expense of keeping house so you see needs to do a good deal. She talks of going to Dawson or Victoria or some place where she could make a good deal of money and not spend much, for a few years, till she made enough to be able to retire and live on her place. I don't suppose she'll do it but she likes to talk about it! It seems strange for anyone to be so absolutely alone in the world as she is. MacDuff is the only one she has left and by the way she is not the only one who is talking of going west. The Kennedys say they have made up their mind to go this summer. Uncle Joshn is to go in the Spring to locate, and the others are to follow later. They think it will be to South Alberta, & do not seem to know whether they will ranch or farm. Probably the former. Mrs. Charlie Blair and son have been home visiting from out there and they have done so well and tell such glowing tales of the West that the others have caught the fever. Tho it seems a

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pretty risky thing to me. Two old men, one almost as good as useless, and three delicate airy girls, who cant even set a table alone. Uncle Alex and Aunt Sarah will have the hard part as usual. Uncle John just trusts to Alex and providence and reads half the day long. I think myself Alec has a heavier load than Providence. Aunt Sarah said something about marrying the girls off and perhaps they will, I am afraid that in the ordinary course of events, it would be a much more difficult matter here. Alison is rather a nice girl and quite good-looking, but a little brusque in manner. She seems to be the strongest of the three after all. The other two haven't an idea more than ½ an inch deep but that's a nice way to be talking about my own cousins, isn't it.

Well so I'm at the height of my matrimonial chances am I, Stalky [her brother Ernie's nickname], & you insinuate I'd best be gathering my rose-buds or perhaps orange blossoms would be better while I may. Also I'm afraid I've a very indifferent taste for rose-buds and don't care if there are any growing in my garden-patch or not. I've been doing some

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Calculating lately and I've about made up my mind to go to the Normal College a year from this fall. I can't save up enough to go this year. I guess by doing my very best I'd only have about \$100 by Sept. but by the next year I ought to have \$200 or more enough to pay every cent of my expense if what I want. You see I'm still thinking of that European tour and I don't see how I could even manage it in three weeks holidays. There's not much show here for anything but the slowest advance. You see the Hon. David's out of it now and perhaps all the liberals will be in a few years. I'll only be 25, then, (saprish [?] I did not know a person felt so horribly juvenile at that apparently advanced age) and that's just about the right age to recommend itself to school boards etc. Where is Mabel Smith, have you ever heard anything about her. Wish I could be home to get the benefit of some of the bacteriology experiments, it will be fine I'm sure. You should read "The Tempest" and to understand Caliban, & the interesting theories connected therewith. We are to have a toboggan party to-morrow night, if it is fine weather, it ought to be moonlight. Just Harry & Dan & Gerald Brown & Mr. Prudhomme to manipulate the toboggans. It's very eggsciting. If you please I hope you aren't going to send me anything more for my birthday or I won't know wot to say. I wonder how many birthdays it will be before we are together again.

Lovingly Fuzzy [MB's family nickname]