

7/2/55 Sydney

150 Irving Place

Winnipeg 5, Man.,

Jan 25, 1955

Dear Wesley,

It falls to me to send you this sad message, and on Mother's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday too; Catherine died on Friday <sup>(21<sup>st</sup>)</sup> morning and is being buried today in Tillsburg. I have just come back from Minneapolis where I went with the hope of having a last visit, but arrived a whole day too late. Wilford is himself practically recovered from his heart trouble, and has his household firmly in hand, in spite of his weakness and evident desolation. I believe Mother <sup>and Father</sup> will be at the graveside service at Tillsburg - there was also a church funeral in

Minneapolis, where as you know she was deeply entrenched in the work and friendships of the church.

I am most concerned now about Mother's reaction, as I have not had a word from her since Catherine went to hospital on Jan. 4. (She had an exploratory abdominal operation which revealed, as suspected, a cancer of the liver; so far advanced as to be inoperable; and the failure of the liver's functions brought about a toxæmia and death.) At least she drifted away quickly, and almost painlessly, and she left nothing but love behind.

I have been hoping to find time to write you all

winter, but I dare say even  
my Christmas card is still  
in New Zealand!

I hope you are well and  
adapting yourself to your  
new manner of life. I  
gather it will be a complete  
change! Maybe even you will  
now find little time for the  
long and minutely-engraved  
epistles. (However we have  
 ~~dug~~ up the references and now  
are all caught up on the more  
obvious facts about the Solomons,  
but looking forward to some  
pictures.)

We are well here and  
always on the go. (Present  
temperature makes it essential  
— minus 26° last night  
and now at 2<sup>30</sup> pm, -19° still,  
blinding blue-white sunshine  
outside)

Love from Alice