

Altadena, California

Jan. 16, 1920

Dear friends in Cambridge:

We have been slow in writing, and there is much indebtedness to acknowledge. First a jolly card at Thanksgiving, and a nice letter, then cards at Christmas and news from both of you - all reached us, and for all we send our grateful appreciation.

Since you last heard from us we have wandered a few miles, and have seen many wonderful things. I wish I could tell you about them all. Our friends in New Orleans treated us royally, and made it very



hard for us to leave them. We were there more than three miles, and we expected to stay for two, at the most. Three different homes claimed our time so we gave a week to each. On the way from R. O. to Los Angeles we stopped a few days in Tucson, Arizona. I was anxious to visit the wonderful desert laboratory, and to learn to know some of the desert plants. Prof. MacDougal, and Dr. Shreve, both of whom I know, are there now. They showed us all the wonders and we enjoyed it hugely. We were visiting one of our former

green with grease wood bushes, & the famous palo verde, and along the streams one sees the mesquite which forms such tangles, and in which the cattle are so often lost.

One of the most interesting and abundant cactus plants is the cholla. I wish I could give you a picture of it. I think there were some plants on the card I sent you.

Quite a contrast to the desert is this wonderful valley we are in. We succeeded in

finding a little housekeeping  
apartment at the foot of  
Mt. Lure. We are five miles  
above Pasadena with all  
its gay life and fashion.  
Our house nestles below the  
mountain, and is surrounded  
by gorgeous orange groves,  
and blooming murosas.  
We can see Mt Wilson obser-  
vatory from our window.  
Some day I hope we'll have  
a chance to see the moon  
and Venus from that point.

I am sure it will not be half  
as much fun as seeing the  
sky through your telescope  
at Shelburne.

We hope to be very happy  
and comfortable as soon  
as we get settled. We moved  
in "yesterday, & things are  
a bit chaotic now. As soon  
as things are in shape  
we hope to spend most of  
our time out of doors, on  
the mountains, & among  
the orange groves. I wish



we could send you a little  
of our sunshine, and a  
few songs of the mocking  
birds in our trees. The  
noise of the train is still  
in our ears, and we have  
not yet forgotten the fatigue  
of the journey.


We both send our love  
to you and Miss Brown  
and all good wishes for  
1920. May we meet again  
before the year ends -


Love Sincerely  
Florence Peabody

Bryn Mawr students whose  
home is in Tucson. She is a  
very busy woman, as she has  
taken over all of her husband's  
business which consists of oil,  
coal & wood, storage, moving &  
hauling. She lost her husband  
in the flu epidemic last year.  
Now she takes up this work  
in order to forget her own  
loneliness. She is making a  
great success of the business.

I wish I could tell you about  
the wonderful desert vegetation.  
You know it, of course, but if you



have never been in the desert you  
have no idea of the lonely  
grandeur of it. - The giant cactus  
forms almost a forest. Sahuaras  
The Mexicans call them. I am not  
sure of the spelling of these names,  
and just now I have no way  
of looking them up. I was glad  
to see Yucca growing everywhere,  
and the tinajas looking like  
 big pin cushions, always  
turning toward the south.

The okavilla (?) is very lovely they  
tell me when it blooms. Now it looks  
 bare & straggly like a bunch  
of switches. The desert is



Peebles, Florence. 1920. "Peebles, Florence Jan. 16, 1920." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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