

Sunday, Oct. 24, 1999

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It is probably a mistake that I answer your letter so soon; it arrived yesterday. Your kindly expressed hope that my lameness and pain might by now be better carried an inquiry as to whether I had looked for a "remedy". Have you a copy of Bartlett's Quotations in Kennarock? I don't think so. For me it is a window and an invitation to read or reread many poems, parts of books. You might be interested in the other ~~at~~ citations for the word "remedy".

Almost forty years ago, when I was impatient of the discomfort of wearing elastic stockings every day, winter and summer, to control the swelling of my legs and to decrease the probability of developing an ulcer of the lower leg, I was told about operations to "strip" the veins. Numbness and further circulatory impairment are two hazards of this remedy. So I have put up with the discomfort and inconvenience.

Rebekah was a dependable, careful and kind companion. She took care of Nathaniel, seated me where I could easily get in and out, piloted us around the museum. Nathan. el was slated to be mentioned by a museum

To them took me to Habitat. We saw witch hazel with a few leaves in bloom.

guard, along with Rebekah, as "mature." We visited the Martin Johnson Heide exhibition where they made sketches inspired by hummingbirds, tropical orchids, the landscape and salt marsh haystacks of Newbury. We also visited colonial rooms, the cafeteria, where Nathaniel ate a piece of pizza a little too fast. The subsequent visit to the Egyptian tombs made him a little queasy, but Rebekah's kindness and fresh air restored him.

Today I hope to walk to Belmont Center; if I had a family driver, I'd go up to the Habitate (Audubon) property on Belmont Hill, where witch hazel is now in bloom. Otherwise, I'll do that next week. Jack is at work insulating the stairwell.

The story about the little purple towel is really very simple. It was useful to me because of being absorbent, not showing dirt. Your admiration - expressed three times, your concern that I not lose or damage it on long-distance automobile trips, made me wonder about its provenance. Had I "liberated" it from Kinnarock? Was it really yours? You like it very much, you need it more than I do. I have lots of other little towels which will do just as well for my purposes. I don't miss it.

I have a suggestion about what to do next time with the refrigerator magnets that you think I'll hate. Move them around to the side of the refrigerator, I actually did that with several that were simply in my way as I did simple stretching exercises using the refrigerator for support. I must be very careful in my own company & going ^{to curb} ~~with~~ my tendency to box up and put away various things. I am trying to discard unused objects, to put necessary papers in file boxes, Toss the ephemeral.

Now, already afternoon, I must in my slow way, get at the vacuum cleaner to ~~be~~ clean house. Tomorrow we expect patients, Tuesday too. Wednesday, Leah's birthday. What happens? I have hyacinth bulbs for her. my message as to what I think matters. Love Margaret