

December 27, 1943

Mr. C. H. Hoinville
908 Railway Exchange
Chicago, Illinois

I am sending you today Christmas packages from us and from Mary Jule. We had held everything here expecting that you would be with us. I don't know whether it was best for you to stay there by yourself or to have visited us. Those are things you will largely have to answer yourself, but in this old world we simply have to keep on living. Perhaps no other man in the United States could handle your particular job now as well as you are handling it. You need to be at your best, and you can feel sure that if such a thing is possible, Julia is at your side and at your hand, wanting you to go ahead and proud of your accomplishments.

In regard to Christmas we were much pleased with our presents. Some weeks ago I had casually mentioned to Blanche that I had the first two volumes of Winston Churchill's books on the "Duke of Marlborough". She took that as a cue and evidently passed it on to you and Mary Jule because for Christmas I received two books from her, one from you and one from Mary Jule, which completes the set of six volumes. I thank you very much for it.

In the package that goes to you today is what is called a loafer coat. It is a coat that you can wear at your office during working hours or can slip into during any hours that you may be at home. I was given one a year ago by Dolph and I have enjoyed it very much.

Mary Jule and Vera will take dinner with us Wednesday night of this week. We have been to the house twice but have missed them both times, but we have talked over the phone.

The next few days will be busy ones with us in closing our books, deciding what dividends can be paid, etc.

The box of sprays came Friday afternoon and I put them on the graves Christmas morning. Some of the evergreen sprays that had covered Julia's grave since the funeral had blown aside, and I gathered them up, replaced them, and put the spray at the head. I picked out the best spray. I say this because while they were all alike, some were bent a little bit thru being packed, while the one