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MC200: Folder 16: [Fowler, Mary] to Mother [Francis Carr Fowler], August 18, 1898

*This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.*

Chicago, Aug. 18 – '98

Dear Mother

Your very welcome letter received and we are very glad to hear you are enjoying yourself so much. Susie brought over Tootie's nightdresses Sunday and they are lovely. She looks like a big doll in them. You can judge how tall she is now, they are just long enough for her. Her hair is quite long and when she has the nightie on, she is a perfect picture. Just got her to sleep and Gordon is lying down with her. Poor Gordon has had a dreadful time with our ulcerated tooth for a week. It was lanced Tuesday night and the pain is all gone now, but with working nights, his face all swollen [sic] and the dreadful pain, he was nearly wild. Has to work almost every night now and expects to for some time to come. Some nights he does not get home until 12 o'clock.

We looked for Bessie every day last week thinking perhaps she came home with her Uncles. When Susie came Sunday she told the girls Bessie hadn't come. Gordon took Tootsie and myself out to the concert in the Park Sunday and when we came home Sue was gone. Was sorry we did not see her a week ago last Sunday we were out to see them and had a nice visit.

Well the war is over at last. According to this morning's record, the First Regiment is expected at Montauk Point, Saturday. Yesterday the paper stated they were to be sent from Montauk Point to Fort Sheridan, but later this was contradicted whether it is so or not, it is hard to tell. Enclose a clipping from this morning's Record. Expect it will be a great sight to see them leaving the ships.

When I was out to see the girls I asked May for the pattern of Tootsie's dress, but she could not find it. The first time I am downtown I'll get one and finish a dress I started for her. My black skirt was all stained so I ripped it, gave it a good washing and it looks almost new again.

Think in about two weeks I will be perfectly bald. You know Dr. Willard told me when I was sick he thought my hair would come out, well I am afraid to comb it now. Have the thinnest braid imaginable and three shoe boxes of hair. I certainly think it will be necessary to have it all shaved off and wear a wig until it grows out again if it ever will. I never appreciated it so much as I do now, when it is too late.

Now I want to thank you for Tootie's nighties. Don't know how I can ever repay you for all you have done for us, care, sewing, etc. Papa often says she would not be the strong healthy big girl she is if it were not for her Grandma. She asks time and again "where is Dannie + Bettie?" There is very little she can't say. Goes around all day singing and her favorite song is "Pat you trunk and go" "Pack your trunk and go" is the song, but that is the nearest she can get

to it. One line of it is "You may be warm, but I don't know. You ain't so warm you'll melt the snow and Tootsie says "I no no you not so wam to melt the snow." One night it rained Gordon had to work and I said to Baby "Poor dada out in all the rain" now every night he has to work she says "Poor dadada out in all da wain" I am awfully anxious for you to see her she is so cute now. Am glad you are having such a long vacation but will be very glad when you get back home again and will see you occasionally. Gordon don't want me to go to work anymore and I get so tired doing nothing and there is no one I would care to go to see except yourself, so we will find the way over often. It is getting late now so I shall close with kind regards from Papa and the girls and love.

From,  
Gordon, Tootsie, & myself