HOTEL VOUILLEMONT
15, RUE BOISSY-D'ANGLAS
(PLACE DE LA CONCORDE)
PARIS
ADR. TÉLÉGR. HOTEL VOUILLEMONT
TÉLÉPHONES { ÉLYSÉES 01-62 / ÉLYSÉES 01-63

3/2 '19.

Dear Sara: — I wrote to a long letter a few days ago and skipped you. It's not been easy to write these last few days. You have heard perhaps how dreadfully ill poor Jacques is. He was worn out and ever since I've been here has clung to me as a sort of escape. I've begged him to go away but he wished from 9 to 6 daily over his 2000 children. Ten days ago he came down with pneumonia. He has a weak heart so it's a tough fight: I of course don't know anything about it but it looks to me this morning as if he would never get up. He's been in a coma for 36 hours

This was another consultation this morning and the doctors say it's a question of whether he has resistance in him. His age is against him 64. He's been delirious most of the time and very difficult to manage but now he's too weak to resist — everything is being done — good & devoted doctors & nurses. There are several of us in the hotel who know him — Will Whitehead, a Mr Lydon Smith whose wife raises much of the money for the kiddies & he takes them in staying in the room next to him. I don't want him to die without some one near that cares for him. If he must so he has at least

the joy of this wonderful work - and he did get great joy out of it. It's making everything sad - but everything is sad here - you can't imagine how beaten in spirit the people seem to me. It's been too much. They'll go on but for most of the present generation life will be joyless. I fear.

I am keeping my well - have shown off my cold and am being careful. I should be in Lillie now - probably with pneumonia like everybody else there - if it hadn't been for Joe. My ticket was bought & I was ready when he begged me to stay here until I was better & the weather cleared up. Thank Heaven I did. The least I can do for the poor fellow - & the only thing - is to stand by. I've had no letter from you of later date than Jan 29 one from Wil of same date. I shall take my passage for the first week of May - so it will not be with which nothing after the first week in April & if the mail is as slow going over as coming this way, you won't get this letter much before then. I hope you are taking the best care of yourself. If you do get the "flu" - go to bed and stay there. There's no other way. Love to all the family. I hope this is on his way but I have no news of Elinor since he was here. I didn't know James had been ill until Ella wrote. Write me about it. Love to you

I do.