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Maria Feodorovna to his son Michael

Amalienborg, the 27th December 1905

My dear darling Misha !

With all my heart I thank you for your dear, nicest letter and for the charming animal, that marvellous owl, which you and Baby sent me. But what really filled my eyes with tears is your having thought to make me happy with a small fir this 24th December, after the Christmas church service, a completely

I was not in a very festive mood, feeling quite lonely and sad, but the sight of the fir rose my spirits and tenderness and happiness overwhelmed me. Katia and Mademoiselle de l'Escaille splendidly adorned the fir putting under it various precious gifts with the best of them : a frame with the picture of my 4 dear children. This was extremely nice and such a bright and good idea which touched me to the deepest of my soul.

My thoughts were constantly with you all these days and I could not imagine how and where you placed the fir in Tsarskoe. Poor aunt Ella, how terribly sad she must have felt this first Christmas without dear uncle Sergueï. I have been thinking very much of her and completely sharing her feelings. But, in spite of all, it is good that she was there and as for the children, I can imagine how glad they were. They sent me a very beautiful frame with their pictures; tell them that I was very happy to receive them.

A few days ago, poor Arara was suffering very much from a "lumbago" and even lay in bed for two days. He could not have supper with us, but thank Heaven he is better now although did not completely recover and feels some weekness. This is really <u>unbearable</u>, feeling so well and walking a lot, he even wanted to mount. Poor uncle Freddy and everybody are extremely worried as poor little Louise is critically ill : "inflamation cérébrale". Yesterday in the evening, Christian went to collect information as the telegrames are incomprehensible, but it is obvious that she is critically ill. God help her to recover !

The weather is quite mild, autumnal and in the last days it is becoming very dark. For two days, we could have some ice-skating but it began to thaw again and now that pleasure is over.

What did you hear about my departed cuirassiers who left with Orlov's group. God help that these horrors and riots everywhere, especially in Courtland and Latvia be over soon ! These Latvians are the most cruel folk God ever knew : what atrocities they did commit in my palace of Pskov. It is just unbelievable, they are not persons, just wild beasts, "des démons". Is it true that Admiral Rojdestvensky wrote that stupid useless letter ? I can't believe it and I do hope that it is not true.

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But now, it is time to finish this letter. Once again, I thank you and Olga with all my heart. Kisses to all and most tenderly. Greetings from Arara, uncle Hans, uncle Waldemar and everybody here. God bless you !

With my warmest love !

Your Mummy.

It is horrible what you have done to Baby ! You might have killed her !