

Sept 14 1902.
Unionville, Ont.

Third

My dear Mother:

I want to beg your pardon if I said some things in my letter that didn't sound respectful, but I feel very strongly that you have got a mistaken idea of the whole business, and I don't want you to be unjust to the firm which I believe has done the very best they could for me. They certainly have not been very much benefited by my "faithful endeavors to sell their books."

I have been thinking the matter over very carefully and believe that it is possible that I might get back to school under the conditions you state - that is to say without a cent in my pocket - if it really

is the best plan. First in regard to my debts: -

- I owe Rudin & Keller \$ 8.60
 - I owe Mr. Elliot for board 8.50 (about that any way)
 - I owe the company for books 12.90
 - I owe here in Unionville for board 3.50
- 33.50

I also owe Keller one book and Mr. DeShayes the minister in Milford one, but I have the two books to give them. Then I have one other book which is worth \$2.50 and will pay all but a dollar of my bill here. My bill at Westfield was settled by books. That cuts down my debts here to ~~\$31.00~~.

Now I will speak of the books I have already sold and haven't delivered

I have already delivered 6 books.

A for	1.50	- Profit	0.00	- To be delivered any time
A "	2.50	- Profit	2.50	- I already have the book.
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- To be delivered 1-10 Oct.
A "	2.50	- "	1.00	- " " " "
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- " " " "
C "	3.90	- "	1.56	- " " " "
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- " " " "
A "	2.50	- "	1.00	- " " " "
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- about Thanksgiving
C "	3.90	- "	1.56	- " " " "
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- 11th of Oct.
B "	2.90	- "	1.16	- 1 to 10th of Oct.
			<u>\$ 14.58</u>	

Taking off the two to be delivered \$ 2.32 at Thanksgiving.

Leaves \$ 11.86 or not quite enough

to settle the Co's bill.

(over)

33.56
11.86
 21.64

Another week ~~and a half's~~ board would cost
 me about enough to bring the debt up
 to \$25.00 or a little ~~more~~ less. That would
 mean about 20 books mostly of the middle
 variety. Well if I sold this week ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ one
 full days work about 6 books there
 is no reason why I shouldn't sell 20
 this week if I work every available
 minute. That would clear me down
 here and leave my debts in Oberlin
 \$22.50. Now if you think it is worth while
 I might come back to Oberlin under
 those conditions, although of course I
 should be ashamed to show my face
 or say any thing about my summer's
 work. The great difficulty is that I

could not get the money, you see, till the first week in October. However my bill here at Unionville, I will not be called to settle till the time of delivery. The company also I am pretty sure would let my bill go till then, although they wouldn't be obliged to. ~~But my bill~~ Although I know it would pinch Rudin yet I think he would also wait. But my bill at Plain City will have to be settled right away.

You know Mr. Elliot was very kind to me - cut down the price and also agreed to wait for the money, a little while. Well while I have been here he has sold the hotel and I saw him yesterday and he said he would leave some day next week, very

likely the first part too. I left with him when I come away from there, all of my clothes, my watch and books and everything, and of course I couldn't very well go back for them till I pay him. I wonder if you can help me out at all. I think I have been very good about asking you for assistance this summer although I have several times been to the end of my means without any hope of getting any help, and have managed to squirm out of every hole till now, and now I'm certainly stuck. Will you please help me out? For I don't see any other way. You say you have twenty dollars. I don't know where

you got it. I hope it is not Evelyn's
hard earned wages. But wherever you got it
if you could lend me \$10.00 till the first
of October I will pay it back promptly
and if you still think it is best will
do all in my power to get back to school.
Will you please send it by return mail if
possible as I don't know what day Mr.
Elliot may leave. I shall see him tomorrow
and tell him I have sent for the money
and that it is probably on the way. Address
me at Plain City where I will be when
I receive the letter. I know I am asking
a great deal but it would be just as
easy for me to pay you back as to settle
with Mr. Elliot and I will consider

that bill just as binding. And of course if the money doesn't come right away I will be in an awful fix, so I hope you will please help me out. Please answer by return mail if you won't send the money, as the uncertainty is nearly as bad as losing my watch and goods or not paying on honorable debt.

I wrote a letter to Mr. Peck yesterday afternoon and told him the facts very briefly and not as fully as I did to you. Then I ~~said~~ told my debts here, and told him what sort of a letter you wished me to write to the company and asked him to tell you what he thought of such a letter. I did.

will say any more about the letter than to give him to understand that I was to write asking them to settle my debts here. I told him I thought it would be impossible for me to enter this fall but was more than ready to be convinced otherwise. I hope you will see him as soon as possible but please send the money or refusal first. I also told Mr. Pick that I had signed a 65 day contract and hadn't worked it half out. I think he has a very clear business head and also an entirely disinterested interest in ~~me~~ seeing me do what is for my best good. I am almost certain he will

say that such a letter as you wished me to write would be the height of folly and also injustice.

Now in regard to that book for which I received those three books in trade. Instead of being a very shrewd trick on the part of the Supt. was in the eyes of a canvasser a very shrewd trick on my part. You needn't think the Supt. suggested the trade. I tried that myself as a last resort to get his name which is worth a great deal to me. Of course I knew at the time that I was as good as giving the book away, but I thought maybe the books would be worth something

at the same time. Perhaps if I don't come back to school I might have sort of a little private college with my three books on Psychology, Geology, and Physical Geography. The book I traded was Keller's and had had a great deal of hard usage.

I am writing this letter in rather a rambling style for you to get at my plans, but I will try to clear up two or three points that may puzzle you. There are two plans I might follow in regard to my delivery. The first and most economical I might stay right in the field till delivery the first week in October which would mean that

I would enter school a week ^{or more} ~~and a half~~
~~to two weeks~~ late which of course
 would put me at a great disadvantage.
 On the other hand I might leave here
 to reach Berlin the 23rd. and then
 come back the first week in October
 to deliver thereby incurring a great deal
 of expense in traveling about 400 miles
 or else lose a great deal of time doing
 it on my wheel.

Now as to the respective merits of the
 two ways. The first plan - I would work to
 the first of Oct. thereby losing 8 days of
 which one would be opening day, of which
 one, Sunday, and two half holidays.
 leaving ~~three~~ ⁴ days of solid school

work. Then one day and a half to deliver and one day and a half to come home—about 120 miles or nearly that. That would mean ~~seven~~ ^{full} ~~six~~ days of school-work lost. If I came on the train it might save a day of that at an expense of about four dollars.

The second plan— I would leave here a week from Monday morning on my wheel, [unless I should travel on Sunday] and would arrive in Oberlin on the 23rd about noon, see Mr. Peck, join the next day, would be in school all Thursday Friday, the half day Saturday, the half day Monday, or three full days of school. I would leave Tuesday

morning on my wheel, arrive here Wednesday noon, ~~at~~ deliver till Thursday night, leave Friday morning and arrive home ~~Friday~~ Saturday noon too late for more school till Monday noon. (You might take a Calendar in order to follow me more easily.)

That would mean four and a half days of solid school work lost.

I hadn't decided which was the better way but after writing it out this way with a calendar in front of me I see there isn't ^{much of} any choice, unless of course I could travel by train which would cost me if I come home and back

again to deliver about \$10.00 or \$12.00.
 You see it is not only a question of ~~seven~~ ^{lost} school days, against four and a half but also a question of 14 days of solid canvassing against against C. and also a great deal of labor saved from traveling 400 miles and saving of my wheel which might not stand the journey as I have given it some awfully hard work this summer and it has already more than paid for itself. Now there are the two courses - take your choice.

I have just been reading the newspaper and of course it has all about

The coming football season and just nearly 'makes me crazy to get back to school. Of course I couldn't play if I did come back but it would do me good to see how things are going.

I suppose of course if I come back to Oberlin, I would have to get some kind of a steady paying job, and I'll tell you what I had planned. I would ask the company to give me territory near Oberlin to canvass, about 3 hrs. a day and at the same time to be filling out the terms of my contract. My choice of territory would be first - Wellington

second Clyria, third Loraines or some little
 neighboring little village ^{near} ~~to~~ Oberlin.
 If I got Wellington I ~~would~~ might
 see the Supt. etc the Saturday ^{after} I arrive
 home, although may be it would
 be better to wait a week on account
 of having school work behind. You
 know while I am not acquainted in
~~Oberlin~~ ~~yet~~ Wellington enough to
 put me at a disadvantage but
 of course I am known to the H. S. teachers
 and pupils because of our debate and
 also my picture was in the Wellington
 paper. What do you think of that
 scheme?

In regard to the books Eveling asked

about, tell her to use her own best judgement. [Please write on your letter "Do not forward"]

If you find me tedious you might take a vacation here for several hours.

Be sure however to either send the money, ^{about \$10.00} or refusal by return ^{mail} if possible, please.

Taking it for granted you have taken a little vacation, I will resume.

Have you any idea how I would be classed if I entered school. I don't know a single thing about whether I passed in any study last year although I have exhausted every effort to find out.

Did I pass in German? Did I pass in Dr. English under Miss Ward and has she left town too so that

you couldn't find out? Couldn't you get
 Evelina to help find out? Isn't there
 any way of making up what I have
 lost? I don't want to lose the whole
 year if I can help it. Could you find
 out what Studies I would take up this
 fall? Mary and Ellen might see Mr. Pick
 for you if you are very tired or busy.

Since I started writing this letter
 and thinking of returning to Oberlin
 I just can't wait to get back. I
 am going to strain every effort now
 and I think the most feasible
 plan is to work right up to the
 first of October, make my delivery
 and ride home late. I will surely

20 Sept 14, 1902

Know by the end of this week whether
I can make it to get back or not.
I may drop you a postal the
middle of the week if I have very
poor or exceptionally good luck,
but you will certainly hear from
me a week from this mail.

I guess I have been long enough
writing and will close now.

Affectionately
Willie

I am just crazy to get back.

W. H. Belden
Plain City
Ohio.

1907

After.....days, return to

W. H. Belden Plain City, O.
W. H. Belden Plain City, O.

~~UNIONVILLE CENTER, OHIO.~~



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H
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Mrs. Wm. H. Belden.

Mrs. Wm. H. Belden

28 1/2 W. Coll. St.

West College Hunt
Oberlin Ohio

West College Oberlin
Oberlin Ohio.

Ohio.

SEP 15

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