

12-19-03

CARLINVILLE, ILL.,

190

My dear Maamma,-

This is stealing, of course, but I've used my own lots of times when I never have used this for business correspondence.

Please don't think that I don't want to send all the money that I can do send. That's why I want to earn it so that I can help with all the family expenses. The only reason I got about this month's money was because I have extra things just now you know, but I never meant that I wanted to ~~perish~~ perish all myself. Since you suggest it, however, perhaps I will send any this month, if you are sure it will be all right; but I expect to keep on with the same that I've been sending just the same ^{after} this month. I manage pretty well and I know how hard it is for you all to get along at home - here now

reason why I should have things² easier than you all do and I
don't want to. Do you think that I could get Ellen some new glasses
for Christmas? You know she wants them very much and if I
have them, I want her to too. I wish I could. I have been think-
ing & thinking about my own clothes. I don't want Margaret to
be ashamed of me when I go to see her. You know we spoke once be-
fore I left home of my getting a new long skirt at Christmas time.
I need a skirt much more than I do any thing else. But I would
have awfully to spend the money for it. I don't feel as tho' I ought to
& besides, I want it for other things.

Now about the thing for Christmas. I don't feel as though you ought
to do much; but I think if you do send a box it would probably
be better for you to send it so that I had it after I come next on
my visit because it would be easier for you to get it off for them
probably and, of course, either time is all right for me. I shall
have to do that way myself, I'm afraid; because school doesn't
close till the day before Christmas; and so my gifts will be for
New Year's instead of Christmas. I think I will leave it to you

BLACKBURN COLLEGE

WALTER H. BRADLEY, DEAN

CARLINVILLE, ILL.

189

what it shall be that you would be lonely, I think. I should like that very much. I believe, any other where I should rather have that than "The Literary Digest," though I should like that awfully well, too. There is a little book that I've wanted lots of times since I've been here - a poor translation of Thersites. There is one in the library that we had to consult in connection with some of Mr. Trager's work that I liked very much. I have no idea what it costs; but I should think about what either of these papers would be. I don't know which I'd rather have. But just anything any of you should think of would be lovely, I know. There are quite a few books & things that I'd like very much to have, if it isn't a great deal of work for you to put them up for me & if you don't any of you need them. I'll make a list on a separate sheet of paper so that I should think it would be better to have a right day than any other kind. And I've been wondering if you could send me some more Turkish things - a little coffee pot and out of the mills, I'd like very much. One of the girls who

was at our Turkish party asked the the other day if I would come
over & help her entertain some friends in Turkish style some
time. She wanted to have Turkish ice-cream; but I'd rather
have something that was more really Turkish. I have wonder-
ed if you want the dress or any of the things you sent me
back again; because if you do I can send them when I send
my Christmas things. I should like very much to have some
more Turkish things any thing you don't need at home & in-
formation to help me in explaining.

Well, I ought to have been at work long ago & I'll have to leave
this till tomorrow to finish.

Very lovingly,
"Polly."

Sunday afternoon.

It is cold today, a little below zero, the first day we have had quite
so cold. It hasn't seemed exactly like winter yet. I guess California
is warmer than Oberlin & I'm glad it is.

I put the braid on my old short skirt yesterday - that is basted

it on; but it is not sewed yet - ^{5.} may be some day. I think I'll ask Mrs. Caynor to let me do it in her machine.

BLACKBURN COLLEGE
WALTER J. BRADLEY, DEAN

Speaking of Mrs. Caynor makes me think of how she swept my room for me last Friday, both mine and Margaret's. ~~We wrote~~ ^{she} ~~at~~ when we came home from school we found that she had done it and wiped up the oil-cloth and all. She said she thought that "you all wouldn't have to do it on Saturday." She quite agreed for not doing our bed-rooms too. Isn't it nice of her to do so much for us? This morning she brought fried bread and coffee for our breakfast; but I didn't get up in time to eat any thing before I went to church - or rather I thought I didn't ~~and~~ ^{and} still got there before a soul arrived.

Margaret has been suggesting my making myself a skirt when I go to her house; but I told her I didn't know the first thing about making a skirt & was sure I couldn't do it. She said she would hang it for me. She says she made

several things, including one white dress, for my college room-mate.
But of course I won't let her do any such thing. She is going to
make a skirt for herself while she is home & I said if she would
let me do all the plain sewing & putting braid on etc. on
hers, I might let her. But I'm not sure as I want to even do.
Of course it would cost a great deal less to make it myself
than to buy a ready-made skirt, & I'd like to have one terribly
well. Margaret is awfully nice about offering to do things for
people. I think she is very generous in most ways, much more
so than I am.

(Private.)

Please tell me in your next letter what you think it would be
wise for me to do for the various members of the family for
Christmas. It is always so hard to think up things for Nellie
and Seldene especially; and I don't know what to feel about
either. Now please don't say I'm not to send things; because
if I don't send any money home I'm going to have it for
Christmas presents. I had thought perhaps Nellie would like

an Oberlin banner or an Oberlin Yellow or something of that sort. I could make it while I am at ~~Blackburn~~, and of course I can make a nicer thing for a little money than I can buy. Would Evulvia like something of that sort for something to wear or some book? I know she told me she wished people would give her books. If she wants a book, will you find out what one she wants, please. I am not going to do any thing about my Christmas presents till I go to Jacksonville, for that is a larger place than Carlisle and I know I could do better there.

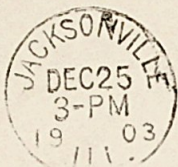
Good-bye, Dear Lady. I hope you are well and not working too hard. I hate to think of your lying up stairs in bed and I hope you don't have to do it much. Nobody can miracle but glad I shall be where I can come & I can see you all again. Sometimes lately it has just seemed as tho' I never could wait and yet I am having a lovely time here. I like my work and like my students and they are awfully nice to me. I think

the students here are unusually nice to the teachers.

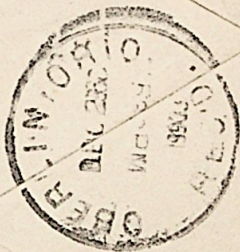
Very dearest love to my own dear lovely Mamma,
Polly.

December the thirtieth, nineteen hundred and three.
Carlinville, Illinois.

12/19/03



Mrs. William F. Belden,
287 West College Street,
Oberlin,
Ohio.



JOHN
WANAMAKER
NEW YORK

