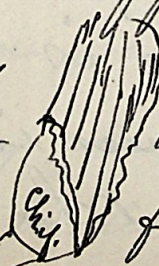


Oberlin Ohio,
Jan 26, 1905.

My dear Polly:-

Your letter from Ellen
came ⁱⁿ this mornings mail, and
both ^a Evelyn and I wrote to Ellen
about the waist and mailed
our letter at two o'clock. I thought
you might like to know. I am
greatly taken with the accordion
pleated waist with chiffon neck,
& suggested that it might be
pretty to have chiffon undulations
also this way  or some way
to follow the prevailing fashion.
That way is nice for older people

+ young people could lease it off if they want to. Evelina is greatly taken with Ellen's other suggestion of a waist made from handkerchiefs and wants to try to work out that idea if Ellen does not use it. If you girls were near enough together to help one another work things up I know you could get out some thing original, simple + "fetching". I told Ellen nobody need know any thing except that she was making a pretty waist for herself, which any one is likely to do. Her own consciousness is the only thing to bother her. Who is going to know

her face in the photograph, out of the 100000+ more readers who will look at the waist not the face. I think she had better not spare money on her material or photo. or getting a woman to help her sew it, so it gets done and the picture off in time. I write these things to you + if they appeal to your judgment and you are too busy to write Ellen, you can send this note on, and add a postscript "There's my sentiments too" for she will depend a good deal on your opinion; I am almost sure she can get a prize. If you have any ideas, send them on quickly, to Evelina and to Ellen.

This is the day of prayer for Collyers
Er. + Millie went this am. + Millie
has gone again this evening. Mr.
Colton is here, you may remember
him. Selden is over staying
with the Davis boys while Mrs.
Davis is at meeting, and Estina
is at Mrs. Heacey's performing the
same office. Collyer meeting was
at six, and at seven a union
prayer meeting of all the churches
in town, at the Second Church.
It is the Annual Kindergarten
Meeting and I should have
gone, but was feeling rather
tired. It is cold + we have
had more or less of snow storms
for some days, with big drifts.

151

I want to write in particular
to thank you for the check. It
went - all of it - immediately
to Mr. West towards paying
the plumbing + gas bill; and
Lucy's \$25⁰⁰ went to the same
place. The bill was larger
than we anticipated. Mr. W.
said last summer that he
thought it would come under
a hundred dollars, and
it is a hundred and forty
six. With your ch. we have
paid sixty dollars to him.
His bill had every item down

+ I do not think he overcharged
for anything but the house is
larger than he realized, + we
had it all piped, altho'
fixtures are not put in
all rooms. The Ferris sitting
room has a good drop light
with a green shade. When
you + Ellen are home next
summer I intend you to have
those two front rooms, closets
and all, that is, you three
girls. I think it would be
lovely for you to each have a
closet, the bed room together,
+ the other room for study or

(7)

Whatever you like - just like
the three Ferris's. They seem
to enjoy one another so much.
Now that bureau drawers and
every thing are emptied, of our
things it will be ~~convenient~~ to occupy
the space. I wish you had
two nice rooms like those
now, heated & lighted, &
with big closets & windows.

If you feel rested enough it
would be nice for you & Ellen
to go into Summer school & go on
earning your degrees. I hardly
think it wise for you to teach
in summer - certainly not unless
you get high pay. I'm want to
get you M.A. as soon as possible
for one thing, & we want you

home for another, I don't mean
to work, but I mean so that
we can be together. It would
be pretty hard to start on a new
lot of pupils & books without
any vacation, I think, nine
months at a stretch is enough
for a girl of your age to teach.

I trust the boys will have good
places to work next summer.
Selden already is on the lookout,
& was at me till I wrote to Uncle
Joe, who answered that he
had no need of a boy, but
would like a visit from Selden.
Boys get, where Uncle Joe lives, from
.25¢ to .50¢ a day without board.

It seems to me that Glen-
dale is a pretty good place

9

& Earlville, ^{is} too - places
that you girls don't want
to give up unless you can
do a great deal better.
No place will be perfect.
Particularly Ellen ought
not to change unless she
does much better. It
would be bad for her repu-
tation. I don't know how
many people have told
me that was a fine
position. As

she did not go back to Cards,
if she should change
again from Glendale
people might think some-
thing was wrong with her,
unless she went to a
much better place.

I may not write on
Sunday this week.

Cousin Carrie ^{Hudson} may visit
us soon.

Lots of love
to my precious
Polly from her lovingest
ma