

Dear Grace:

The same mail that brought your letter to me just now brought one also from Mamma in which she spoke of the fact that Mrs. Heacox had asked her to take you in the spring vacation and by the way she spoke I am sure you need not be afraid of intruding. She would like to have you and so would I. I think it is a little little funny to take you as a *paying* guest - but we are kind of funny in Oberlin; so I guess it is all right. I think it will be lovely to see so much of you. I don't think the Lady is able to get meals, but you will probably prefer to get yours down town as the spirit moves you in the same way you did last year.

Talk about things to say - "I could a tale unfold" - but I will not on paper and at present. Not about your college.

Yes, Mrs. Hanley did write me about the matter you refer to. I rather hoped she would show you my letter. I would be glad to know how it struck her. I was a little afraid she would think it not as ardent as desirable, but it was meant to be very friendly. I knew, of course, that it was almost sure to be biased and so took its message with a large grain of salt. The burden of my message to her was to find something else and she may not care for that advice, nor, I fear, for my giving credence to the rumor that Miss Brown heard last year to the effect that Time would not see her retained after this year. Our friend likes to think that she has everybody bluffed and may resent my not believing she has. I offered to write as many recommendations as desired, which seems to me the real service of friendship - and my best offering. When the break comes - as come it will - I will undoubtedly be quoted and I don't choose to be quoted as favoring certain things that I certainly do not favor. I also felt that it was only fair to give her Ladyship credit for the good qualities she does have - you know I never have thought her all bad. And I really do think she is very decent about hard grading. I flunked a good proportion of students at Lake Erie and she never took the least exception to any of my marks as far as I can remember. I do remember that Miss S. was a little disagreeable last spring about the freshmen that did not get through the delinquent examination with Mrs. Hanley. But, in the first place, she had one of her mads on, and then she had recently heard that report from the state inspector to the effect that Mrs. Hanley had not a pleasant attitude toward her students. Coupling this with the fact that the students graded by Miss Baker did pass, she may have had some ground for feeling that Mrs. Hanley might be in part

to blame. As to the Brahmin, I was a little more communicative in my letter to Mrs. Hanley. I do think she is kind of a pill and I do think she has crazy prep. school notions of running the department.

I am going to New York next week to a meeting of the Oberlin drive committees and while I am there, I am hoping to see a few of the good things that are on in the theatres. I am simply wild to see *R.U.R.*, that satire about the "4obots". Barrymore seems to be through giving his *Hamlet* according to Sunday's *Times* - I should have loved to see that.

Well, I must not indulge myself in any more visiting this morning. So lovely I am to see you so soon. Are any of the others coming to Oberlin for the vacation? Do encourage them to.

Please remember me enthusiastically to my Lake Erie friends.

Yours as always,

Elmira, February 27.

Dear Lady:

The above is a carbon of the reply I have just written to the enclosed letter from Grace Lockton. It shows you that I think it is all right to have her.

Her letter came in the same mail with yours. I bet anything you land that prize. Too bad you had the wrong date. I could have copied your article in a very short time and would have loved to do it. Too bad you couldn't have had me do it. You are a smart lady sure and I am more than ever glad I have you for my mother.

It is all right to come to Elmira after the vacation and then we can take the trip together. I hope you didn't feel bad about my saying I wanted you now - because I always want you - that is just the long and short of it really.

Ellen wrote me about the Taylors coming to us and I sent her some of my ideas on the subject. In many ways I should like it very much indeed. I wonder if since they don't have to move right away, if it could wait to be decided in the vacation when we can talk it over? I think the house would have a great deal less wear and tear than with most of the people we are likely to have. But I can't quite conjecture whether it would be a responsibility for you or not. It might not.

I have decided not to go to New York for the week-end too expensive - but to stay over the next day after the Oberlin luncheon. The luncheon is on Tuesday and Wednesday is a matinee day, so that I could go to something

that afternoon. There would also be time to go to a play before my train leaves in the evening and also there would be Tuesday evening. I wrote to Uncle George that I was going to be there and asked him if he would want to go with me. Just sent the letter this morning. Then came the enclosed from Aunty and so I hardly think he can do this. Isn't it disappointing that the Hadleys are leaving without my even seeing them once?

I saw a review in the *Literary Review* the other day that said the very things I am afraid some critic will say about *Footie* when he is on the market and I should be just killed if they did. How am I ever to make it good enough to publish?

With such a lot of love to my darling Lady,

Pally

Elmira, Feb. 27