

Thursday before Xmas,

I believe the letter up on my table started to you was begun nearly two weeks ago. I feel bad about the way my correspondence has gone since I have been here. This is the last day of school before the holidays & I hope I shall be better prepared to send an Xmas thing the rest of the time, till then; but I am awfully afraid I'll have to see to changing the girls' rooms, which may be a good deal

of work. I haven't² sent anything yet
+ feel perfectly heart-broken about
it. If I had only begun long ago.
Last Friday (nearly a week ago) I
went downtown. I bought a piece
of very cheap organdie. Bought it
though & spent about 8 o'clock drew a
design on it for a shadow waist
for Christie, worked on it that night &
most of the next day and got the

embroidery about ³⁻ done. There was just
a little more to finish & so you may
have it, a week later, no further along.
Isn't it nice?

This work, you know was the first big
banquet, one of the biggest affairs of the
year always, about 150 plates set. We
had it in the dining room, which was
prettily decorated. I had a treat - you
know - on the subject "Social Patri-

cacies," giving me no need of my work
 pairing off couples for the banquet.
 Mr. Whittly & I undertook to see
 that they were all provided for in
 that way, with pretty good suc-
 cess, I hear girls only being left
 over, because there weren't any
 more boys to be found. I guess I'll
 send you the trail - do you think

it is terribly childish for me to do
that? I know if we were together
you would want to hear it. I hope
it doesn't come under the category
of what Mrs. Darwin once spoke of in
so derogatory a tone, as "co-educational
jokes"; for I know she thought them
terribly out of place, & I wouldn't for
any thing have things in her taste.

Everybody liked it ^{6.} - so many have
spoken of it. Deane Heath wanted me
to give him a copy of it - to send to
England, he said. He thought it
one of the best things he had
ever heard of the sort. Of course it
is the dearest kind of wit, & fun.

I wore my painted dress, which
aroused as much enthusiasm as

ever. I think, myself, it is just as
pretty as it can be and very sweet.
I bet you & I could have made a for-
tune if we had cared to make a
business of designing dresses for
wealthy people. But I'd hate that
shop-girl job. When I want to press
my gown (ahem!) this summer was
daisy law —

Well this is the end. installmen

of this letter & now it is the Sunday
before Christmas, & the dear family
at home won't have even a Merry Xmas
from me on the 25th.

Yesterday I finished & sent off the
little waists to Punita, which please
tell her is very cheap organdy -
19¢ a yd.; but my own cheap

argandie has been so very useful to
me that I thought this would be
to her. Marrying it over a slip, it
can be worn two or three months.
as mine has without showing soil.
The whole waist didn't cost more
than 75¢, I guess. 3 yds of 19¢
material (57¢) three pieces or 84

of gloss (5¢) and about 2 yds. of
black insertion, which I got at
a sale for 3¢ a yd. (9¢) and a
little narrow edging. Yet, I thought
it would be durability & wear as well
as a light silk would. I hoped it
would reach her in time so that
you could help her make it up

I would have ¹¹⁻made it, only I
wanted it to get there some time
before it was out of style, and by
my experience with Christmas
work so far, thought there would
be little hope if I tried to make
it.

I sent you a pair of long

brown gloves, which I knew you
needed + thought you didn't
have. I wish I could have
got tau and am comforting
myself that your skirt is brown
enough to make these look all
right. I got them at a sale for
\$2.98, which I tell you so you

Don't worry over ¹³ the cost. That is
awfully cheap - usually they would
be \$2.00 or \$3.75. I didn't know
what to seed Selden, so got a
book, which I hope he hasn't
already got, intending to seed Eve-
lisa money to get him something
else. Then came her letter saying

that he wanted a muffler & so
I am going down to get some
material to make him one, which,
well, of course, he late in reaching
him! I'm making the Dever
Lady a scarf, because I was
afraid I wouldn't have time
for the white waist I planned

to make. It was begun before Aunt's
letter came saying Grandma would
some handkerchiefs handkerchiefs
& would not want me to spend
much money. But I hope she
won't worry, for this was very
cheap material ~~1~~² yds. at 25¢
a yd. I don't like the way it

is made very much. Mrs. Crauder
talked about painted scarfs &
how they were selling them (crêpe
de chine of course) in Seattle for
\$8.00 and \$10.00 apiece, and I
thought it might be nice and
stylish. And I thought damn
well we would not be wearing her

Just much with that gray suit.
She mustn't save this, for it
is awfully cheap stuff & won't be
worn at all when it is out of
style.

I am rather expecting Willie
over today to stay till after Xmas.
I have only a week left for

him. I gave him ¹⁸ \$8.00 about
two weeks ago, to pay for the
rent of his dress suit for the
glee club concert (\$5.00 or \$6.00)
and other little things and
felt that I couldn't afford any
more. I gave him \$3.00 thanks
giving time - he wanted to

borrow that, but he can't return
it & I don't want him to. I want
to help him just enough to get
him on to staying in school
all the time & get working for
himself. He is awfully hard
up, but it will do him lots of
good to be on his own responsibility.

as much as possible.²⁰

I must stop & write to the rest of the family. I hope this reaches you before you leave Oberlin at least.

Love - Mary.

I miss you awfully. I'm just praying that you ~~will~~ will be here

21-

with me next year.

J. M. B.

Whitworth College, Tacoma, Wash.

Dec. 23rd, 1906.

Red 3rd

Dear Ellen,-

I believe this is the first time I have ever started a letter to you in class since I have been at Whitworth. I have had piles of things to say to you lately & no time. Tuesday, Mrs. Crowell, the art teacher, had an art exhibit, her work her students, & I helped

her all day² long with
the exception of about
an hour + half that
I spent taking a nap
after luncheon. She
had it her + there
was no one to help her
get the rooms in
order. Most of us had
no classes, as it was
examination week.

3.
The way they do here in
warrs, is to give each
teacher a half day and
let her hold all her
classes, at the same
time. The teachers
here are worried about
not taking any inter-
est in helping each
other out or doing
things in a general

spirit for ^{the} school.
There was no one else
to do it except some
little prep girls and
one boy and men
worked like slaves
putting the parlors
in order. The house
here is awfully bare &
the two rooms that are
used for recitations
have nothing in at all

where the chairs are
taken out, so we had to
get rugs, couches, etc.

We didn't do the heavy
lifting but every thing
else. Then right after
noon & evening I had
to go down & entertain,
so there was my day.

Last night the music
department had a re-
treat ~~to~~ which I had
to attend, of course,

though I didn't go till
it was half over. Next
Tuesday is the foot-ball
raffle & I am on the
committee to arrange
for it & have to give a
talk (which is the
worst) & I don't see
when I'm going to have
time to do a little at
Christmas presents & I
am so disappointed;

I can hardly give it up.
They have been having
swine sales at a slow
down town, but I thought
they were over & so I
missed just the things
I wanted. Yesterday
they were selling the
old 50 cent specimens
for 5 cents a lb. &
I believe it would have
been all right for what

I needed to make a
 shadow waist for the
 Lady & Aunt. They would
 have liked it for me
 to get the goods for
 a song - wouldnt have
 except an extravagance.
 The most wonderful
 sales - I saw some
 of the things one of
 the girls' mothers got.
 At that time - Miss
 Vanquatt didn't come

now I might do a good
deal - please it &
haven't an idea for
a track. If I only had
you to help me!

Why don't you tell
Miss De Van what may
be. I can get you this
chance & that if so
you want stay, be-
cause I course you
want to be with me?

She would know that
was nothing against
her. I think she likes
you well enough not
to throw you over-
board with the rest.

You might tell her
that you should proba-
bly get a letter from
her too. Maybe she
might give you a piece
if you do stay there.

I don't think the time
has come yet for me to
speak. I hope when I
do I can make them
see how much more
valuable my own work
would be with you here,
because we could work
together with so much
less outlay of effort
& time. Please ask
all the time for things

to be prepared ^{12.} for me
to ask of the proposi-
tion be considered.

Read first.