

My love to Mr. Billy

Lady darling:

The morning is going fast and I have got almost nothing done and so I ought not to write any at all. But your letter has just come and I want to tell you that I am going to try to act according to its advice. I do think there is nothing so worth while keeping as the love between us sisters and brothers and it would be the greatest catastrophe that could happen to us to let any differences we have in our ideas come in to spoil our love of each other. I really think this quite as much as you can wish I should. So, Lady dear, please believe in me the best you can and in my wish to be the best I am able to be - I am discouraged about myself, but I am determined not to lose my belief in myself any way. If you lose that you lose all.

What would you think of Caddie Reed as a candidate for alumni trustee? The ballot for nominations has just come and I am trying to make up my mind to a good person to propose. Caddie is an independent thinker and has learned many things in her own life as a teacher about the matters that I think should begin to be thought of in the trustee board - specially as to the possibilities of women's work in the college. It seems to me a teacher would be lot better than one from any other profession. Do you? There is also Julia Patton, Miss Brownbag's friend, she might be good. I do not, however, know her personally.

If you haven't sent the gold beads, never mind about sending them if you think they wouldn't be nice put with the others. I don't either; but I thought they might do and I don't want to pay so much for having the others filled out. This jeweller has the reputation of being as slow as Mr. Kimpton - I chose him because he has the reputation of being so good and so honest - and if he is so slow, like enough he wouldn't get them ready much before I leave for home. It would probably cost less to get the job done in Oberlin than here. Please tell me whether or not you have sent the beads, however, because I am so afraid of their getting lost in our post-office.

Just here a caller came - the French girl who was my particular charge last year. She has been teaching in New York this year and looks so spruced up in her clothes. While she was yet wearing her French clothes she hadn't half the style she has now that she has got herself more in the American ways. She is going home to France for the summer and back here next year to teach again - this time in the Bryn Mawr preparatory school at Bryn Mawr - the Shipley is it?

Good bye, Lady sweet,

May 10

Polly

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You know she teaches in the School of Religious Education, which the college carries along with some of the churches in town; and some of the actors as well as some of the spectators came from there. There were some cunning little girls in it about Ped's age or younger. One made me quite homesick for Ped with her fair skin and her light hair - though she wasn't nearly so pretty. There were three young men who acted in it.

This morning I asked Dr. Harris to let me trade that course in fourteenth century literature that I taught last semestra and don't like, for the novel and she said she was willing. I hope she will remember and not give it to the new woman. I like that subject very much. It is a course Mr. Gray has taught.

How is Mr. Billy? I would so love to hear some of his plans. Is he trying to find some opening to stay in the States? Please do persuade him to stay in Oberlin at least till I get home - after all these years I think it would be awful for us to see nothing of each other. Evelina seems to have <sup>had</sup> just a perfect visit with him.

I shall be so awfully obliged if you aren't too much bothered to send me the gold beads.

You didn't pay Mr. Kimpton for the chain, did you? We had paid it last summer. The marking of my brush and comb set and Evelina's trays has not been paid, as far as I know.

Did you get the stationery? I got some slips from the firm to which I sent the order and for which I asked in the letter I sent the order and so I know it has been received.

I went in again yesterday about the curling-iron and they said it had not been sent but they would send it in a few days - it had not come back from the factory!

Do you need any money, Lady dear? If you do, please say so in your next letter.

Good bye, Precious Lady. Polly loves you so much and I do hope you are not out with me for saying how I feel about the matter in the beginning of this letter.

With a lot of love to you and Mr. Billy,

Elmira, May 3

Mary

I am just writing to Ellen and after all, I decided to tell her I had sent her letter to you.

My dear Ellen,

I received your letter of the 10th and was glad to hear from you. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have not much news to write at present.

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are happy and content with your life.

I have not much news to write at present. I have been busy with my work and have not had time to do much else.

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not really and long.

I am trying to get some work done on Foote today - hard to get the time in even with this small schedule. This morning we spent til lunch time on the examination questions for the sophomore lit. I am now to type the copy to send in for the printer.

This week Miss Mattoon had her missionary pageant. It was well attended - every seat in the chapel must have been filled and I am so *glad* it went off so well. She had arranged scenes from the life of Joseph Neesima (not sure of the spelling) in a sort of pageant. It wasn't a bit dramatic - that is certainly not her line. But it went off a great deal better than any one had foreseen and so I think it was encouraging to her. An offering was taken and about fifty dollar raised for something in Japan - I didn't get it clear in my head just what.