

Feb. 26

might send mamma
Dear Ellen:

Your letter has just come. I wrote mamma about the same thing about the Taylors in the house. In some ways I am extremely favorable to their coming, - chiefly that I like them and always regard Harriet as one of my best friends. But I do see some problems. One is that dear little Harriet has certainly a way of petting herself and that may give the Lady-who has n't that trait-too many responsibilities. I rather dislike the idea of their starting in the second floor because there I am sure much more would fall on Mamma, since they would be practically living *with* her. It is the *third* floor they asked for. Up there Harriet would have to take more of the responsibility. The idea is for them to come into the second floor rooms till the third floor is vacated. One thing I am afraid of is that after being on that floor they will want to stay there and Mamma will hate to refuse. In the third floor I really believe it would be all right. I wish I could talk

with

2

you about it.

Don't feel blue about that letter on the subject of your writing. It said only what each one of us has said about the other in connection with our own efforts to write. Evelina has said the same thing about you and me and I have said the same thing about you and her. ^{— not much about her, I guess.} So I don't see that any harm was done by your letter. I am glad Huby and Bint are so helpful on it. It certainly is lovely that they work together so comparably on this sort of thing.

Thank you so much for offering to lend me the money to buy that rug for myself. I can't make up my mind whether I ought to get it - I am so afraid I ought not to. I would certainly love to have it. Maybe I will get the man to send it up and see how it goes in this room. If I should get it, I think I would keep it for here till I leave here. It would be lovely to have my room a little prettier. We are so fearfully limited to our rooms here. Mine is used as an office all the time. Then we have no parlor. All these parlors that we used

to know here are now offices except just one of the old soboroty rooms - a very little room and used by students and faculty and for Y.W. meetings and committee meetings so that there is practically no time one has access to it. The living conditions here are certainly bad.

Thank you for the thread - when it comes The mail is so unspeakably handled here that I have no idea whether it will arrive in time for me to use it. Apparently it has not come yet.

I think I won't go to New York for the week-end but plan to stay one day after the Oberlin affair. The date of the committee there is a week from tomorrow. I wish I had some one to go with.

I guess the Lady has decided not to come here till after the spring vacation - I am sort of disappointed, but it is all right. The vacation begins four weeks from day after tomorrow.

We had a faculty meeting the other night that distressed most of us terribly - Dr.

objected to the hard grading that has been done this year and he said he thought we ought to manage to get people through our courses and that he had to have these students stay on - not be dropped for bad work. I mean - on account of the money, that our salaries depended on their staying. We were all perfectly stunned at his saying this and I was just sort of filled with despair - Miss Small never said anything so plainly materialistic and indifferent to scholarship. We have congratulated ourselves so on his being both fair and scholarly. *All the reputable colleges that I know anything about are insisting that students must be held to a better grade of scholarship and the colleges weeded out of people who are not of the calibre to do the work.* Also, he certainly is mistaken in thinking that a low standard like that will draw students. Besides that, he has given out this year that we had a fairly large waiting list. If we have, why mind dropping those who can't keep up the work? the number below D was less than the Missouri System norm and less than the system

made out by Reade College, which at the first faculty meeting of the year the Dean asked us to follow. Nearly all colleges are trying to follow one of these tables of probabilities as a norm in grading in order to raise the standard of scholarship. Don't say anything about this now - we all hope the President will see things differently later - he was really ill that night - just up from the grippe.

I think I will go down and take another look at that rug!

Would you just as lief send this to Pint?
with lots of love-

Mary

Where have you got the money you offer to lend me for the rug? Oughtn't you to invest it in something? If I borrowed it, it would probably mean for all years

Dear Pin:

Yes, send me the rimes and I will try to read them right away.

Your ideas on the College Club are the same as mine. I really think if Miss Thomas and I go halves on the proceeds, she ought to take the entire task of working the thing up. On the other hand, it is a great deal more of an item to me to have it succeed than it is to her. For her a piddling little audience of a dozen would have no further significance than the loss of the proceeds, while to me it would mean the likelihood of doing no more of this sort of thing in Youngstown. Also, of course, I don't want to embarrass you.

I think it will be best for us each to give away enough complimentary tickets to make the thing *look* like a success whether it really is one or not. Your friends could come in on that if they wanted to. I fear a good deal of it will be the same that I once told at your club, and so may be they wouldn't want to come.

Well, good bye for now. Love to all.

Feb. 23

Mary



Mrs. W. H. Belden
287 West College Street
Cleveland

Ohio