

them not to talk of such things with
her. With sincere love + true regret
Carrie.
My Sweet Cousin Ellie

Please forgive me for
saying one word yesterday
which troubled you. You have
been so very good and kind
in every way to me and my
children that I beg you to believe
I am not ungrateful.
If I had not been so worn out
body, soul and spirit, I should
never have talked to you or any
one in this wide world as I did
when I first came here. Indeed
I had seemed for so long a
time without any human
sympathy that I am sure. I
should have gone insane
in England if my best
Friend, my dearest and
only true Friend had not

responsible for what my cousin said to her, although I asked

been my Comforter.

A "calm and unflattering trust" has alone kept the mind "stayed" in God. Often and always imperfectly "staid" but there are no words in which I can quite express my gratitude to my Heavenly Father for His patience and love to so unworthy a child as myself.

Now I cannot write this a.m. for I am worn out after a very bad night with my head and Eddies fever. But if I said one word yesterday which seemed unkind to you, I beg you will forgive me - and truly I don't wish to speak unkindly of any one - but while we are in this world we cannot help having some human

feelings. Perhaps if you had
 once had a cousin or any
 dear friend who had for years
 in the long ago esteemed you
 in the extreme fashion, that
 some cousins do, it might be
 something of a shock to have
 him when you meet him
 years after a broken down
 woman, then treat you with
 great rudeness or silent contempt.

Please understand me,
 I have said to myself over
 & over again "he is a sick
 man, he did not realize how
 very rude he is, for that
 reason I will say nothing,
 but it is strange that he
 seems to forget entirely that
 I have been for years a sick
 woman, but your mind, may

14

God forgive him and help me
so to do!" Surely cousin
Ellie, you can't think that
I have not prayed about
this thing! Why I try always
& pray about everything.

But I do not feel physically
strong enough to talk to any
one about an exciting topic,
my nerves are too unstrung.

It is strange, but for some
reason Bro. Willie had ever since
I was married, at times, acted
in the strangest manner to me.

But I have always considered
that he was a friend.

Well, I never had any one so
rude to me, any one I mean
of course who professed to be
a Christian and in a "heavenly
frame of mind" all the time.

I do forgive it all as I must
 forgive, if I wish to be forgiven.

God will be done. I am His child
 and if He sees fit to humiliate
 me to the very dust I only ask
 Him to help me bow before Him
 lovingly, humbly and with a
 sincere heart.

There is, I believe, a righteous
 indignation. I feel that I must
 maintain my own self-respect.

Perhaps I did not seem to my
 cousin to do so when I in confi-
 dence spoke to him + his wife
 of trials where I felt the need of
 a little help + sympathy + sup-
 posed that they could bearly
 give either help or sympathy I
 unless they in a way understood
 the circumstances. Suffice it
 to say that in regard to my
 cousin Willie, he had altogether
 misunderstood the matter +
 I regret exceedingly my mistake

in going to him at all. It will not occur again - I am now only sorry to presume on his hospitality by permitting our daughter to remain under his roof - If her father, if my own dear husband, had the least idea of this thing, I am sure he would not allow it.

It seems too late now, as he has gone out and I cannot needlessly distress him, to make other arrangements - Until you, dear Ellie, spoke to me on the subject I never dreamed of the real state of my cousin's mind. I knew something was wrong, & I knew I had made a mistake this time in choosing a friend, but do you think if I had known what you told me yesterday I should have undescended to speak to a christian gentleman who was so angry with me to

7
treat me as a lady! To turn
when I spoke to him and
talk to a cat! He did the
same thing before our cousins
from Orrego and they wonder-
ed. I simply said "our cousin
is an invalid and so we
must excuse some things,
but it is a little strange
that he seems to forget that
I have been an invalid for
years." To be sure I don't
"speak with the tongues of men
or of angels" nor do I "under-
stand all mysteries or all
knowledge" but I implore my
Father in Heaven as I never
did before to give me Charity.

Coz Mary told me two years
ago that she was sure it was
my duty to speak with my
cousin on the subject of charity
but then I did not realize that

great need as I do now.
He used to say to me "Carrie
your faults are like spots on the
snow." and I may now return
the little criticism. It does not
seem to me best to have any
further conversation on the subject,
really I do not feel able to lie a
wake nights over such matters
when I have more already on my
mind than at present I can bear.
My nerves are too unstrung and I
cannot easily keep calm as you
saw yesterday. It is probably a
matter of small importance to
Willie. I am only very, very
sorry to give your dear, gentle
loving heart one moment's pain
or annoyance. I do beg your par-
don for forgetting myself so far as
to speak to you on the subject yesterday.
I fear this letter may not have said
what I wanted to say for I am too
utterly weary to write at all & have
several other letters of importance to be
written to-day. I have said nothing

Carried in the envelope

From
Carnie
Hudson

Mrs. W. H. Belden.

Clifton Springs.

New York.

By my
Little Eddie.

Private