

Send home + then return to me.

Seattle Wash.

Feb. 7 1909.

Dear Mary:-

Your letter came yesterday, and I was very glad to get it. The job I had for my board I lost, at least temporarily but I think I will have another place tomorrow where I can wait table at noon for my dinner. The restaurant where I started to work is closed for a while. As to the teaching, I haven't heard anything of it lately. Maybe I'll ask about it. There may not be anything in it any way.

I was glad to get Helen's address. Are you sure her name is Mrs. John H. D. It has to be her sister's name. I was thinking she was Mrs. John Dodge. Helen's husband's name was Harry but I didn't know that was his middle name. If I write to her I guess I'll call her Mrs. Helen S. D. You didn't tell me whether the child was a boy or girl.

The Mr. Bisset who was Henry's father was I believe a missionary to Mexico, possibly South America but he was I think changed later to India.

Would you mind telling me what you wrote Cousin Will so that I won't repeat? ← I didn't write to Cousin Will. I don't know that if it is very necessary perhaps I will do it later.

I got through all my studies though I didn't make very good marks. All reported as for a B's I think. I really didn't change my course any. I am taking a different course in economics. Instead of last term's elementary work I am taking a course in Labor Unions and one in Municipal government both under the head of the department.

I went over to see Martha Disher one night this week. She says she is coming over to see you some time. She will probably write before she goes.

Don't worry about sending me any money. I am ashamed that I asked. I am sorry to hear that you lost two dollars for the marsh mallows. I know how it is. I have lost money the same way myself. I think the girl probably spent all the money for marsh mallows. I bought some last fall and they sold them in bulk for sixty cents a pound and they were very poor at that. They don't cost more than half that in Oberlin. The clerk told me some of the stores charged seventy five cents a pound. Three pounds would have made a plenty for your horse but if you didn't have much other refreshments they might have been all used.

I am very sorry to hear that you are feeling so blue. Of course you may have a good deal of reason for it. I haven't the least doubt in the world that you can make an A no. 1 dean. I'm sure you'd do a great deal better at it than any other teacher in the house. I think your principal difficulties will come rather from a lack of knowing how to deal with the teachers than with the students. You wouldn't have any doubt would you in regard to your ability to handle a school of your own where you had supreme power? It's the trouble of trying to suit others that is bothering you now. There are a couple of reasons for this. I haven't the least doubt that one of them is that without their realizing it, you are getting imposed upon. Of course that will worry you but it needn't make you fear that it is your fault that you are sometimes found fault with. The other reason why you have trouble suiting the teachers is that you and they are not in full sympathy. I don't think Dr. Brozzy could be in sympathy with any one. He's too egotistical. Some of the others would give you a certain sort of sympathy if you the way to appeal to them. I think

Miss Brown for instance has sort of a holy horror of any "Eastern effeminacy" as I might call the opposite of "Wild & wooliness." If you would approach her in entirely the same way she approaches you and others you might have get some help or at least sympathy from her. I wouldn't advise you to do it however. You'll make out better with your own ways. The Western way is perhaps more generous when it understands, and more free and easy, more democratic, but it lacks a certain sensitiveness and restraint. In other words it is rather coarse in a certain sense of the word. A person that speaks his own views very plainly must have another speak to him very plainly to understand. Where an Eastern person would take a hint or perhaps not even need one a Westerner needs to be told plainly with all the whys and wherefores and no mental reservations. That's the trouble with a Westerner, if you want to get any sympathy from him you have to tell him your whole case. You can't take him into confidence half way and then quit. I don't think that you would care to make quite such a confidant of any of the teachers at Whitworth and that's what really makes it extra hard. I wonder how you get along with Dean Heath. He is an Easterner in spirit I think and probably would help you part way without asking for your whole history. None of the other teachers appeal to me as Eastern types. Miss Nancy I don't think has a very deep mind. Mr. Whiteley is too selfish to make much of a teacher. I like Miss Munroe but I guess she is a good deal engrossed with Mr. Whiteley. Miss Livermore I think

is pretty nice. I imagine she has a very hard time herself. If you could get better acquainted with her I think it would be nice for both of you. She doesn't seem so awfully Eastern though. I think your Easternness and particularly your family traits work against you worse in your sensitiveness than in your reserve. I don't believe that if Miss Brown or Miss Conlap were in your place and were doing nearly as well as you that they would be the least bit concerned as to whether they could fulfill the obligations of a Dean. I don't think they would worry about what the other teachers said any more than possibly to be antagonized. I'd advise you as long as you are dealing with Westerners to adopt this much of their tactics. You know there isn't any superior in the faculty to yourself including the President. I don't believe one of them made a better college record than yours. I'm sure that none of them have any better if as good ideas of propriety as you have. I doubt if any of them have any more character than you. I don't believe any one of them would shoulder the outside ~~there~~ responsibilities that you are carrying and I doubt if one of them could as successfully carry the work of the dean as you. If you were only or sure of your superiority as I am you wouldn't find it so necessary to suit them all. As far as worrying over your work goes if you carried the work for another year or even less it wouldn't be nearly the same worry to you. I wonder if you didn't ever get awfully discouraged in your first year's work at Carlinville. Looking back at it maybe you think you didn't but if you could only remember I'm sure you'd say that you often felt that you never could handle your work under the conditions you had and yet looking back on it the work seems to have been comparatively easy. If I were you I would try not to let myself think about perplexing subjects when I noticed my mind was going the wrong

way. As soon as you get sort of a feeling of despair in thinking over a problem you had better drop it immediately to resume it at some better time. I don't know whether you can do it or not but I'd try it conscientiously. It will give you greater strength and a new view point when you return to the subject. Don't think at all what people are thinking of you. They don't wonder what you are thinking of ~~them~~. Stick to your own views unless you believe other ones are better. As to getting your mind off a subject, a nap will often help, or a study or a letter on another subject, or reading. A fine plan is to build air castles only being very careful not to let skepticism wipe them away. Think how nice it would be if Ellen could find some way to get into the faculty. There's quite a possibility in that. If you can't build castles for yourself do it for others. Think of Ellen taking up art or Coelina's finishing school next year. I lay so much emphasis on your not thinking of your troubles because I think that it will ~~not~~ give you confidence while to worry gives you a false sense of inability and also some actual inability. I don't know that you will care much for my advise but I think it is worth while. I am afraid lack of confidence is a family trait, and I think it hinders a person awfully. I remember often I have gotten the notion that I was odd or perhaps seedy looking or something else and everybody I actually believe thought the same while my mind was in that state but when I forgot it they would too. It's funny but I don't think you

will ever find that any one that you think believes in you will talk against you but any one that you think does not believe in you will lose confidence in you. Every business man knows this and will only hire men who believe in themselves. I never yet did anything that was of any account when I was in a fit of the blues. Perhaps you can't say as much. However for instance in composition work when I have confidence in myself I can get along very well. I think it was Longfellow wasn't it that had an unproductive period in the middle of his life. He felt that he hadn't any inspiration and all his work of that period is unworthy of him. I think inspiration and confidence are practically synonymous. Confidence I think is largely a product of the will. You have to forestall the least start toward worry however or you maybe you can't control the impulse. Do you remember how sensitive Addison was to the criticisms of others. Though a good critic himself and one of the greatest prose masters of his age he would be entirely upset by the least criticism even from some one his inferior. Indeed he couldn't get along with those who felt qualified to criticize him and lived with a following of small worshippers. Though a perfect conversationalist he rarely opened his mouth in company with strangers. He even, when he attempted to make a speech in Parliament, sat down without speaking a word. He is the most considerate and gentle and courteous critic of the period and his qualities of sensitiveness was probably just what made him so effective. If however he had controlled his sensitiveness when it overpowered him he could have been a much greater man. Hope I haven't sermonized. I am sure you will make a good man and though I know you have a very hard time yet I believe that you are capable of even the extra hard proposition you have for a start.

Willie

Write me a note soon

W. H. B.

4018 10th Ave N.E.
Seattle



Miss Mary M. Belden
Whitworth College
Tacoma
Washington



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8:14 PM
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