

My dear Billy, Boy,

It seems too bad that I haven't answered your brotherly & fatherly letter for longer time than I have been answering my own all summer. You know I have been paying back my own calls to speak once a week until just lately, ever since you went away.

We begin to miss you extra all ready for this fall & winter when you will be away. We are all disappointed not to have you back, and Selden is feeling real blue tonight about it. We are sorry for you too, but if you feel it is best I suppose you are really more comfortable about it this way.

We have been dressmaking. Mary and I have made our selves each two shirt waists beside other sewing. This will fit us for school wear for winter & we are congratulating our selves that it is so much money saved on a dressmaker's time.

Evethia is on a committee in high school to see about publishing a paper like your "Alcove". She is

also vice-president of her class, quite a distinction I think. Hubert Husted is president and Mabel Whiting, secretary or treasurer or both, I guess. Evelyn is going to play basket-ball and has been making herself a class collar to wear on my gym suit.

That makes me think of the lake for I wore it here as a bathing suit. I began to have to swim this year but I guess the amount of knowledge won't seriously interfere with any lessons I may have next year. I did have to row though and I was actually out in the boat on a very rough day without making a fuss even to myself. I never was on the water so much before or liked it so well. It would have been nice if you could have been at our camp a while. It was awfully nice & I think mamma really enjoyed it.

Three Sundays ago, George's lat
one here, Mary, Sidney & I rode over to Amherst where church in the evening & heard him give an address on

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Moody & rode home with him which was the biggest job of all for he had the only lantern in the crowd and it was a pitch dark night. Such a time of it as we had you may possibly be able to imagine.

The other day we went out to Birmingham with Will, Mary and I did, and he gave us some "Indian turnip" do you know what that is? and then after that some thing better.

We have stopped our reading club. We had only five meetings but we read quite a little, one play, one novel and part of "House-boat on the Styx", & some of Bret Harte. Have you read the "House-boat"? I think it is awfully cute. We read "Rudder Grange" at the lake. Those are nice for light reading, I think, about as nice as you can have, very light of course.

Do you know of any nice subject for a debate? I have one the first of the semester and haven't thought of a subject yet.

We have got some wood in to burn in the furnace and we have

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a ton of hard coal but there's no knowing
when we will get any more though the
coal dealers seem to think that there
will be coal and selling at fifty dollars
a ton soon. I'm sure I hope the
strike must make great distress for very
many poor people - this writer.

Just think of the summer vacation
coming over! I do love summer so. I
want to make this the very best year
I have ever had in school. Don't you
think it would be grand if many
and I could get a position together
some where abroad, if not in Con-
struction in Paris or some such
place to teach. I am crazy too for the
sake of the culture it would give though
I must say I don't like the idea of
being so far away from home.

If I don't write again before
your birthday I want to wish you
a very happy one, with bright pro-
pects, and a happy and success-
ful year. I hope it will be the

last one you will have to stay out before you finish college, at least before you begin. Never give up the idea of going to college, will you Betty Boy?

Have you made any friends among the young people where you are? Do you work all evening?

Good-night, sleep tight and remember your loving sister,

Ellen Scranton Belden.

Monday, September the fifteenth, 1902.



Mr. William H. Belden,
Plain City,
Ohio.

