

Oberlin, Ohio,

Sep. 15, 1902

My dear Willie:-

I received your long letter of explanation today, & you have made every thing very clear & plain so that I am perfectly satisfied & have you take the course you suggest. I have not known before how to give up the idea of having you back at study this fall, but since fixing your letter most careful thought - prayerful thought too. I believe you are right about sticking at this work & showing that you can make a success

of it. You will make a success of it with that spirit of determination, + perhaps the education you will get at your work will be more useful than what you would get in school just now. We are all (your sisters + I), in intense sympathy with you, + Lelde's heart is greatly drawn out toward you, but we are all satisfied with your decision, altho' sorry that you are not ~~going~~ back now. We won't forget to send you a birthday ^{little} day, + will think much of you on the 19th.

What makes you sick so much? Do you use proper precautions in eating drinking + other rules of living? How are you off for clothing? If you are not coming home soon, you will need warmer things. What do you need? Perhaps you can come home for Thanksgiving + then we'll kill the fatted calf - or turkey - to receive you safe + sound!

I won't write much more, as I have a few duties before retiring, getting things ready for the washing tomorrow morning, + setting bread. But I wanted to answer immediately to relieve

your mind. I find that now
your decision is fully made, &
I coincide with it entirely,
that my own mind is more at
rest ^{than} for a long time, & that I now
can think with real satisfac-
tion that this year is going to
bring you, my dear boy, more
success in the essentials of true
worth & manliness than if you
had returned to College. But
don't fix up the College, Willie,
as a thing that is to come yet,
only delayed.

May our dear Heavenly Father
bless, strengthen, comfort, & prosper
you, my dear, dear Willie, is the
prayer of your loving Mamma.