

Oberlin, Ohio,

Sep. 2, 1906.

My dear Willie:-

I think of you every day,
but particularly on the Sabbath when I have
time to stop a moment and reflect, and gather
strength for the new week. Do you remember
home and all the rest of us on that day too?

Mary got your letter - the one in which you
said the rest of us would not feel interested -
and of course every one wanted to know what
you said as soon as the postman brought it.
Mary conscientiously would not show it,
which made every one think or imagine
something dreadful. At last I read it -
the others did not - because I did not think
you meant to exclude me, and I did not
see anything very dreadful. I think it is
very nice that you boys got Lizette the watch
that was only common courtesy after all she
had done, - just a token of appreciation:

As for the automobile excursion - Every body
has to have a little fun sometimes, and
people have to take it in the way they
enjoy, not according to somebody else's
plan. You know Billie - poor as we are
I never begrudged you or the others of my
children some recreation. I believe in hard
work and recreation, but not in either
wasting time nor money. I like you to
have ~~the~~ good time, altho' you may not real-
ize that I do. However, I do feel
that you ought to be forming a habit of laying
by a ~~stated~~ sum, however small, every month
regularly. When you come to marry & settle
in life - as I hope you will after awhile -
how you'll curse yourself if you have not
done it! Don't lay up regrets to torture
yourself with after awhile. You see the
man is the natural money earner of the
family. Any reversal of this order makes
trouble in a family. Do lay by a stated
sum if it is only a dollar a week. Then increase
as the habit forms. + never touch that money box

ordinary use. A life insurance policy is good chiefly because it compels one to lay aside a certain sum systematically. I like the kind that comes due after ten or twenty years, and then you may live yourself to get the benefit of it.

My hopes had gone up greatly about your going into the Seattle University, and consequently I was disappointed at this new move in going with Percy. But after reading your letter to Mary - how could I have understood without reading it? I think you may be right in your decision. If you give it up for this year, can't you save up and plan to go next year? After a little you will be too old to care to go, and you will be out of the way of study. You have hardly yet found your right place in the world - has you? That makes me feel that you will be better fitted for something, with more study. And now you know better what course you want in College. I feel that it will always be a struggle to you - give you self-confidence - to have completed a college course.

Who knows, Billie, you may yet be a teacher, or a minister, or a journalist. The Lord will lead you into the right place, if you ask Him - I am sure of that. Remember - "The pure in heart shall see God", and you'll get your best advice from Headquarters, if your heart is right with Him.

I am glad you left the Parker Co. if it is the sort you describe. It is degrading to be under or with a bad man. How far will you now be from Seattle? Did Percy get his \$500.⁰⁰ back? Mary may defer her visit to Seattle if you are not there. You may be able to spend the first Sunday with her somewhere - perhaps at Mrs. Hargess, but that can be planned later. She wrote Mrs. Harger some time ago, and she has been in correspondence with various R.R.s but has decided yet. She can get rates on some at the right time. Mary is depending on your money to travel on. If you go into the U. of S. she expected to pay you back as you need it. Selden has already told Ellen what money she will

need for his trip and incidentals to begin with. So she is all fixed;

• Every once in awhile I hear that Percy is to be married - how is it?

Selden is at doing carpenter's work on the Webster house, but all kinds of odds + ends, like dipping shingles, carrying things + I don't know what all. He finished last night (Saturday) for Monday is Labor Day, and Tuesday his school begins. He got \$2.00 every day, and feels quite rich. He has paid up his debts, + is going to buy a new set of clothes. He built + painted a nice canoe last winter, + his is perfectly crazy to build a launch this winter. That is one reason he has worked so hard to earn money, to get his materials. Edward Clark built one, + it is fine. He has it at Lakeside, and makes some money with it. I know Selden + I spent a week at the Clark's camp at Lakeside, + last week Selden went again + stayed from Sat. to Tuesday. They have all come back to town now.

Annie White is to be ⁽⁶⁾ married tomorrow, and M. & E. have been very busy embroidering her a wedding present. Mrs. White has Mrs. Green's house on Elm St. for the summer & the wedding will be there. We had a little informal party for her (Annie) last eve. at our house.

Mabel Whiting's father has just died in China. Mr. & Mrs. Irwin (nee Miss Mary Barrons) have a little daughter named Elvior. I suppose you know at the time that Miss Katharine Barrons who was engaged to Prof. Bever broke her engagement after the wedding cards had all been printed, last June.

Do you boys see the Okeelin papers? I could send you some if you wish, or would you like some other paper or magazine? What reading do you have for Sunday?

Mary will write you as soon as her plans are made, but she does not now expect to go by the Northern route, as she thinks she can get better service & rates otherwise. She has written to several Roads. I don't believe she will leave before the 8th or 10th but we can't tell yet, she may have to go sooner. Love loving Mother Ellen S. Bidder.