

Oberlin, Ohio,  
Feb. 27, 1906.

My dearest Pally:-

This letter came  
— last mail — from Mr. Love,  
and as I saw by the envelope  
where it was from, I took the  
liberty of opening it, thinking it  
might be a notification of some  
school. — I don't see why you  
should not get a \$1000. salary as  
well as Mrs. Hucks's' sister and  
some other young women. With your  
two years experience and good record  
& this year at Yale, you ought to  
get a good place in a western  
college — anyhow. I keep indulging  
a hope that I scarcely dare breathe  
even to you, & have it to any one else,  
that you may get college teaching here.

I hardly think it nice to ask for it, but if I ever happen to see Mr. Nayer & he asks about you - as he will - I'll drop some remark about your having to teach next year, for he may think you are going to stay for a Ph.D. The two new men in English are not very satisfactory - especially one of them - not the equals of Mr. Smith, from all accounts.

Evelina will - or has - written you of my visit to her. Since then Selden's class party (75) met here for Feb. 22 in costume. It was a nice company and the costumes very effective. My, it stutters one to see how these little creatures have grown up! Actually young ladies &

young gentlemen! It was a jolly & pleasant company in spite of a few disasters. The glass inkstand was upset during the grand march - how such a heavy thing could be upset, I don't see! - and its contents deluged the green table. But I worked & worked at it with water and rags, & it scarcely shows now. Then the papers were stolen from the back porch. The boys brought the big ice cream freezer into the middle of the kitchen (3 gallons of ice cream) & Selden went down and got another supply of papers from Hobbs, & locked all the back

doors & windows. Mr. Nye & Mr. Rawdon were up the first half of the evening, & four lady teachers all the time. Just before the time for refreshments Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins came for a few minutes. As they went to go, the front door was found securely tied shut with ropes so Selden ran around by the cellar door to take the ropes off. It was only a minute but not too short for the freshman class to get into the kitchen, steal the freezer (& leave the ice cream) & the other traps, and disappear. They had before tried the windows & had the step ladder at one. Of course no refreshments were served, & I had nothing cooked up.

They took the cellar door key, & in some way the lock got broken (they had locked it open) sometime before morning Mrs. Pines heard a noise - it was the boys who brought the nearly empty freezer back & the cellar key, & put them on the front porch. This kind of thing has happened before, & it seemed wrong to let it go on. The doors were tied up with clothesline, I thought it was mine, <sup>at first</sup> but it turns out to be Mrs. Merriman's. The three ringleaders have been up & see how they are Johnson (Ruth

Johnson's brother, you remember  
that pretty girl, ) Fisher, I forgot  
his first name, he has a fine  
mother, and Dwight Smith,  
Joy's brother. The latter is  
thoroughly ashamed, the others  
seem rather hardened. The  
mothers of all three are widows.  
Mr. Nye has looked into the law,  
& the law is perfectly dreadful  
for such an offence. The boys  
could be put into State's prison  
for life. Mayor Carter says so  
too, & Mrs. Beacroft and other  
ladies who have studied that  
sort of thing in our club. And  
it seems, no man or boy can ever  
hold office in any government

employ whose name has once  
appeared as a criminal of  
any kind: The boys would like  
to have me settle the case, Dwight  
said so, the others were sullen.  
but I was not willing to, and  
they agreed to have it referred  
to the <sup>School Board</sup> trustees - Prof. Root,  
Mr. Whitney & Mr. Miller (I think)  
I told them I thought they  
ought to pay Hobbs' bill -  
(ice cream & wafers) a new  
lock, the clothes line, in fact  
all damages. Mr. Nye thought  
that penalty was too light.  
After Mr. Nye was gone, I talked  
a little to the boys telling them  
how they ought to be the comfort  
& support of their mothers, taking

the place of their fathers as "the  
man of the house" & told them  
too that altho' I knew their names  
from the first I had not told  
a single person (even Mrs. Pinner  
in the house) who they were, for the  
sake of their mothers. I did so  
want to say a helpful word, but  
I don't know as I said the right  
thing. Dwight took my hand in  
going & said "I never shall do a  
thing like this again, but the  
others said nothing. They looked  
ashamed but rebellious. The  
Sichu boy said once in the conversa-  
tion that he'd go to law before he'd  
pay something extra, but Mr. Nye  
told him that if he went to law  
there would be no chance for him.

Well, I have no more time now. You  
might send this to Willie, & he to Ellen  
as I can't write it over. I know Willie

from the  
High School  
the interest  
of the