

¹⁰⁻⁴⁻⁰¹ This has just come to me & I send it on. *Ardenia.*
1903

PLINY O. CLARK,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

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FINANCIAL MANAGER.

W. J. RYAN,
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The Hi=O=Hi.

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This has just come to me from Aunt Mary. Aunt Mary has had it, you see, & Ellen & she as soon as possible to Willie. I say Willie first, but I don't think he'll want the book. You see, you have the dear lady in having such a time. It makes my heart ache.
Oberlin, Ohio, Sep 25, 1905
Love — Mary —

My dear folks:-

I want to write to you all for I believe you are all interested in 287 West College St. By the way, last Monday Selden brought home three beautiful large nickel figures 287" and placed them above the door.

I must get some thin paper or I'll be dead broke with postage, especially as my three big rooms are not filled. In the meantime this Hi=O=Hi is pretty thin. The real thing wasn't.

To go back a little:- the three trunks for Oxford went early Mon. A.M. Selden has gone to the Station again since Lister M's letter came this A.M. & we know the number of the check. I am so sorry the trunk had no key, but it was well packed up and was not heavy like the others. Every body's last things were in it. Of course I knew better than to hold on to it after the others were taken. I should have faked a card on, but as it was I hardly could do what I had to. That Mon. neither Selden, Ellen, nor I sat down to a meal till supper we just ate on the wing, and at the last had to just pile things into the dining room to be sorted afterwards. Then Ellen & I sat up till 1²⁰ a.m. packing her trunk to go Tuesday. The four Trauson boys came Mon. P.M. Their two bedrooms were in order, but not their sitting room, as

I began to explain why. ⁽²⁾ Mr. Guildford said "Oh! they know all about it, I have told them everything" and they all four chimed in "Take your own time, there is no hurry, Mrs. Belden." I did not get that room done till Thursday - it was simply impossible. So we put the Brussels rug from the room before, and the small extension table from the back porch, the green rocker the girls painted, fresh curtains &c &c. The whole suite is charming & the boys are perfectly happy and contented with everything. They keep all their trunks in their closets which is a relief, as I have often had to have such things in the cellar. The boys have the sitting room wall covered with every kind of thing - to me it looks "messy", but they like it. The man I had engaged came Monday AM, and also bastined Mother's little room, and also Mason's sitting room where it was spoiled. Well, the boy for the little room came Monday noon - I did not expect him till evening - but his walls were done, and the room nearly cleaned, so he went out to attend to some things for an hour and when he came back the room was ready. He is just as considerate and nice as the other boys, and appreciates everything I do. When he came back he said "I don't see how you ever made this room look so pretty and homelike in an hour." He was glad to have some of my pictures on the wall, and I was glad not to have them stuffed in a closet. His name is Heath. He turns out to be a relative of Dr. Jacob Chamberlain of India.

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Early ~~Monday~~ ^{Tuesday} Morning before I was dressed the bell rang, & Selden went to find the boy that Mr. Pond's relative Mr. Bond had wanted to send here. He had traveled all night, caught a heavy cold and looked generally forlorn. The first thing, he wanted to know if his room-mate was here. I told him Mr. Bartholomew had promised to send one, & took him to his room. Well, the long & the short of it was, no room-mate was forthcoming, altho he and I both tried to get one. He said he found lots of boys with rooms looking for room-mates. He was here two nights and then went in with a boy who has the same room he had last year, and so does not want to change. I could say nothing, as the understanding was he would come if he had a room-mate. Not a soul even came to look at my beautiful two front rooms. I wonder I took it as calmly as I did, but I feel I had really done all I knew how to do, and so I didn't worry. I find a good many have been equally disappointed. Mrs. Reed on Oak Street said she had been to considerable expense getting new carpet etc. & her room is empty. Last night Mrs. Marshall told me of a woman who fixed thirteen

rooms, and has it rented even ⁽⁴⁾one. Mrs. Marshall herself has not rented her rooms, and she says there are still ^{many} rooms in town unrented. I believe more people than usual have prepared rooms, and I know the people who do it, don't do it just for fun, so I try not to be greedy, but be glad for all who do succeed. But I am going to be much poorer than I hoped, and I don't at all see how things are going to come out. I think I'll put a notice in the paper - number of the street, and not my name - I might get a mother & daughter, or husband & wife, or something of that sort. My entire income from these fire boys is \$6⁷⁵ a week. Well, I paid Mrs. Bug \$10⁰⁰ and Mrs. Bradford's last bill \$2⁵⁰ Fanny's wages to date, fruit I had engaged for canning, & some other trifles. The boys pay four weeks in advance. Miss Paloshava wanted to rent one piano for the term, so I told her she might have it for \$2⁰⁰ (the price of a tuning). The Conservatory charges \$3⁰⁰ an hour a term but our piano is old, and it needs tuning, so I am well suited and she seems to be also. I am glad too to hear the piano going. I miss Willie's music every day.

Selden is a great comfort and very thoughtful. Last Friday afternoon he hurried home from school to run the washing machine and washed 14 sheets & countercovers, & a corresponding number of pillowcases & towels. I have not been able to get a washerwoman since you left, & I had it clean sheets to change the beds, as we had been having so many in use. But we did it undertake the clothing, altho' there is a great basket full to do.

10-1-01
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After that is done (I'll hire a woman) and a pile of
sirting I still have in the ^{Oberlin, Ohio,} dining room, and one on
the back porch, I will breathe more freely. But I
had to stop to make grape, and apple jelly, and
can peaches while the fruit was ready. Mrs.
Berg says apples are high and scarce, and an
old apple tree has fine ones, but they not very fast.

A very domestic letter this is, certainly!
I didn't go out to church yesterday morning, and
seldom had to sit alone in our pew, but I went
in the evening, & was glad to hear Dr. Bradshaw
again after his long vacation. He has just come
from the American Board meeting at Seattle.
He saw Mrs. Hillis & Harry there. In the morning
he gave a report of that meeting, in the evening an
excellent sermon on the text "My Father works
hitherto, and I work." He showed God's work in
creation, and the gradual development of his plans
all along the ages back before and since the creation
of man, and how we by falling in line with his
plans, become a part of the great system which

develops the world, & helps to bring about His
perfected Kingdom;

To change the subject - did you know that our
opposite neighbor Mr. Walker (in the Doolittle
house) died the Sunday evening you went away?
It is sad for Mrs. W. just having moved here. I read
over the moment I heard of it.

Zaida Curtis is back & looking well. The choir
is not yet full - only about 60 yet. Mr. Heacox
& Mr. Breckinridge at their old posts.

A new ^{College} teacher & his bride have moved into
the Avery house. Mrs. Lufham told me last
night to be sure to call, & I will very soon.

Now you know how busy I am, and altho' this
letter is no "great shakes" it will have to go
the rounds I suppose, as fast as possible, so
you will all realize how much I really
love you, & want to write to each separately
but have no time. Perhaps Aunt Mary & Grand^{ma}
might be interested & pass it right on before it is
too stale to Evelina, Ellen, & Willie, altho' I did
write to Willie last night the first in a long time.

Mary Belden, so to bed not later than ten o'clock every night.
I'll write you in New Haven when I get your address.

Mary Seranton K. you & Gertrude were charming visitors, but your
visit too awfully short. Love to every body. Ellen S. Belden.