

Oberlin, Ohio,
Jan 9, 1906.

My dear Willie:

Yesterday I received your interesting letters, the three photographs, and the "Return", and we were much interested in all of them, and studied the pictures along with your letter. You look well and happy in the picture, and I hope you are so. Mrs. Marshall was in, and she also studied the pictures as I gave her points from your letters. The photos were pretty badly bent. I told Mrs. M. too that you had been to Seattle. She knows the Hargis so well, she was

Much interested. Did you stay
at their house all the time, or
when did you make your head-
quarters in Seattle? And did
you go alone? How are your clothes
holding out? Mr. Whitney has sent
his bill again, + I will enclose
it to you. Can you pay it right
away, and all of it? By degrees
I am getting things paid up, but
cannot hope to pay the \$300.⁰⁰ at
the bank this year. The Smaller
seems the girls or I have borrowed
there are all paid. Mary + Ellen
each at my very earnest request
made an application each for \$500.⁰⁰
life insurance, as I felt they ought
to be laying up something. It was a
20 year endowment policy, but
the doctor's certificate was not
accepted. You need not mention this

to anyone. So that money does not
have to be paid out. They are glad
for that part, but it is not
pleasant to be refused.

I have been so awfully busy,
I have written very few letters
since I came from visiting Evelina
Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. In addition
to other and usual duties, I had
the pork to attend to - which took
several days, - and the house to
set in order for Christmas com-
pany. Miss Bowman, Principal
of Blundell College, and Ellen's
special friend, spent the holidays
here. He expected Jeanne Marie
from Chicago University, but her
father was so homesick, ^{for her} he
had her go home. Evelina + Ellen
were home, + we had a perfect

run of company. I gave rather
a stylish (for us) "luncheon" in
honor of Miss Bowman who is a
lovely & cultured lady from Richmond
Virginia. Beside Miss B. Ellen,
Evelina & myself & Miss Penno,
there were Mrs. Johnston (Madame
J.) Mrs. (Mrs.) Barrows & Miss
Katherine. We had roast
goose, mashed potatoes, Hubbard
squash, boiled onions, apple
sauce, cranberries, celery, olives,
Then a fruit salad - oranges,
bananas, grapes & nuts on
lettuce leaf, with french dressing
over all. Lastly coffee & cake.
Everybody had a good time, &
when the hack came for Mrs.
B. she sent it away to come back
in an hour because she said she
could not bear to leave yet! - Ellen

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made 'place cards' for everybody
the Oculin Seal-, Madame J. &
Mrs. B. were delightful company.
Then one evening the Bulgarians
set me up, & one the Parmeleus
(to supper). Julius spent his vacation
here. He is taking graduate work
at Yale, & helping me of the Profs.
at the same time. He sees Mary
sometimes. Nearly every day we
had folks to dinner or supper
or bath, for with the goose, &
the pork, & an 1/8 of beef on hand,
& the girls & Miss Dorman here
to entertain I wanted to get my
social duties all attended to.
Then I also had the Pennies to
dinners & Suppers (boarding). Mrs.
P. was ill for a couple of weeks
& ate up stairs. They are lovely

people. They have the two front
second story rooms. They are
still taking dinners with me,
but will soon be able to go
out again for that, getting their
own breakfasts & suppers here. They
are quite an addition to the fam-
ily life. All the fire boys are
back in their same rooms, so all
the bed rooms are rented to very nice
people, except I keep my own bed-
room. However, I have had someone
in it with me all fall. Miss Carroll
has been here most of the time.
She now expects to sail for China

Jan. 23 to be at Shanghai.

I have had a good many little
things to see to, extra things. We had
the storm door or porch put up
& painted (red, like the house) &

the furnace had to be all taken
to pieces because a piece inside
had been burned thro'. The house
wouldn't heat, & there was lots of
sulphur. Both these things were
expensive. We alabastined
the dining room & some other
parts of the house, made
curtains, & cleaned, & did
all these things before the girls
came home. I wished for you
when we were at the sausage,
but Selden ground it very well.
We had lovely scrapple & head
cheese, spare ribs re., & we
have a large crock of sausage
yet. We have tried the new
pork with baked beans & it
is fine. I have a big can of land

+ crock of pork, + the hams +
bacon to come later from Mrs.
Berg. I seemed to be busy every
minute from Thanksgiving till
now, and that is the reason I
have not written. Did you
get the Oberlin Calendar, and
the bed socks I sent? The latter
Mrs. Marshall made for me, but
I had not worn them, + I thought
they would be nice for you.

We are having special meetings
in both churches this week. This
afternoon was our Temperance
meeting, so I was almost too
tired to walk down again this
evening.

I am going to
take one of the College Mission
Study classes from now to the end
of the time, commencing next Wed.
Bell, good night, I may add a word