

Oberlin Ohio Feb. 7, 1907

My dear Nellie:- You have been fine about letter writing lately - it was quite like a call from you. No. We had not mentioned to a soul that Jimmy Harger shot of coming to Oberlin, altho' I was just about writing and asking her to spend two weeks of her time with us, when your second letter arrived. We should be very glad to have her, and we have an empty room this term and probably will have it next, alas. I noticed that The News says that Mrs. Moore is very ill, and that Nellie has gone west to her mother. That may make a difference in Jimmy's plans. When she does come, we want a visit from her - it need not be limited to two weeks, she might stay a month if she can spare the time. I'd be glad to have her do so.

There are a good many things in your last letter I want to answer & will soon, but I must look up Sog Co. for I don't remember where it is located. Just now, however, I want to write you about Mary, because I think she really is in danger of breaking down if she doesn't have a change of thought,

and I think your judgment is pretty good. The tone of her letters for several weeks has been getting more & more distressed at various exasperations, and I am afraid she is getting into such a mental attitude that there is great risk of a split somewhere. She does not go out any where, or have any recreations to change her thought. No one can stand that long - at least no one with a high strung, nervous, sensitive nature like Mary's. She is evidently getting morbid, and exaggerating conditions. You know how she is - the more exhausted she is, the more she won't rest, the more she won't let her ^{self} relax in some pure fun. She ought to have just fun & recreation every day for a while, to relax from her heavy responsibilities & duties. She

is pretty young for such a place anyway. + "Brozy Krossy" realizing that, may think he's keeping things generally by what she thinks is meddling. His heart may be better than his manners. Now you know it would be an awful thing for Mary to leave at the end of a year because of disagreement between her & B.K. I needn't particularize - you see it. I believe she can hold on to the situation with credit and dignity, but to do it, she must, absolutely must have frequent change of thought. Something out of her daily routine and environment. She lives in the atmosphere of the same thought all the time, and hardly ever even goes down town. - The Harger girls seem to me the kind who are capable of having just simple innocent fun. That is one reason

they look so young, and will keep so. Mary is so dead in earnest about every thing, she'd hardly be willing to take recreation without a serious purpose in view. Now Willie, you did it use to be that way, that is, it is in your nature to be, and so I think you may be able to keep Mary out of her ruts, by suggestion, advice, or perhaps arranging some excursion or pleasure. Mary is too exacting to herself to spend anything on personal gratification, so for my sake I wish she would do it. It would make me happy to know she was having some fun. Perhaps she could go over to the Hargers some time when something special was going on in Seattle, or to spend the Sunday, or to some University function with you. That might do her more good than your going to Tacoma, because she needs to get away from her environment. I'll leave you to manage it. If she thinks she's pleasing you, she'll do it if she ca

Did you get the books we sent you? They were put up several days before they got to the P.O. & I was quite worried knowing you wanted them before the new semester. I think it would be so good to try for the Rhodes Scholarship. If you could get it, it would be a great step towards success in anything you make your life work. Study abroad too, where there are so many American boys would be less lonesome, while broadening, to get the foreign part. Before I forget it:- You invariably spell disappointment + its parts, wrong. Remember it is ap-point and the error is easy to correct.

The value of real estate constantly has risen a little ever since we came to Oberlin, and our house and lot would

sell for more than it cost us. A builder told me lately that it would cost from \$1000.⁰⁰ to \$1500.⁰⁰ more to build now, than when we built, which was just before the Spanish war. You remember prices went up after our contract was made + Mr. Glenn had bought lumber &c. so that he said a month later it would have cost four hundred dollars more. All building materials, and wages have increased in price. Boys all get 20^{cts} an hour now, and most girls and women 15^{cts}. Board + rooms remain nearly the same, altho' an effort has been made to increase the price. All food, fuel &c. is higher. I should try to get \$5000.⁰⁰ for the house + let if I were selling, but might

take less - perhaps \$4500.⁰⁰. The whole house was painted with two coats outside last Spring, the porches, roofs &c. were repaired, the expense of lumber, paint, work &c. coming to \$1000⁰⁰ or more. The house is as good as new, except the furnace which has to be run so hard, I am always afraid it will split. It did last winter and cost ten dollars to repair. Houses are in good demand here, either to sell or rent, + sometimes I think it might be well to rent ours next year either furnished or unfurnished as we can, and let Selden + Evelina board, and I go visiting my friends for a year. I think our expenses would not be more, if as much, as they are now. The new house next to us where Dr. Browning lives, but built + owned by Mr. Tobie, rents for \$25⁰⁰ a month, unfurnished, + is much

Smaller than ours. But I should have
to keep some room for storage, which
would reduce the income. Evelina will
be a Junior next year (I should hate to be
away in her Senior year) + Selden a Senior
in high school, - an all around good
time for me to be away - and Mrs. Har-
Kins wants me to be free from care next
year as well as this. I get well very
slowly, but Mrs. H. thinks I will get
well eventually with time and good care.
What do you think of my plan, + would
you be glad if I could spend part of
the year in Washington? But if you
should get the R. S. you could visit
Oberlin on your way instead:

There are two R. R.'s in process of building
through Oberlin. The one whose station
was to be built on West College St. beyond
the Weaver's house is in a law suit, +
work is stopped, but the rails are all
laid. The other is a little beyond it, +
at work, I believe, but not ready for cars.

(9)

I am glad you are looking up work for the summer. I hope you can get big wages somewhere, unless you can homestead a claim. Would it that be better on the whole? I think the little print you sent me is beautiful. I have no doubt there is some money in western land. I'd like to have some to invest in it, but just now I don't think it would be wise to sell out here + invest, because I am not strong enough to go into anything new, and also because Selden + Evelina are not through their studies here. We need a central home at present for all the children to come to, and some one in the home to keep it. A year's renting it would be different. Sometimes I think we might sell this house + buy a little one (a congregating place) + put the extra money in

Western land, + let you two boys work it. But I want to keep a home some-
where - in Oberlin, or an equally good
place - for my children to gather in,
+ where I can live in my old age, +
not be driven from pillar to post
as too many old ladies are, living with
their different children - now one and
then another.

I am quite interested that your
Psychology teacher comes from Elyria. Prof.
Bever's opinion of Loetze is very much
the same as Dr. Stevens'. I remember Prof.
King said in M.+E.'s class that Prof.
James whose Psychology you study
had written back him how he taught
Loetze. For he (Prof. James) had tried
it without success (not being able to
make it either clear or interesting) +
he understood that Prof. King did.

both. My own opinion is that Prof.
King's Outline which is studied with
it, and his own personality and
philosophical mind have more to
do with the success of the class than
anything else. Certainly every one who
takes it, considers it one of the finest
courses given in Oberlin College, but
it is King rather than Loetze that
does it. He brings in extensive outside
reading and illustration, Kingisms.

Minnie's little tiger Kitty has grown
up to be big and fat and handsome
and quite playful and well behaved.
She is too lazy to catch mice much
even when they are nearly under her
nose, and she sleeps for hours on
the dining room divan, or purrs in
contentment. I like to keep her and pet

her for Mary & Ellen's sakes, and as she has no bad habits of any kind, she quite takes a place in the family altho' she has not the brains of her mother Minnie or her grandmother Mimi. We all call her Tiger.

Amy too, is quite one of the family, & does very well. She studies every day for a teachers' examination she wants to take this Spring. We send the wash to the laundry. My sisters are helping us through this year, so I can have a chance to rest.

Four letters are a long time in coming, eleven days as the two postmasters often show. I wish you could get me a picture of your Glee club, and mark the names somewhere (on the back, I guess). Many did not send any.

There is an Ethel Belden in Evelina's

Class - a very nice girl, interesting and bright, from Mass. but no relation that we know of.

I don't know anything of a Dr. Mr. Belden that was killed, nor of any in Seattle, but you.

Possibly the Emma Woodruff you mention might be a daughter of the Woodruff from Bridgeton. He was in Real Estate.

The person (Miss or Mrs. Jackson) who wrote to Mary for Mr. Randell, is a relative of Coz. Anna Randell on her mother's side. Her mother was a Jackson, her father a Belden.

I think I have answered all your questions but the Log Cabin, & I'll try to find out about that. I haven't heard lately from them.

The addresses you ask for are:-
Mrs. E. T. Lukens, Florence House
105 East 18th St. New-York City.
Mrs. Geo. S. Humphrey, 250 Remont Ave.
West New-Brighton, Staten Is. New-York
Mrs. A. J. Roe, 900 St. Louis Ave.
Fort Worth Texas.
Joseph H. Scranton Washington N. J.
Misses Jeanne Marie & Adelaide E. Roe
32 Foster Hall, University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

Grandma just now is going from
Uncle Joe's to Aunt Leary's house.

I am afraid you write like
my long letter, but it is ^{an} answer to
some of yours. I hope you'll write
soon again. Your letters are so interesting
It has taken me a good while to
write this. Give Mary the news.

Your loving Grandma, Ellen S. Biddle