

1771 - 1773 Madison Avenue,  
New York City.  
September 4, 1908.

My dear Cousin Ellen:-

Your letter came to-day, after a delay due to its being forwarded from Hoover, and I make haste to answer as I know you will wish to know whether or not to expect me.

It is very kind indeed of you to extend to me such an enticing invitation, and I should certainly take advantage of it, were it not for the fact that I must go back to work on September ninth. For every day I am absent my pay is docked \$3:50, and just at present every little helps — as the lady said when she cried into the sea — so much that I do not dare to gratify my own desires and take a few days off.

I am afraid none of the cousins with whom I am in touch will be able to go, as the New York schools begin on the

ninth.

But I am sure that they all join me in hearty thanks and best wishes for the bride & groom to be.

With love to all my Oberlin cousins,

I am

most sincerely

Mary Belden James.

Will you please excuse this paper? We have just moved and our things have not all turned up in the unpacking.

Cousin  
Mary Belden James  
56 or 58 Northampton  
Boston  
Providence at Dover N

4-4-185