

① Longmont  
Colo. '15/17/93.

Dear Mr. Belden

I was really very glad to recognize your handwriting one day last week when your letter was placed in my hands at the office. Not having heard of or from you for so long I began to fear what might be the cause. Whilst we were at Cheyenne, I believe, my brother mentioned your sickness in one of his letters but I was unable to gain further information. Hence we were all delighted to find that you have such good prospects of restoration to ultimate health. Please write us again whenever the spirit moves

telling us how you, Mrs Belden  
& the children are. The latter  
I suppose are grown out of know-  
ledge. It must be pleasant to have  
a school like "the Seminary"  
available for them. Since we  
have been dwelling in this  
wild & woolly west it has been  
Hobson's choice, & I must  
confess that I do not like the  
commingling of the public  
schools.

It is a pleasure for me to  
know that I left some friends  
behind me in the East. Partly,  
doubtless from my own mistake,  
partly too, because I did not  
understand Americans &  
Americans did not understand  
me, & certainly partly from  
the peculiar ways of the Bridg-  
-tonians I was not a general  
favorite. I am the more inclined

to believe that the latter cause  
entered largely into the question  
from the fact that they behaved  
just as strangely to my brother  
for some time before his re-  
-novel to Philadelphia as they  
did to me, although I used  
laughingly to say often to him  
that he had become a thorough  
American. But he was always  
more adaptable than I ever  
can be & did not shrink from  
society. From my childhood  
up I have found it hard to  
smile with strangers & now  
I fear I am too old to change.

Perhaps you will like to  
know a little of our doings  
since we left Bridgeton.  
As you know we went to  
Cheyenne & stayed there for  
two years. The result is that  
I never wish to see the place  
or people again. They are  
some of the most consequential

self-organized people to be  
found in this "land of the brave  
& the free." New York, Chicago,  
& Philadelphia are scarcely to  
be spoken of in the same breath  
as Cheyenne, whilst as for the  
poor creatures on the other  
side of the Atlantic they may  
by a great favor be classed  
with Chinese. Then we went  
to Collins. For about seven  
months I taught in the schools  
but was not enough of a lick-  
spittle to please the president  
- the Hon. (!) Jay Boughton,  
Insurance Agent, &c, &c. - ~~for~~  
who is really the Board & so  
my engagement terminated  
at the end of the year. During  
the summer holidays we  
went to the mountains. On  
the morning of our intended  
return & within a short time  
of our starting for Collins the  
horses ran away. We were

all thrown out & injured - but  
Lillie so severely that for days  
her life was despaired of  
& she will carry the marks to  
the grave. For twelve months  
I carried on private teaching  
in the town & neighborhood  
but owing to the multiplicity  
of teachers, some of them being  
25 cent ones, did not cover  
expenses. Last Oct, that is Oct.  
192 I came to Longmont at  
the request of the Board to  
carry on music in the schools.  
They seemed so satisfied with  
the results that the work has  
been continued through a  
second year. My weekly  
routine is as follows: - on  
Monday I teach in the schools,  
Central in the morning & Bryan  
in the afternoon; on Tuesday  
morning I go to Loveland,  
about 15 miles north, & give  
private lessons to 12 or 13 pupils.

Oral Organ & Piano, returning  
on Wednesday afternoon; on  
Thursday I teach again in the  
Schools; on Friday I go to  
Lafayette, where I have seven  
pupils, returning the same  
evening; on Saturday I do  
some private teaching in  
Longmont, in the <sup>evening</sup> teaching the  
Presbyterian choir. This repre-  
sents a good deal of work but  
the pay is hardly in proportion  
& the expense of moving about is  
considerable. Still I am paying  
any way we have things more  
comfortable than when boarding  
at Collierstad about half the  
cost.

Last year we had some  
furnished rooms & boarded  
ourselves, but now we have  
taken a small furnished house  
for 12 months. Billie manages

(4)

she house keeping very well indeed for her age, but finds it rather much to keep up her school work at the same time. She & Wilfred are both in the high school.

Do you know our minister, Rev. J. W. Lourie late of China? He tells me that he knew the late Dr. E. L. Linn & Mr. Fithian of Bridgeton. The cause here has been very low but he is filling the place & if it goes on increasing it will be necessary to enlarge.

I am so glad to know that matters have been so favorably ordered for you & hope that the future will bring still more brightness & blessing to you & yours.

With our united love to all & with best wishes for

(4)  
a happy Christmas & New Year  
Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,  
J. Allen.