

on with  
with our  
leaves  
- N.J.

Oxford, N.J., Feb. 7, 1889.

My dearest Ellie,

I am having a delightful visit. Dr. Butler couldn't come, but Leavens did, & dined here, spending from 10 till 3½ with me, to some purpose, & I think likely about as good as if the three of us had got together. It's no small task we have on hand. Leavens has some splendid plans for his own presbytery, which I shall endeavor to reproduce in mine. He plans (for our Committee work) to have our printing all done at one place so as to be uniform, & to have a "device" for a uniform

2  
title page. Maybe you can make  
such a thing? I didn't suggest it  
to him; but knowing your fond-  
ness for literary surprises on your  
husband during his vacations, I  
mention it. — Learn delight-  
ed with Selden by his conversa-  
tional powers, which are indeed  
brilliant, in spite of his deafness.  
He confessed to me his views as  
to the Presbyterian Church & its  
Foreign board; they seem to be iden-  
tical with mine. He is as disap-  
pointed in Mitchell as I.

I preached for Maxwell last  
Ev. ; he is holding meetings 3 even-  
ings in the week, desiring, apparently,

3

to compass a "revival" in the inter-  
vals of his foolish courtship. The  
damsel was not visible in  
meeting last evening, as she  
ought to be if she is fairly who a  
minister's wife. But possibly she  
was away at Blairstown school  
I am to preach again tonight, & think  
I'll use "Hearing Preaching", of  
last Sunday's — thanks to Pittman's  
commendation.

Mary is going to send her two  
children to you by me. What final-  
ly settled it was this: they've been  
praying about it a great deal — the  
girls I mean — & yesterday Cecitude  
took it upon her to thank God that  
they were now going to B — 180  
Mary deems this a necessary ser-

4  
render. But I never before knew  
that children could do the forest  
dairying!

Levens has left me an amazingly  
valuable missionary biography,  
which he picked up on his way  
home; I read it through this a. m., &  
mean to make a West-Jersey academy  
Simon fit. I - nauts to work up  
a dozen such biographies - of  
men not known or much known  
yet on this side - into N. S. M. pamph-  
lets with our imprimatur; to get  
as many men, facile with pen, to  
do the "boiling-down" of the  
books. I like this idea much.

— I have had lots of sweet things  
to say to you my sweet wife; but I

5  
have kept so steady busy all the  
time that they are crowded back, &  
this I know you will not deplore.

Your profile picture is much pre-  
ferred here. I think Uncle S- &  
nife smile a little at my enthusias-  
m over you, & think I am more  
in love than ever. Dear me!  
how nice it is to be in love, & to  
stay in love! or, in other words,  
how nice to have you for a wife.

Uncle S- & I have spent a cou-  
ple of hours at icmopir wa  
Cypart work. It's a more formi-  
dable task than at first appeared.  
Uncle S- is terribly hard to keep  
in harness; he will insist on tel-  
ling irrelevant stories, & points out of

then relative place, & so it's al-  
most impossible to get a skele-  
ton in order, without which  
I can't, in my unfamiliarity with  
the subject, put or keep his valu-  
able information to use. I am  
very doubtful of success.

I've only begun Robert-  
Elsmere. It's evidently very por-  
eiful; I don't like the author's  
apparent bias of mind.

But it's quarter of three <sup>p.m.</sup> & if  
you are to get this tomorrow  
it must go this afternoon.

Learn's wishes you were here,  
which is the wish more of

Your loving Husband  
Mr. W. H. Belden  
Bridgeton, N. J.

W. H. Belden.