

Letter, undated

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1900? I am going to type-write you a few items as we the days go along to save space and time and first I want to ask you to let Mr Kennan know right off about the Reading Room and if Mrs Gwillim is to have it again. I think she has given much satisfaction all around and individually I should say that things had never gone as well. The Library has not been closed for a year except during the time of the diptheria when it was ordered to be by the Board of health. The place is clean and neat and in order all the time and I believe that the reading room has never been run on as little. Miss Emily Taylor has taken Mrs Gwillim's place when she has been away and Mrs Gwillim has paid her and that has given satisfaction and Miss Taylor has learned the work. Financially there never has been as good a condition because there has been no entertainment to raise any thing. The girls of the Presbyterian church promised to have an entertainment during the winter and did not, then they talked about it to me all Summer, but I wanted them to do it and would not offer to take charge of it and they finally thought to have a tea in the 2 library but of course that was too inappropriate for the Ex. com. - to agree to, so I have heard of nothing since. Any how the Hubbard fund has eight dollars and the fund all interest to come in soon and all the books that you sent, paid for from the fund and in the general fund, there is 45. dollars. Of this Mr Carruth gave to Mrs Gwillim himself because she was Librarian 25. dollars and \$8.75 came from the tourists. In August Mrs Gwillim had the Library open every morning and had some rather pleasant time, with intelligent tourists many of them men from Boston. A number of new books have been given, among some by Miss Tarbell including Miss Scidmore's China which is not a bit interesting. Miss Tarbell promises to send us a number of books. The books are nearly all classified and if Mrs Gwillim could only get a catalogue out and read more to know something of books herself or even just learned the names of the books under her care, she would be quite near to doing the best that can be, but she no doubt does the best of any one we can get

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here and she always looks so dainty and so much of a lady , that I feel a pride in having her there. The annual 3 meeting will be while Mr Bell is here and a year from the last one. George has done not one thing nor has not had a meeti o n g until last week , so , no one else has but it was not neglect but intention. I have not asked or brought to his mind any thing i l could he p l p in any way. I have tried to have him vegetate and only do things as he wants. He is so brown and looks so much better and is able to do so many things that take physical strength but he is not really well and I feel may become used up when his work really begins. I suppose that some one has told you that Maria did not get married , Georgie told me so I have not spoken of it to any one but Mr McCurdy I thought that you would want her again if you knew. S t h e is still here helping her sister. Has any one told you of the poor P l a rkhurst ' s , they had a hard time and I felt so sorry for her for she is so nice and has had so many sad things in her ? l i f e and is perfectly wrapp e r e d up in her husband and he too delicate for this climate , at least for such a Summer as we have had Mr Parkhurst was very delicate when he came and he did a good many things inspite of it and had some love c l y e times and experiences but finnally took to his bed and 4 his bad condition continued until a Toronto Dr. and George decided that he was going o into consumption and rapidly, so they gave up their f all here and went, with Dr George with them to take of Mr P. as the they feared hemorr h a g h e. but Mrs Parkhurst writes me now that the Boston and New York men she has had , assure her it is only a prolonged and neglected case of pleur ac e s y and since they reached home he is better. Dr George was left in Boston and is now visiting Ethel where Mrs McKeen and Maude are. The man from North River who lived at the Parkhurst , died after a rather long illness and as he was related to all the maid s in the neighborhood it made it hard for every one and was a hard thing for the Parkhurst. They did enjoy the comfort of Cresent Grove so much and Mrs Parkhurst spoke of it so many times , that as there was sickness they co i u l d not have been more comfortable

I have felt most tremendously disappointed not to go to Paris but after George was ill there was no use in even lamenting , for it could not be done. I wonder if you happened to run

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across the "baby incubator?" It is so funny to see the different things that are seen and written of. It really makes me cross that Mr. McCurdy's people did not have an Ebedec at the Exposition just as an advertisement. They could have fixed up a lot of the Eastman films and has a man "developing while you wait" all the time. They are too slow to suit me. This type-writing is great for I write while waiting for telephone answers and get in a lot of letters that in what would otherwise be waste time. Mr Kennan has not I think answered your letters but has received it and the flowers and when he begins to take up work again or rather writing, he will answer

He was much pleased with the flowers. and as there was money enough he thought it better to let the Hubbard fund pay for the books and he gave the his cheek to Mr McCurdy for the land it, which improves the place far more than you can realize. It is getting Fall like and I feel that I shall miss you more than ever. It seems as if there was nothing to look forward to. We will go down sometime in December but it makes a long year for me to struggle on with the very inefficient service that one has up here in all ways. It takes the spirit and buoyancy out of me but I feel a great deal stronger than I have for two years so my quiet has paid.

September 14th. 1900

Since I wrote this we have had the tag end of the Texas storm which and which has blown down a lot of trees every where in town, and on your Mountain, and one of those great old dear things at that place near the McKay pier. It was from the North or our coast would have been swept clean. Mr Bell has come and we ran out a ways in our Launch to hail him on the steamer but we do nothing like as wild as automobiling or as dangerous.

Even your postal made me feel breathless and wildly excited — you can see that even the type-writer is effected so that it can not write straight. It was great though. I don't suppose that Mr D. -cannot spell his name — made more of an impression on Daisy in his chateau than he did all alone in Washington. He so good and harmless. It makes me laugh to

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think that I in our most peaceful truly rural life should find so many things to say to you who are in such a mad whirl of all sorts of things. I like to think you are having a good time and I always envy your unprejudiced & free way of enjoying each experience by itself, just as you can enjoy people without an ?llisizing their motives or minding their inconsistencies in statements.

It is so horrid the way some days every thing people do and all their motives whether good or bad, seem to stand out in clear blacks and whites, the days that all actions are softened in a languorous haze of either indifference or of exceptance without analysis, are so much happier. Is not human nature a very curious thing and I so much wonder if it matters much what any one does or does not do. I get so tired of individualism, personalities and pettiness and it seems so funny sometimes to think how important all our little things are to us and how we more or less are all trying and struggling after the same things, when really it dont help humanity at large at all, or protect them from the most terrible fates. Dont you wonder sometimes what it all means. This frightful calamity that has befallen Galveston and the horrible things that are happening to the poor Missionaries in China and no matter what we as individuals feel we are perfectly helpless, we cannot do any thing. Why should not some of those Galveston people have a right to a long life of happiness, why should every thing be taken away from them, and if the missionaries have given up homes ties and comforts, why should they not be protected. To die would not be much but that women should be so outraged is the terrible part. It makes me feel as if God was as helpless as the human being or else that the human being is still very low down and has to evolve to a much higher intelligence than we yet can conceive of. Perhaps the present spirit of unrest of in the people who are struggling after all sorts of occult things and who are studying all the oldest religions, is the beginning of better things only all these people seem to me to be just as selfish as any one else, or else they seem so excentric that they do not attract us. I do believe that if one could be entirely impersonal that one would become more truly unselfish in its highest sense. The trouble is that no one really knows any thing because to each

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there is his or her point of view which is so different from that of the one looking on. Dont you wonder what you would do and how you would behave under such circumstances as some of these w e o m e a n have been placed 9 in China. Of course we all can hope we would do cer certain things or bear in a brave way but I often wonder what I really would do. The things these women have d g one through are the things that we have always thought of as having been endure e e d in the darker ages when civalization and nerve s were less highly developed.

Good bye I fear I am boring you most to death. I am reading Tolstoy's " Re za eltlon surrection " and it ma g k es one think of a lot of things but I dont know as it does , more than life itself does all the time.

I had the Hamilton s, the Carruths and Miss Safford for dinner the other night and Miss Safford stayed all night. She had on a charming red gown, she is at the Point although alone for it is such a good time for her to work and she will not go out or have any one come to see her in the day time. Her genuine faithfulness always appea p l s to me.

The storm the other night has blown down so many trees at the p P oint , on the road down to the rocks , one jolly old white birch is all split down. As they will be 10 cleared away before you come and the under brush grown up perhaps you wont miss them so much. The trail to camp is impass a e ble and the roof partly off our cabin and we are going right out.

Sept. 16 th 1900 —

You know that Mr McCurdy has gone down with Mr Bell and his sister and father went to h Halifax or rather Windsor and as usual Miss Archbald worried he herself ill and had one of her bad times but is better and Miss McCurdy comes tonight. I have been over to stay as sort of an old rock to depend on instead of five giddy young ones. Oh ! is it not terrible to be old and helpless and interfering with the pleasure of others, the children are very nice to Miss Archebald and yet they have such fun over the way she says good bye to them

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all over and v o ver and over. It is funny I know but it is so sad too and she is so fond of them. and she does it to me o O f course with my matuture years I can only see the path ic etic side and remember her years of unselfish generosity to the family. I do not believe it is hurtful to make child ren considerate or to feel that too much cannot be done or given up to the really old and helpless because the young appreci at ate so little any way; It is well that it is so of course, but it don't hurt to learn to feel.