

Letter, undated, with transcript

Home. Wednesday morning: My dear Bessie:—

Enclosed please find, two letters to be copied, from Mrs. C.—(one which you returned to me in New York, which you say you did not copy, and one to me of an earlier date, which I had mislaid and did not find until this morning). I also enclose a letter from Miss Sullivan.; please give this to Dr. Bell to read, that he may see that the benign influence of the letter he sent to Mrs. C.— showed its effect, at the first interview between Miss S. and Mrs. C. after the letter had been received. (you had better copy this letter also, to place in your collection). Please return all these originals when you have completed your copies.

Again,— please tell me if Dr. Bell is too much engaged with the Census ad and other matters, to care to be receiving, my contributions, gleanings of rather a miscellaneous character, after the manner in which I am sending them, or would he prefer not to be “bothered” with them just now?

A Happy New Year to you, and many very happy years in the New Century.

Affectionately,

COPY. My dear Mrs. Pratt,

How thoughtful & kind of you to write the postal which gave us so much pleasure.

The girls have been here since Wednesday, and have gone home. Annie says “for the first time since Helen came to Boston she wants to go to her mother. When she came here she had not been eating anything to call eating and looked wretchedly. She ate well all the time she was here.

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She has learned her lesson well, and is kept in practice by Annie.

Annie has given the hardest blow yet. She told Mr. Chamberlin last night, that as a friend she could get along with me, but in a school it would be utterly impossible. This , in face of the fact that when I asked her about the wisdom of my taking the president's place, she had Miss Kinney write that it made the place smooth for her if I did and she thought it the only thing to do.

She also said that I would find Dr. Bell entirely with the Hutton crowd, and further, that I had entirely misunderstood Dr. Bell, that he was strongly opposed to the school, and I would find him so. This she has impressed upon Helen so completely that when I had a few words with her she was very nearly impertinent and did tell me that I would have no help from Dr. Bell she knew, if the school was carried out as we first planned. I said “Young lady, you have shut the door on yourself, 2 and if the school is started your withdrawal will be the only change.”

Annie and Helen have the idea that the school cannot go without them.

My New York friends write:— “We are bound to show him (Mr. Rhoades) that he in no way can put an indignity upon you by insinuation.”

I shall write to Dr. Bell today and find out if I can , how much he meant of what he said to me. I feel now as though he must have helped them in some way to their pronounced opinions of them.

I feel today, as if no power on earth could make me continue in this work.

My condemnation of Annie is so great I cannot feel or do for her ever again. Her conversation with me, entirely free from excitement of any kind, was absolutely more than I could allow myself to bear again.

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The result of this is that it has completely unnerved me again. I must end this once and for all, or it will end me.

I then think of the little children. I could not make or coax Helen to say she desired to help them. She said there was only one. I asked her about that one and I could not make her say a word. The work of the Hutton men, has been well supplemented by Annie. I think it is the most painful revelation of all.

How is it going to end.

Lovingly yours, Ida Chamberlin.

COPY. Sunday afternoon. My dear Mrs Pratt:

Thank you very much for sending me word of the census. Of course I want this perfeted list very much. Will you have the list made out at once and send it to Mr. C. at the Transcript Office. Please send the bill too. I would send the money if I knew how much it would be in all.

I think I shall start for Chicago tomorrow, but I have not quite decided, and it is five in the afternoon. If I go I shall return by way of Washington and New York.

Dr. Hale, Mr. Clement of the Transcript, and Mr. Drake of the Youth's Companion are willing and have promised to be trustees. We are trying for Mr. J. F. Moors, banker, to be a fourth and last, and also to receive funds. Dr. Hale feels very sure of him.

Dr. Hale has also given me or rather promised me \$300 for housekeeping for Annie, and has given me \$100 of it. Mrs. Bigelow Lawrence has sent them two brass bedsteads and furnishings, and promised me \$500 for next year to use as I see fit. Wasn't it dear of her. All through her acquaintance of me, through my work with Miss Allen. She, by the way, is improving very steadily.

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Let me know how long you are to be in Washington.

Hastily with love, Ida C. I think Mr. Bell isn't kind.