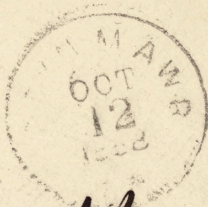


Recd Oct. 13th / 88
Ans'd " 14th / 88



Miss Garrett
Ringwood
New Jersey

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①
Sunday 6th 7./88

Dearest Mary,

Will you take a very affectionate greeting in place of a letter and in place (in place as regards me not you, I mean) of the three times I meant to ask you to kiss me good bye before I left for the station that hurried Friday. That was my only excuse for delaying in that clearly unexcusable manner for we barely caught the train and unless my porter had recognised my trunks and had the cheques ready for me either I or my luggage must have been left. I know I ed have such a melancholy and exhausting experience before we met again and as I was just telling you you seemed so utterly wretched that I ed have liked to have put my arms around you and embraced you as if we had both been French men in a railway station. I can think of no

② more effective comparison. I intended to write to you at once but as you ought to know best of all men a wish is not a letter. The first Sat I sat in my office from 8 A. M. till 12 midnight registering students and discussing admissions. In the hour's interval for luncheon & dinner I had to give Mrs Carroll some thing to eat. She brought Bessie on and to my surprise - and pleasure - for she did it very sweetly she kissed me and said that she sd never forget what we were doing for Bessie. I had never seen her before, we have reason to be satisfied with Bessie's record. She was one of six out of sixteen to pass the German examination i. e. she enters with Greek, Latin, French and German. She rec'd "merit" on her Solid Geom & Trigonometry, a paper on wh. the failures were overwhelming, ^{& she enters with all the advanced exam. & no conditions} well after that week & that Sat. I was a wreck all Sunday. Monday I registered again. We have 106 students, that is we are full. Among them two students from Kentucky, one Virginian and one from Louisiana apart from our five Maryland girls. I am so delighted to see the Southern students coming. All of these 106 are up to our standard. Tuesday I went into my English lecture room to find it thronged - students sitting in all the 4 window seats and - I suppose I was not feeling well ^{except for the few quizzes after last Nov -} but for the first time since you were in my guest two yrs ago, - I was overcome with embarrassment & sd scarcely command my voice - and even yet it is much more of an effort than it used to be. I have over 60 regular hearers and I suppose the number must make a difference. In my English Major I have ~~again~~ 6 undergraduates and 4 graduates (one a college professor of English) It is a trial

(3) to have it so large, the year of all
others. I did not suppose there were so
many people in the world as I have
met since Sept. 24th and ~~the~~ ^{the men of}
our Faculty seem many more than
~~any of the~~ ^{that I who} ~~men~~
~~who have~~ ^{seven been} ~~met~~

~~with~~ ~~of~~ ~~them~~. It is getting to be so
very formidable to address ^{the} Faculty.

All our new men ^{except one} are such "swells" I
am glad to say. You cd'nt guess that
they were professors. Last Sat. I had planned
to write to you but Dr Shorey came &
it had been so long since I had spoken
a word except on business and ~~of~~ his
first word was that the event of the
Summer for him had been Robt

Ellesmere - for both of wh. reasons I
must have been more ^{approachable} ~~talkative~~ than
usual as he stayed till long past
any writing hour. I wonder how you have
been sleeping lately. I slept for the first

I feel sense of loneliness at opening my collage as my companion for days & think

in two weeks well at the sea shore
and since then I read myself to sleep
every night with yr Arabian nights
and it has been a great deal better.
It is usually not later than one when
the charmed spell of adventures forever
ending in the union of severed lovers
ceases to hold me & I sleep till morning
i.e till half past six, or seven o'clock
You will I know be glad to hear even
tho it proves me in the right that my
backache is historical. It was only a
strain & has righted itself. I did not
wish to be unreasonable but only to
wait to see and my backache has
certainly gone. I did not ~~not~~ realise
what it wold be to be free from it.
I have also seen Dr Brocmall again
about my surgical operation and she
says it will be such a serious affair
that I cannot think of having it done
unless I can go to bed for some time

6
She evidently thinks it quixotic to have it done but the next time I am in
New York I will show ^{the proposal} it to Dr Cushman & see what she thinks altho I cannot let
her perform ^{the operation} for I do not wish to be laid up at a New York hotel for two
weeks at five dollars a day. I shall perhaps show it to her on Saturday for
as Mrs & Mr Gwynn leave then I am going to join Mamma and go to the
Maline & the evening performance of Coquelin. I know no one in New York
and of course except for that I have no objection and every reason for
going. All last winter in fact since the divorce Sarah was here two years ago I have
not been inside of a theatre. Later - Thursday evening. Mamma writes that she
has seen you of course she did not say anything about my going as I had asked her
to tell no one at all, not dreaming she wd see you - how I wish she had asked
you to join us - Can't you - Mary - it wd be very nice to see you - you
cd stay with us at the Clarendon and afterwards on Sunday morning
early before we left we cd settle one or two little matters above all that
infamous letter of Mr Hewell's I have just rec'd. He is a scoundrel & determined
to sell us his time minute by minute. Please consider it. Mamma wd know
be very glad & to see you again wd be pleasant indeed. We cd get
a seat next to ours at a speculation. One reason it has been hard to write
perhaps has been my feeling of mortification at the way I quarrelled with Mamma
at the school house that day. We do it scarcely ever now & never in that
way - I do not know what it was about I am only sure it was all my fault
and I am also sure that it is foolish to mind a little matter so much. Still
I suppose you understand and Mamma and I understand.

I have been inconceivably busy and there has been no time to think
any thing but morbid thoughts seem indeed more palpable than other

(6)

th'ts - I have adopted a plan that works well on high pressure. I do not think one moment. I never have a book out of my hand. I read till the last moment before going to sleep & like the bottle that a baby finds popped into its mouth in the morning my hand usually opens on a book in the morning when I awake - I read straight thro. my meals & whenever I walk - when I lift my head from the waters of Lethe I am sure that I shall be much more "wise" as Shelley w^ol say. Shelley is a perfectly charming subject for my class's work. ~~and I am~~ ^{thatseddy} ~~convinced~~ ~~that~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~idea~~ ~~you~~ ~~could~~ ~~have~~ ~~had~~ ~~now~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~so~~ ~~late~~ ~~that~~ I must go upstairs & I have finished the last volume (the third) of your Arabian Nights so I shall have to seek further afield for ^{an} unexciting romance to be my lillibry (?) tonight - I wonder if you w^ol not write me a few words to say how you are next Sunday if you are not in New York - yr telegram was very sweet & h^el me lying on my sofa with the

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