

Paris, April 7, 1913-



(1)

Dear Father

The other day I sent you a letter letting you that I will never teach — now I'll write you what I do intend to do. You know that ultimately I intend to write, but I realize that I need more experience first, and that in the meantime I must take some paying job. So my look-out is for a paying


"wide-awake" job, which will give <sup>(2)</sup>  
me experience of life, but will  
give my personality free play—  
nothing which will cramp me  
& put me into a hopeless  
mould. This winter at Geneva  
showed me that the work I have  
been looking out for is charity  
work— I should like to do  
fayer work, but for the immigrants  
So I suppose that means  
settlement work. Perhaps you  
can ask about what paying  
positions there are in settlement  
work. I feel that I must get into  
the practical work, and study  
later, that it would do me no  
good to study theories of sociology  
at present. Theories are other  
men's judgments of experience, &  
I'd prefer to have experience  
myself, and then afterwards  
study the theories when I shall  
be able to judge them. Of course  
I don't intend to stay simple  
settlement worker forever, but I  
want a year or two of that before  
I become "sociologist"— There <sup>(3)</sup>

perhaps I'd teach sociology — I'd ③  
be passing on real discovery, —  
it would be worth while — and  
I'll write — That as aim.  
For the present the essentials  
are ① gain experience, ② earn  
wages —

I have decided to take a job  
next winter in some settlement.

Miss Grant will give me a  
good reference — and I am  
going to write to Mrs. Sweett  
about openings.

And now for the experience

part. I have decided to <sup>(4)</sup>  
stay over  here this  
summer. Helen & the Baldwins to run  
to if anything happens.  
And I am getting valuable  
experience here. If I do  
the relief work this summer  
or soup kitchens, that will be  
an added recommendation  
to a settlement. I feel as  
if I would be harming my  
development to cut things  
short and go to the idleness  
of Silver Bay.

Helen wants me to take a  
"studio" during the war  
there are empty studios (i.e.


5  
furnished  
ting, a apartment with kitchen going  
for a song. If I take a "studio"  
get dinner at the Y. W. C. A. & the <sup>cook's</sup>  
other meals myself, I can live  
more cheaply <sup>than</sup> in a pension. &  
then I could invite friends in to  
college supper parties in return  
for the many invitations I have.  
Sociability & seeing lots of people  
is the chief need of a writer, you  
know.

If mother gives the money for  
my passage home, then I'll take  
my living expenses for the summer  
from the money I have in the  
Princeton bank. This summer  
in Paris will be so valuable to  
me that the money could not be  
better spent.

Lake George is a beautiful spot,  
but I have never had companionship  
there. Nature is not enough  
to give me life for three months.  
I have nearly gone crazy with  
loneliness every summer I have  
been at Silver Bay — people  
are the most necessary requirement

for my existence. At Silver Bay I spend <sup>6</sup> my time wishing for conversations with exchange of ideas — and those ideas are necessary if I am to develop. ~~As~~ It's not be worth anything if I just spin out what is already in me — I have to look into other people — people who are doing things. And that kind of people I find here.

And here I can do relief work. At Silver Bay I have only recreation. And recreation does not agree with me. I've learned that from the suffering of

about five summers, which <sup>(7)</sup>  
have taught me little  
except ~~you~~  falling for  
lovely people, and taught  
me to shun another such  
summer. Vacations don't  
agree with me — only now  
& then perhaps three days  
of absolute rest, after which  
I am anxious to be at  
work again. But three months!

— I have learned to say  
No to that.

So I choose the kind of  
summer which is good  
for me. I cannot ask  
you to give me any more

money, I have to move out & make <sup>(8)</sup>  
room for the other children, but  
I ask you to send me over the  
money I have in the Princeton  
bank. If I had a check, Herbert  
could get it cashed for me here,  
but I have no checkbook, and I  
do not know whether my money  
is called a "savings account" or  
check account.

You need not delay matters by  
writing to advise me to come  
home. Every woman has to  
decide her life for herself sooner or  
later, & even parents cannot decide  
for her. I know what I am doing,  
and you would only put me in  
an unpleasant position by not  
sending the money when I ask.  
It is in my name, so perhaps  
you will have to send a check  
for me to fill out & sign.

People think very well of Herbert  
here. And his book "The New Map  
of ~~England~~ Europe" gets flattering reviews  
in the English papers. I read one  
yesterday by Hobhouse. And one



of his name has been put up <sup>(9)</sup>  
for a big authors' club in London.  
His serious books, on the origin of  
the Ottoman Empire, is still in  
press at Oxford. The presses are  
too busy pushing thro' the books  
of the moment. — Tho' they had  
promised him his book for  
October!

Answer care of Mrs Gibbons,  
120 Boul. de Montparnasse. It is  
quite final that I am staying  
here for the summer.  
With love, Jean