

Chicago 2-10-1906

Dear Gertie

Aside from my weekly letters to Mr Stevens and Mrs. I have a long list of friends to write to, you are fourth, but if I do no better than I have done since being with Bessie, I am fearful I will be a long time ere my friends hear from me, for I am simply good for nothing, and the least exertion tires me, so I am more than sorry for this, as there is so much I want to accomplish. Can it be possible I never will do it? I hardly dare to think. Well here I am with Lynn & Bessie in their pleasant home, in which they are so happy in each other: tis a real enjoyment to be with them. Do you ask how I like Chicago? Not at all. tis the dirtiest place I was ever in, and to keep clean in person or anything you wear, or possess, is a moral impossibility. I used to think Louisville was bad enough, but Chicago is as much worse as you can imagine. For instance, I shipped a very pretty new ingrain carpet a deep red & oak in color. My room was well settled for me to occupy - but to my sorrow the beauty of my new carpet was ruined by the oil & soot from the soft coal: but what distresses me most of all, I cannot keep my face or hands clean, do what I will. and from constantly trying using so much soap and scrub brush, my hands & wrists are painfully chapped, & my finger nails are in perpetual mourning. Were it not for being with Bessie, I could not stay here - but for her sake I will endure. th Bessie & Lynn wanted