

Cambridge, Mass.,
Sunday, 7:30 P.M.

My dear sister Polly -

It was nice in you to remember my birthday in such a pleasant way. The tributes arrived the morning after but was enjoyed just as much as if it had arrived on the birthday.

It made me homesick to think that I could not have been there to help you gather it.

It is always such a pleasure to go out and find these "first to appear" sweet smelling buds. I presume you remembered some of your friends as a similar

way. While I have your friends in mind, what do you hear of Jessie Alexander? I hope her sanitarium treatment has proved of benefit.

My only celebration on my birthday was my attendance at a college theatrical Thursday evening. ~~There~~ are two societies here who get up yearly theatricals. One of the "Chorus girls" - is in my physical chemistry course, and presented me with two tickets. I hope he had no thought of getting his mark raised thereby. He is a nice fellow and a fair sort of a student. He is however like a good many chemically trained men - too willing to take things on authority rather

than think them out for himself. The play was a comic opera - music and words written by college boys. The music was good and part of the dancing very fine. Among other things was a negro cake walk which was the "hit" of the evening.

Tuesday morning.

And here is another evidence of my habits of procrastination. Sunday night I became too tired for letter writing, and yesterday my work was so pressing that I let the letter go.

I have just reread this letter and find it hard to read. My penmanship does not improve to any great extent. I generally start out to

rather legibly and then get more and more careless as the pages go on.

This week is our spring vacation but I do not see much sign of a rest and in fact I do not feel the need of ~~rest~~. I thought I might get a pass through Frank Milligan. He seemed to think he could get me one to go to New York, but did not succeed in doing it. So that I have given up my New York and New Haven trip. I still hope that I shall have reason to make such a trip yet before the year is over. I have promised one of the students to help him in the Laboratory during this week - I wish now I had not promised. I feel that I ought to spend the time reading

confermal here. that I dislike very much to leave. I am becoming a pretty strong Harvard man I fear.

How is Don coming on with his studies? I presume he has finished the 2^d book of Caesar. Clephant told me that at Exeter they don't read the first book of Caesar. It is considered too hard to begin on so they start in with the 2^d book.

Has Clementine set the time for her departure? I suppose her trips to Chambersburg are the preparation for it, in the way of wardrobe with much more.

Clarence

However my laboratory work - Teaching work - will soon be over. The regular classes stop about the 1st of June. From June 1st to July 3rd I expect to be busy preparing my lectures for the summer school.

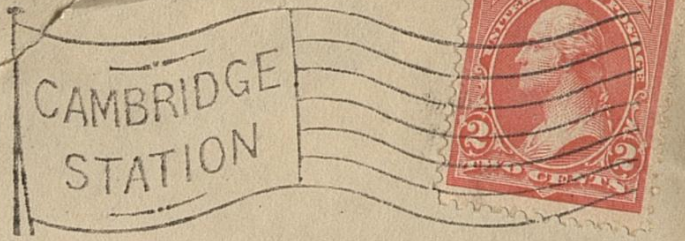
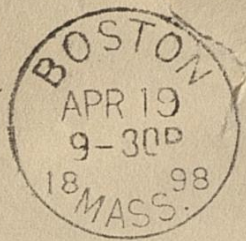
Well I finally have a bicycle. I got the one from Mr Hatch for \$12.50 I think it will last me all summer without any repairs - as it seems to be in very good condition. I have had a couple of short rides, but am not in very good training yet - I already feel its exhilarating effects on my physical condition. It rouses me from my sluggishness. Yesterday evening I rode over to Tufts College

It is only a few miles, 2 or 3, from Harvard, but is so completely outshewn that I wonder she gets any students. Tufts is noted for having ~~the~~ stuffed remains of Barmine's famous elephant "Jumbo" in her museum. There are probably some other grounds for game known to those who are acquainted with the institution but not to the outside world.

This morning is Patriots Day. Is it celebrated in Pennsylvania? I think it did not use to be. But here in

the Concord and Lexington neighborhood it is quite a well celebrated day. I thought of riding out to Concord myself today the crowd of bicyclers going in that direction scared me. I shall go some day when there are not likely to be so many people there.

Some went up to Williamstown Sunday - to look over the ground - preliminary to deciding whether he would take the place there. Prof. Tefavon wants him to go and he likes the prospects except that the pay is small. His mother is anxious for him to take it because it is near home. He and I are both applicants for several western positions. Everything is



Miss Mary Beatty Gordon

Farmettsburg

Pennsylvania

Franklin Co.

THURST

ANNETTSEURC
PA.

CENTRE COLLEGE.
Department of Physics.
Clarence McC. Gordon.

Danville, Ky., Sunday 8.30 P.M. 190

My dear Mary:-

Your good newsy letter came yesterday. you seem to be getting considerable out of your office in the way of trips and sociability. I have always been a great admirer of Mrs M McLanahan. She is an exceptional woman. Well, the last couple of days I too have been hav- considerable of the social features in my life . I have announced to Mr. Johnson that I am not going to spend so much time in that way this year as I have been doing , and my plan is to refuse all invitations from Sunday to Friday evenings. It worked beautifully this last week, - I had no bids- But I did stick to it and made no calls in the evening Friday Mr J., Dr. Patterson, Prof. Waggener, the new Modern Language man, Mr. Will Roberts , and myself were all at dinner at Prof. Fales' and quite a nice dinner it was. All the guests were Princeton graduates and we all sang a lot of Princeto songs. and had a good time generally. We wondered a little that Mr. Walker was not invited but told him the reason must be that he was a Yale man.

Last night Mr. J. and started on a round of calls and succeeded in getting four made, which we considered a good nights work. And then today I was with Boyle Rodes for dinner and made a call in company with him at the Reid's afterwards. The Rodes are mighty nice people. I had never been ~~teh~~ there before except at the Anaconda Club dinners. There are Seven children , Boyle being the eldest. Mrs. Rodes inquired for you and Mamma and hoped she would see you in Danville sometime. She told me the forst time she saw me this fall that Boyle had quite fallen

in love with Mamma. But that is an old story for her.

At the Fales dinner we were unfortunate in not having Margaret's presence. She has been sick in bed with the Quinsy since Wednesday. Friday and Saturday Elizabeth was also in bed but she was able to be d down in the evening. When we heard of the sickness we were expecting the invitations to be recalled but they carried them through.

I was very glad when Friday came as the ~~first~~ first week always goes hard. Now I feel that we are fairly started and it will go easier. Since Monday we have been back at the Knott's for our meals and like it much better than at Miss. Mesick's.

What a lot of visitors you have been having lately. I wish you could have the southern abundance of servants at such times. It is certainly much easier to entertain when you do not have to do the cooking yourself.

I do not see much of the ladies you met at Chautauqua except at church and Sunday School. At the latter are always Nan Green and Miss Cowan. Miss Mary Lysle I have never seen at all. Guess I shall have to go and call on her if I expect to see her at. I heard a good story today on the Lysle family. The younger sister was going this fall for the first time to Washington to teach, and the family had it planned for the Days to be here in Sept and take her back when they went. Mr. Day however objected to that arrangement. he said he was willing to do anything he could for the family but after his experience in taking one of the daughters (his wife) from Danville to Washington he must decline to try it with another. He said his wife cried all the way there, and she has never become reconciled to living in Washington. I wish I could change places with her. I envy John his stay in Philadelphia. I imagine he will find a good many of his classmates there.

Good night - With Love
Clarence

Chemical Laboratory.
CENTRE COLLEGE.
Danville, Ky.

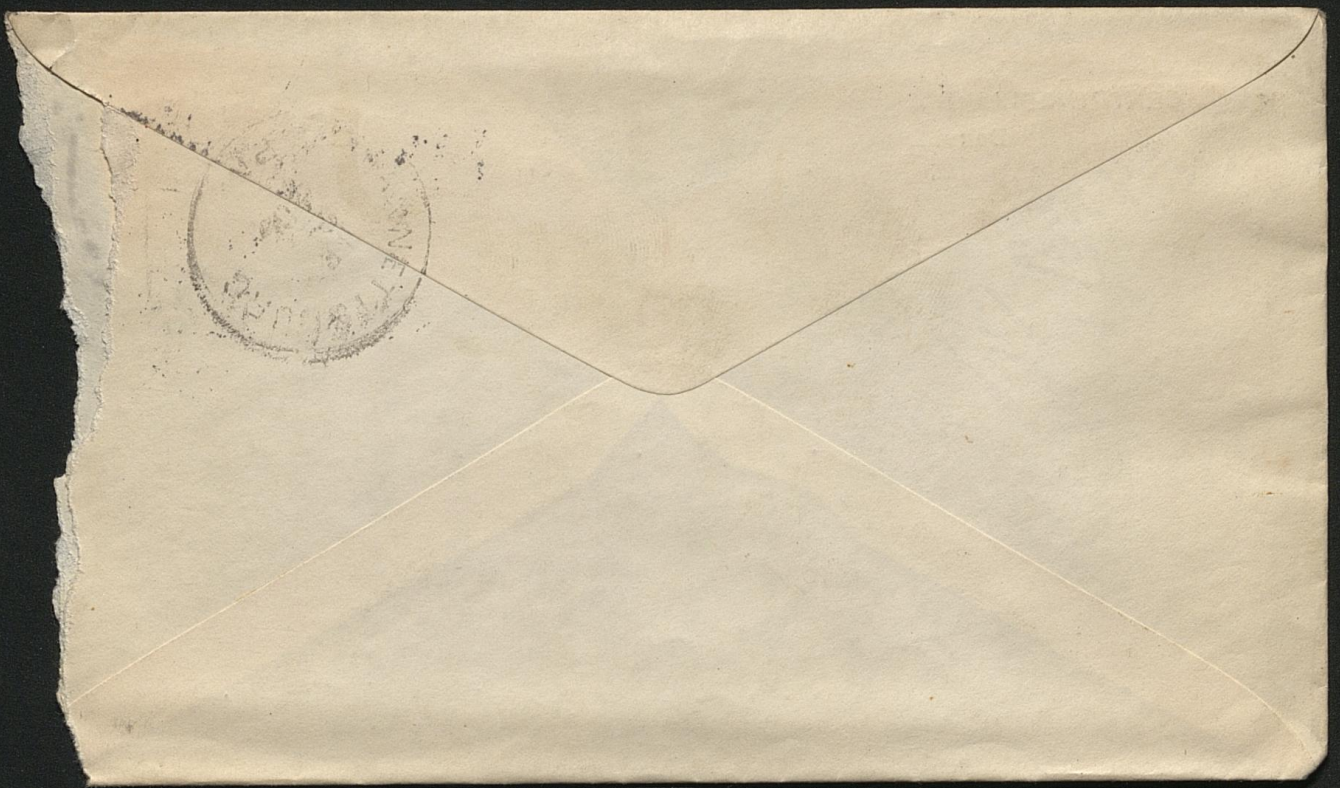
Handwritten signature



Miss. Mary B. Gordon,

Fannettsburg,

Pennsylvania.



CENTRE COLLEGE.
Department of Chemistry.
Clarence McC. Gordon.

Danville, Ky., Dec 10, 1900

My dear Mary:-

Have a few minutes before goin to a dinner party at the Greens' This is rather a new circle for me to move in and I am curious to know what kind of time we may have. The guests are the unmarried members of the faculty, Mr. Robt. Quissenberry and Mr. Wagner the Uncle of Prof Wagner. The ladies are the two Green sisters ~~and~~ whom you met at Chautauqua and several other ladies whom I do not know for the reason that I have generally moved in the younger set. & "Cousin Patty" is away and the daughters are taking advantage of her absence to give this dinner party. Tuesday of last week I was at a very pretty afternoon tea at Mrs. Boyle Rodes, in honor of Miss Settle, Thursday I was invited to a candy making at Mrs. Andersons. Friday evening we had the Anaconda club at Dr. Ely's from six oclock until ten and then I was at a party at the Engleman's until half after twelve It was mainly of the younger set but of course I had Miss Mary to talk to and enjoyed it. ^{Wednesday noon} Monday evening I went to the dinner which I began telling you about two days ago. Last night we were at the Roberts and the Fales. Do you wonder that my letter writin g is neglected with all this sociability. Miss. Settle went home today so that is one attraction less. But with the Anaconda club given here by Mr. Johnson and several calls to make I shall not have any lack in that line for this week Did I tell you that Miss Sue is going to give Mr. J.'s club di ner for him? Mrs. Fales is going to help and they are both working hard to make it a fine one,

Last night Dr. and Mrs. Roberts gave a dinner to the football team, and they invited the Fales girls and a few others to come up after the dinner and help entertain them. And Mr. J. and I were invited by the ~~s~~ girls to go up and bring them home. We went in and saw the table, heard some music and ate ice cream and cake. Pretty good fare considering the kind of an invitation we had. Mrs. Fales gave them a dinner last week and I think Mrs. Roberts tried to show them that she could give them a bigger one. At least one of the boys said he had never seen such an eating in his life.

We had a fine preacher last Sunday, Mr. Ramsey, a U.P. man from Xenia. He is pastor of Mr. Patterson's church and we had him at the Knott's for dinner on Sunday. I was not surprised to hear of course of Mrs. Walker's death. I hope Mr. Walker will soon be better.

Am glad Mamma had the visit to Chambersburg. Hope she will write and tell me about it. But I suppose by the time this reaches you, you will have sent me the last letter before Xmas, and this may be my last one although I shall try to write and tell you when to look for me home. It will be the latter part of the week I think.

With Love to all,

Clara

CENTRE COLLEGE.
Department of Chemistry.
Clarence McC. Gordon.

Danville, Ky., March, 21st, 1901

My dear Mary:-

What a fine visit you must have had. I know you would enjoy being in the city. And what a belle you were. You must have been rushing around most of the time I wish I were nearer New York or Philadelphia. But for financial reasons I presume it is better I am not. Because whenever I am in a city the money always goes so much faster than in a small town. Theatres and the concerts and operas always attract me strongly. And you were lucky as to your boarding house quarters. It is so much nicer as well as cheaper to go to a boarding house than a hotel. Millerstown must have seemed very quiet after the rush of the city but you were probably ready for a rest. I was of course surprised to hear the news about Jessie. And I think it is fine even if the man is a widower and she does not get the chance to change her name. I hope she put you in the notion of following her example. Jessie will make a fine wife. I do not feel that I know her very much. But I remember one visit she made you while I was at home and how very much I enjoyed her. Do not say anything to any one about it, but Prof. Johnson is trying to get a church over at Lexington to invite James to preach. He thinks if they do they will call him and I think if he should get a call he would come. I should like to have him so close very much and if he should move there it would be nice to make Kentuckians out of the whole family. Of course this is only a dream not likely to amount to anything but what I am hoping for.

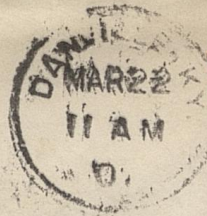
Mr. Johnson and I have each put \$425' in the San Antonio Telephone Co., and if it pays as well as they expect it to we will have made a good investment. I wish I had more of it. We get the stock and bonds through James' friend Mr. Campbell. If the stock should not be worth anything and the bonds are good it a 7% investment. And we hope the stock will bring it up to 10% investment. If so I shall feel that I am square with the world again as it will be enough to pay the remainder of my indebtedness to Father. I think Mr. Campbell wrote also to him but as he has said nothing about it I presume he did not go into it. I wish he had put something into it as I think telephone stock at present a very good investment. Of course it will not always be so, but for the next few years there is bound to be a lot of money made at it.

Miss Maria Lewis arrived at the Fales today for a visit, and now I presume Mr. Johnson and I will spend a good many of our evenings there. Have been there tonight to start with. There is a Mr. Gordon here now talking to the college boys on religious questions. He is a fine speaker. He calls them "Quiet Talks" and they are of the serious practical turn without any pretense at flights of oratory. At the same time he is a very good speaker and a very bright man in the talking line. I think he will do the boys a lot of good if he can get them out to hear him. Mr. J. was laid up with a bad cold the latter part of last week and the first of this. He went out today to teach for the first time in week. I was somewhat alarmed about him as he is naturally so delicate, but now I think he will turn out all right.

I keep very well and quite free from colds. Our weather is one day warm and the next cold. I hope we shall be able to play tennis very soon. Could have played last week had the court been fixed up.

With love
Clarene

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TRE COLLEGE,
Danville, Ky.



Miss Mary B Gordon
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CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

CENTRE COLLEGE,

Danville, Ky.

PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

Clarence McC. Gordon,

Professor of Physics.

Oct. 5 1901

My dear Mary:-

I am afraid you will begin to think that I am getting more careless than ever in regard to my writing of letters. I have not been forgetting you all but have been letting other things occupy my time instead of letter writing. I have not even got caught up with my business letters which I always try to have done up promptly on time when things are in their proper running order. Today I have been having some excitement in regard to the college colors. We did not like our old colors very much and thought this a good time to change them. So we had a meeting yesterday and they decided to adopt the colors of our old rival, at Richmond. That meeting was however attended by about all the old Richmond boys and by a rather small proportion of the old Centre boys, and the latter say they will not allow it to stand. I guess now the faculty will step in and tell the boys they will take a hand in it. I feel badly about it because I had the meeting called and favored the adoption of the Richmond colors which I realize now was a very unwise thing to do. We are having a hard time up at the Knotts. They have taken a notion now that they are going to stay that they must have some more boarders and have threatened that if they do not get some more they will have to turn me out. and not try to keep up a good table all the time. If they had known in the beginning that they wished to have more they could easily have had them, but now there are very few who are not fixed for the winter. So I should not be surprised if I should have to leave them. I miss Mr. Johnson so much. Do not have any one now who is thoroughly congenial.

I sometimes get very tired of Prof. Waterbury who occupies the next room. He is rather inconsiderate in coming in and talking to me at all times when I am wanting to do other things. I guess I shall get him trained down after a while. Hope so at least.

Had a letter from May Hudson yesterday in which she said she was going to start for Philadelphia and that they had had a very pleasant although to short a visit from you and John. The latter has I suppose returned to the city by this time. Please send me his address as soon as you have it I shall try to get our correspondence started up again which has been neglected during the summer. I just sent off yesterday my life insurance premium which he was instrumental in starting me in. Having paid that and some other bills leaves with me a pretty small allowance of cash to live on until next January I put so much of my cash last summer in the Telephone business, but I have not lost any of my faith in it. Tell father that Mr Aubrey received the draft all right and sent me a receipt for it immediately.

Clementine will be interested to know that there are two approaching weddings in the Lass- Sarah Cecil is to be married to Frank Taylor, from Carlisle, Ky. and Nancy Hugueley is to marry a Philadelphia doctor. The latter wedding is to be small and quiet but the former is to be a show off affair with all of the Lass. as bridesmaids. Do not expect any invitations to either of them as I have never called on either of the girls. Frank Taylor was the boy I had suspended from college for cheating the first year I was here. But I do not think he owes me any grudge for that. At least on the surface he is always extremely friendly.

I suppose now with John and Taffie both gone you will be settling down to your winter habits and customs. Have you begun to plan your winter visits yet?

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Danville, Ky.

PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

Clarence McC. Gordon,

Professor of Physics.

How sudden Mr. Alexander's death was. I wonder what the family will do I presume they will hardly stay in Millerstown very long, but I have no idea as to where they will go. Perhaps Alice will persuade them to move to Oklahoma. Tell me what they are considering. Had a letter from Mr. Patterson yesterday. He seems to have a very nice place at Rose Polytechnic Institute, at Terre Haute, Indiana. And I think he is really better off than if he had staid here. Have not heard anything further from Mr. Johnson. Suppose he did not get the offer from Wells College which I was hoping he might.

I shall promise not to be so long about writing the next time. Am going to have a regular day for it hereafter. Can't it will be Sunday or Monday.

With a great deal of love to all of you

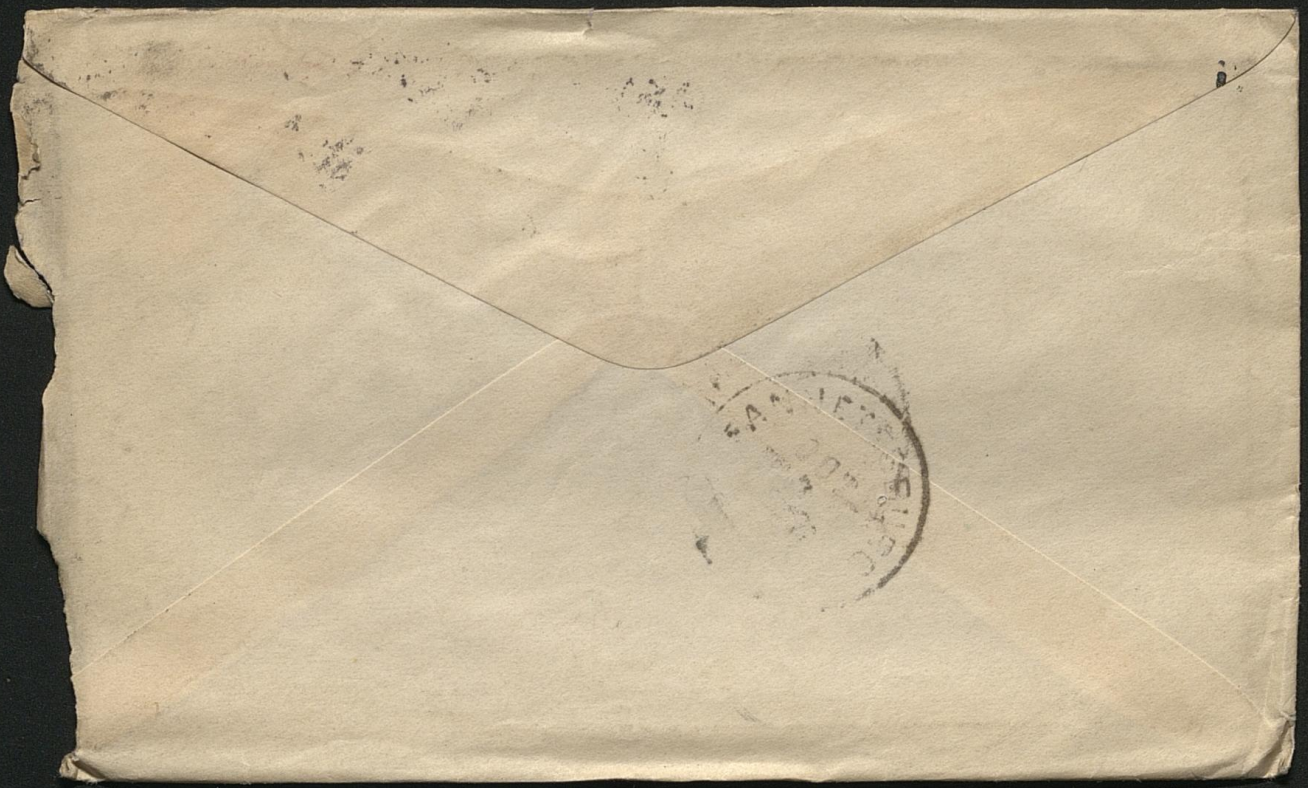
Your Affectionate brother,

Clarence

CLARENCE McC. GORDON,
Central University,
Danville, Ky.



Miss Mary B Gordon
Fannettsburg
Pennsylvania



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

CENTRE COLLEGE,

Danville, Ky.

PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

Clarence McC. Gordon,

Professor of Physics.

Sunday 2 P.M.

My dear sister Mary:-

Your letter was read last night, after having been resting in Mr. Waterbury's pocket for a half day. I asked him in the early part of the afternoon if he had not a letter for me but he said he had not. Then last night he discovered it in his pocket. He is even more absent minded than I and you know forgetting is one of my strong points.

I got back from Lexington all right last Saturday. Was so tired that I did not get up in time for breakfast the next morning but did get to S.S. school, not knowing much about the lesson. This morning I was up in time for breakfast after a good night's sleep and felt so much better that I resolved to get a good night's sleep every night. A resolve which is much ^{easier} ~~harder~~ to make than to keep. When I have something that I wish to finish it is so hard to stop in the middle of it, just because it is time to go to bed. Mr. Waterbury is an object lesson to me in this regard. He is the most irregular person I ever saw, and as a consequence is always behind with his work. His irregularity is part of the reason for his being behind. Another reason is that he is so impulsive he cannot stick to any one thing more than a little time, and he wastes untold precious hours talking to me. If he were listening to me talking perhaps I might think they were not wasted, but as he generally does the most of the talking they seem to me to be wasted hours. I hope you do not get tired of me talking so much about him. My excuse for it ^{write} ~~that~~ is that he is the most amusing thing that comes into my life nowadays and he comes into it so frequently. Half the time he is here ~~so~~ I go ahead writing on the

typewriter or with the pen, but that does not seem to bother him. He talks away and ^{makes} me answer him. Last week one evening, when I came from the Pales, he came rushing in to sing to me a song, the music to which he had just composed. After I had heard it he did not wait to let me express an opinion of it or be silent as I thought the case warranted, but broke out with, "Don't you think that is fine", all in good earnest. Then he will ask me such questions as these; "Do you think I am lacking in personal magnetism?" "Do you think I have a personality which repels people?" It is very hard to answer such questions without either lying or giving offense. This world certainly has some queer people in it, but he has less sense for one who knows so much than any other individual I ever came across.

Our board of trustees met here last Monday and Tuesday. Dr. Roberts tried to get them personally to pledge a good share of the \$25,000 necessary to get the other \$25,000 offered to the college but I only heard of him and one other man offering anything. ^{Dr. R.} He offered \$1,000 and the other trustee \$500. He and Dr. Blanton will work hard for the next two weeks and I hope that they will raise it. If we can once get money started this way more will come.

That is the curious thing in regard to giving money for colleges, most of those who give their money for that purpose generally want to give it to institutions which already have a lot.

Dr. Roberts had told Dr. Palmer and myself to be ready to make speeches before the board of trustees in favor of a change in the curriculum we wanted put through. So we went down and waited an hour but found there was no opposition to it, so they did not ask us in to tell what we had to say.

Dr. Palmer our new Professor in Chemistry is a very energetic man. He has faith in the possibility of making this place grow in importance and in numbers of students and he has ~~waken~~ wakened up the rest of the faculty somewhat. At least he has wakened me up to the importance of hustling for

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

CENTRE COLLEGE,

Danville, Ky.

PHYSICAL LABORATORY.

Clarence McC. Gordon,

Professor of Physics.

the good of the ~~is~~ institution. Heretofore we have let all such matters to the president. Now we see that he will work a good deal more if he has a faculty behind him pushing him along a little.

That is the reason that I have a good deal more of general college work to do than I used to have. When I see anything that I think would benefit the college, if it were done, I go and tell the president about it and he generally tells me to go ahead and see that it is done. Dr. Palmer is a great schemer. We tell him that he is never happier than when he is pulling wires. He is boundless in his resources and enthusiasm.

I have been elected a member of the Elks, and expect to be initiated this coming week. You need not tell anybody. In some places I should not wish to confess that I belong to the order, and I do not intend to run around in other places with an elk badge on. But here they have a nice club house, the only one of its kind in the town, and have all the best young men of the town and a number of the older men whom I like to associate with.

I do not expect to spend a great deal of time there but as the club house is just across the street it will be a convenient loafing place and will permit me to get better acquainted with the men of the town, especially the business men. As Mr. Welsh says we Profs are apt to stick to the houses so much that the people of the town forget we are living here.

Am glad you are keeping up your Shakespeare. Of course if you have commentaries and notes of the right kind it will be all the more interesting. But I never found Shakespeare dull. In fact as a boy at home, he was about the only one of the standard writers we had in the study whom I really enjoyed. And I have always kept up my enjoyment. He always gives you so much to think

about, that seems really worth while.

I wonder if you had any of our wonderful sleet this last week. I guess you more probably had straight snow. We wakened up Wednesday morning to find the trees laden and badly broken down with a heavy sleet. It was the most destructive to the trees that the oldest inhabitant could remember. It remained on mostly until yesterday when it became warm enough to melt it off. All the amateur photographers were busy getting kodaks of the extraordinary scenes. We have little Joe Proctor Knott at the Governor's now. He is learning arithmetic and grammar from the governer who gives him regular lessons for a good part of the day. The family all think he is to be the successor of the Governor in the way of mind. He reads a great many books and has a wonderful memory for everything that he reads. His reasoning powers however have not been much developed and he has hard work with arithmetic and grammar.

I must write to Mr. Johnson soon. I have owed him a letter since before Christmas time. I guess he finds himself busy getting ready to take his doctor's degree this next spring. I miss him very much here. Have no intimate friend now. With a great deal of love to all of you,

Your affectionate brother,

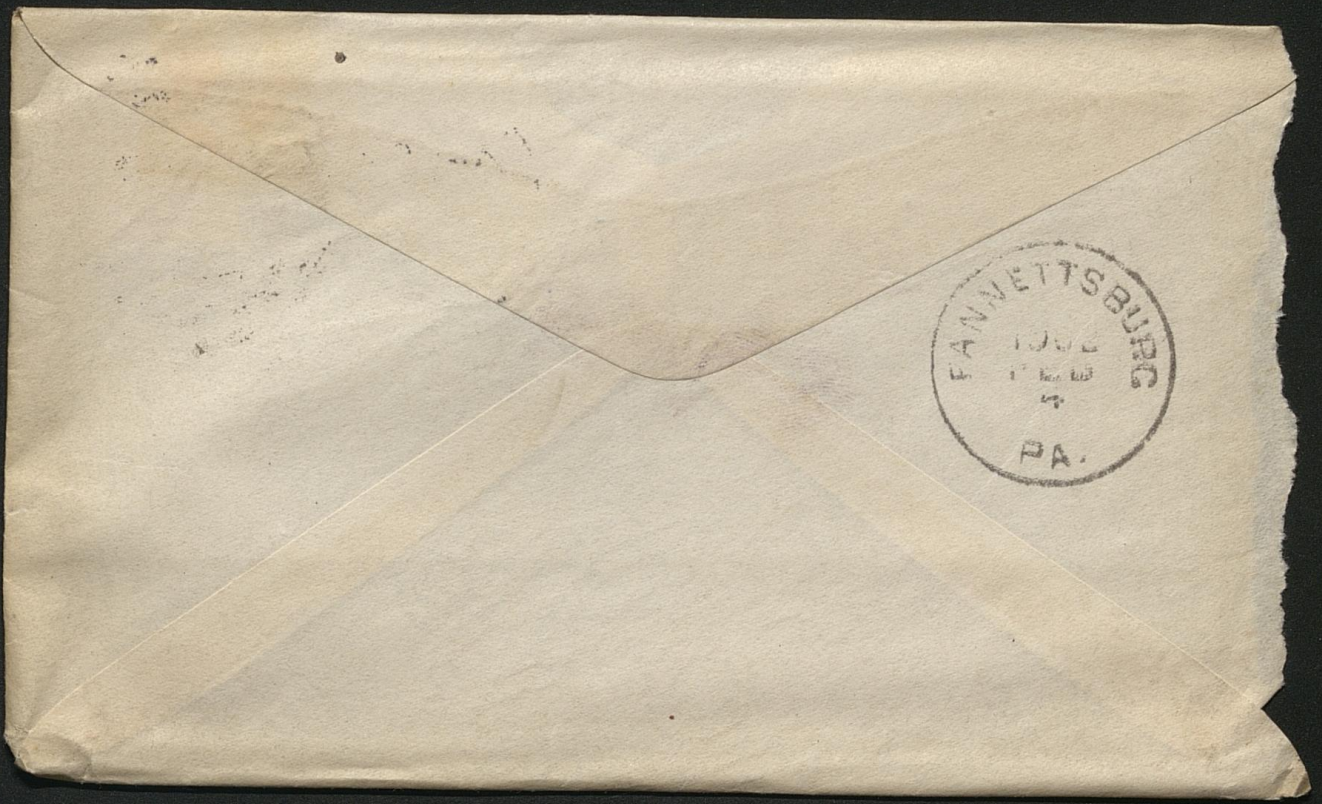
Charles

is just across the river. It will be a convenient feeling place and will permit me to get better acquainted with the men of the town, especially the business men. As Mr. Walsh says we Prof's are apt to stick to the houses so much that the people of the town forget we are living here. Am glad you are keeping up your Shakespeare. Of course if you have commentaries and notes of the right kind it will be all the more interesting. But I never found Shakespeare dull. In fact as a boy I was about the only one of the standard visitors we had in the study whom I really enjoyed. And I have always kept up my enjoyment. It always gives you so much to think

CLARENCE McC. GORDON.
Central University,
Danville, Ky.



Miss. Mary B. Gordon
Fannettsburg
Penns.



Danville, Ky. ~~April~~ March 24th 1903.

My dear Mary:- I do not think I have addressed any of my letters to you for a good while ,so this will go that way. From what I have heard you are planning to go to Philadelphia some time soon. Just when however I have no idea . Perhaps you are there now. I am anxious to hear about John again. Last week he was sick Marma wrote me . I have been expecting ~~a~~ letter from him but as I have not received it I was afraid he was not getting well right away. I have been very lucky this year Have not even had a cold and I certainly have not missed a meal, except one or two Sunday breakfasts. And generally when I am very late I have Miss. Sue to take pity on me and get me something for my breakfast.

Nothing very much seems to have happened in the last week. We had a couple of interesting sermons from Dr. Ramsey last Sunday ,in the morning on The Prodigal Son and in the evening on The Elder Brother Prof. Crooks our Mathematics man has been sick for more than a week with a nervous break-down.

Dr. Roberts went to Louisville last night to attend as a guest a dinner in honor of President Hadley of Yale. He was to speak on Education Down South. Mrs. Roberts has never got entirely well from her operation of last fall. She improves slowly all the time and is not confined to the house at all.

The many friends of Maria Lewis Booker were surprised a few days ago to learn that she was engaged and going to be married in June. She was engaged when she was up here last but did not tell any of the Fales family of it because she had not even told her Mother and Father. She marries a Mr. Robinson, a tobacco dealer in Louisville. He was on part of the European trip with her last summer.

I have nothad any more letters than the three from James . I presume that travelling around as theyare the letters will be apt to come close together and then not come for a while.

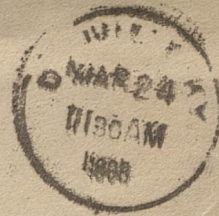
We had regular summer weather last week. Last night however it blew up cold and it remains so today ,regular winter . This is such a variable climate. Much more so than among the mountains of Pennsylvania.

Well I am putting in this letter bfore I go to college in the morning.and it is now about time for me to be going. So I will say Good By with Much love to you all at home,

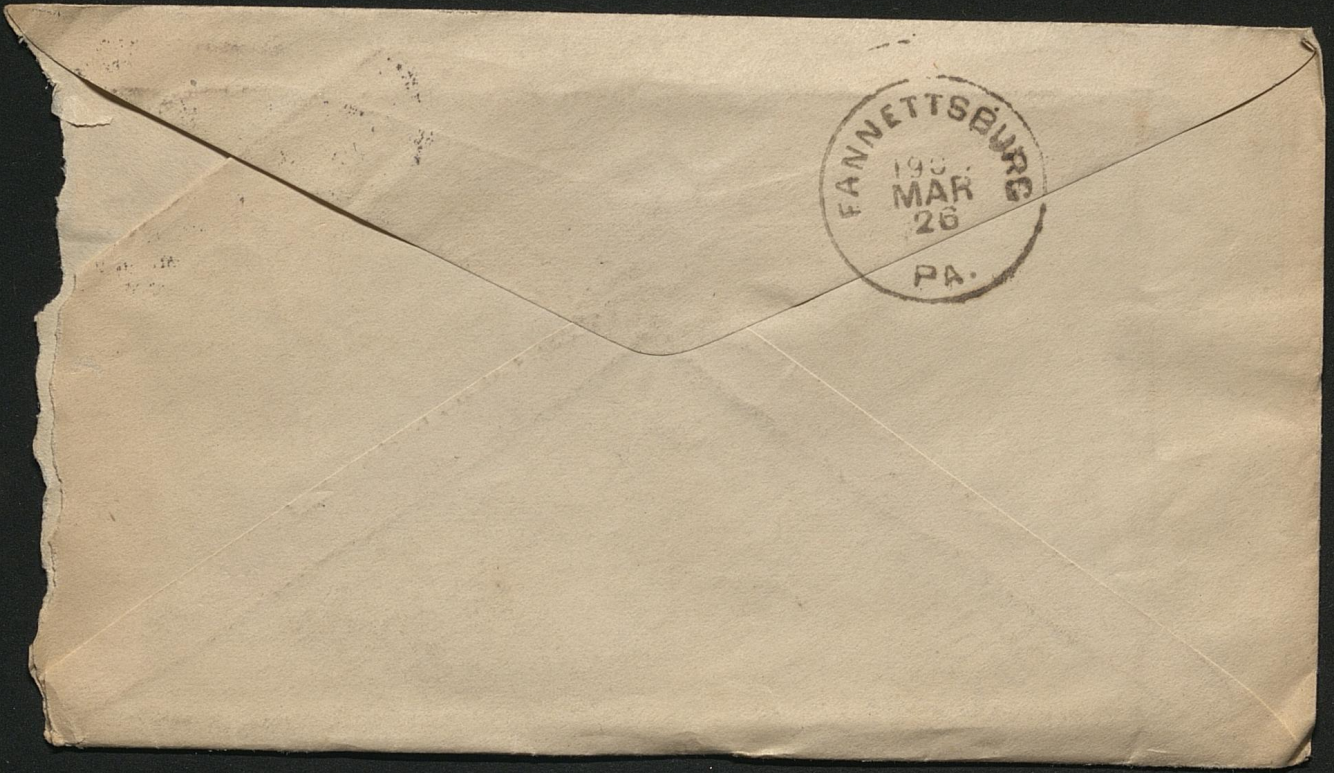
Your Brother

Clarence

CENTRE COLLEGE
DANVILLE, KY.
CLARENCE McC. GORDON.



Miss Mary B Gordon
Fannettsburg
Franklin Co
Pennsylvania



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