

(Postmarked Mount Vernon, N.Y.)

Dec. 25, 1893

Addressed to Mrs. Harvey T. Claflin

(Pages 1-2 missing)

The pond is larger than Wade Park Pond, and they keep it nicely cleaned off, and flood it every night, and there are only a few girls there at once. I have my skates with me. The ones at home that you think are mine, are perhaps the ones that Aunt Allie gave us-

Of course you will be glad to have Edie at home today. You must have missed her- But I suppose the change was good for her, though I don't believe she got much rest, because of her teeth- I would have written to her again if I had known she was going to be at Zanesville longer- Of course I am glad, if Uncle Charles cares to read my letters, to have him do so.

I have the pleasure of thinking, during vacation of an essay - our first long one, that has to be written just after we get back- also of algebra, that we shall begin immediately, and the girls always hate it, and I know I shall too, for I don't like the teacher a bit, except out of class- Now I always used to love geometry and algebra, but I have hated geometry this year, and have felt more uncomfortable in that class than in any other. Miss Richardson ought not to be teaching - She loses her temper so. She lost it at our last recitation, on Wednesday, and that, too, at the first mistake that was made, when there had been several beautiful recitations made before that. At first she said the class could go home and study their lesson, but as soon as she had said that [crossed out: she] it occurred to her that they might go and do something else, so she said, "No, you may stay here and learn it." Since she has told us a great many times not to bring our books to class, some one very meekly asked her if we could go and get our books. She saw she had made another mistake so she said, "Young ladies, you may write the rest of the hour." and so we had to write out some propositions to hand in. Then she gave us a long lecture, and told us, as she often has, that [crossed out: we] ours is her worst class (she has five classes in geometry, three days a week, and nothing else) She says that the reason why we don't do well, as a class, is because we don't take an hour's exercise just before coming to class. Just as though we could take an hour's exercise just before every recitation- Miss Richardson scowls like everything and stamps her feet, and on two occasions last year she threw a ruler and chalk at a girl. I think the class would do well enough under a good teacher, I can tell by the way I get along myself, and I have done my best for her and have studied ever so much harder than I did on the same work at High School. Miss Richardson is so smooth and polite out of class that nobody can tell whether or not she likes them- I do wish we didn't have to have her for algebra- Well, they want me to come down stairs now, so goodnight, and a merry, happy Christmas to you all. Lovingly Adelaide

I forgot to tell about the doll show- that came off Friday evening-

They were dolls dressed by any of the girls who wanted to do it, and are to be sent to the College Settlement in New York city, and given to poor children. They charged an admission of ^one postage stamp, or two cents- The dolls were all dressed prettily, and some of them elaborately, for instance with drawn work in their dresses- The dresses were of all imaginable kinds, a great many of them white, of course. There were more than a hundred dolls, I think- It seemed to me that some of ^them were dressed too daintily, considering their destinations, but perhaps it is just as well to let the children own something really pretty, for once- I did not take one to dress because I thought I shouldn't have time, but I helped three girls dress theirs, so I think I might as well take one myself next year.

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