

Toll K. there Is the dearest kitten here - who Is so
Friday afternoon.

soft and so playful that we love her already. I wish
she could see it.

Fall 1900 1st letter Sep 1900

Dear mama,

Here I am sitting on my couch and writing to you. It seems ages since I left Chicago. We had quite a pleasant night on the train—though it was rather warm. I woke up while we were passing through Syracuse at about five o'clock. Soon after I started to get dressed. As soon as I was ready I went into the "drawing room" and waited until my berth was made up. We were just then going along the Mohawk River and the scenery was exquisite. We got into P. an hour late—and as we were walking—single file - bag and baggage up a narrow plank walk to the station—Louise met a friend who Is a Soph. She took us to Miss Ballintine—who was very much surprised to see me—as she hadn't gotten my note—mailed one Tuesday evening. Miss Ballintine is of medium height, has dark hair which she wears parted and curled. She must be thirty or over—and seems very nice indeed. Then we all walked up the street one block and waited for the car. There were twenty or more girls and their friends all waiting for the same car—so you can imagine it was pretty well crowded and not a man—except the conductor and motorman. The conductor let us off - half a block too soon—after a ride of five or tea minutes. We had to cut across a large vacant lot - and then arrived on Corlies Ave. There are three or four houses on the block on the other side of the street and only one other on this side and that is way at the other corner. This house is on a corner. It is a medium sized house—white with green blinds—quite countryfied. It has a small porch in front- The front door opens into a hall from which the stairs go up. On the left hand side is the parlor which is prettily furnished—has a large sofa - a Morris chair - and looks quite cozy. The dining-room opens off of that and is a very cheerful room - has a large wooden bench against the wall - and a pretty cabinet and desk - end table all of the same wood. The stairs turn with a little square lending and our room is right straight opposite the top of the stairs- The house faces east - and - is on the north east corner of the block. Our room is square and projects a little from the house so that one window is east - and looks out on Corlies Ave. There is no house directly opposite it. The south window looks towards the cars - across a vacant lot - or rather two - so that we can not see the other house from it. The west window looks towards the Hudson - which we see. But there are three or four of the Catskill peaks which we can see plainly. There are quite a number of house to be seen from it. It also looks out on the garden. They have quite a number of peach trees— none of them have fruit - however - and a couple of grapevines with fruit on—and tomatoes and corn - and I don't know what else. There is a small barn at the rear - where the wheels are kept I presume. Now for the room itself. It is an oblong room about 12 by 18 ft. I should guess though I dont know anything about it. And this is the way it is planned

I dont know

(Drawing)

whether that

conveys any

idea with it or not. The paper is of a yellowish tint, and about like Helen's old room only clean. The dressers a--, very nice - of dark wood - something like papa's in shape - only small. They have five drawers - of medium size and a looking glass - which is very good. The green denim rug might be improved but I think it will answer. There is one rocker and one straight chair. They spoke of bringing up

another chair and I hope they will do it soon. Oh I forgot to describe Miss Bartelmann. She is very tall -and very thin - has dark hair and a pleasant face - and is a little younger than Miss Ballantine I think. She has a little German accent - and seems real jolly. She was at Smith until '97 and then she came here. -----day morning after we had been here about an hour our trunks arrived and we set to work unpacking them. By about three o'clock they were almost unpacked and a man who was working around the house carried them up into the garret. It is light up there so we can get the rest of the things any time we want and it is very nice not to have the trunks in the room. At three Miss Bartelmann took us up to the college. We walked up and it took us about twenty minutes. It is quite country-fied all around, and not very pretty though there are beautiful trees. All around the college grounds there is a tall hedge - very symetric (?) and very pretty. We passed thro a gate in this and arrived on the campus. The walk we were on led straight up to Raymond Hall - a dormitory. It is a large red brick building rather irregular in shape, and surrounded with beautiful lawns and trees. We passed through that and out the back door and straight up the walk to Strong Hall. which is a building just like Raymond only facing another way. L's friend Miss Morrison lived in this and she was going to take us over to register. So we went in this building and up in an elevator-worked by a maid with a white cap on-It seemed wfully queer. On the third floor we got out and managed to get down the hall which was fairly littered with trunks and girls. Miss Morrison had a suite of rooms - one large room and a small one on each side (Drawing) like that. She had one little room and her roommate had the other. The windows looked right out on the campus. There is a small lake there where the girls skate in winter and a green level place - hedged in in an oval shape by a row of splendid trees - where basket ball is played. The campus looked perfectly beautiful - every thing was so green and pretty. From Strong we went over to the Main building - which is a tremendous affair holding four hundred girls, The Freshman and Senior room there. As we entered the door - there were a lot of girls in light dresses -sailing around - Seniors, I suppose. We were introduced to a few of them and were then marched up a broad marble stair-case - and taken into a room where our names - ages - etc. There we saw Miss McCaleb for a half a minute - as soon as she saw me heard my name she said - 'Oh yes, that's Queene Ferry's friend,' I was astonished that she remembered. I left my lovely note book there and then we went down to the treasurer's office and paid and then we came back and I started this - but It is Sat. morning now. Yesterday afternoon we had quite an exciting time. Miss Ballantine. & Miss Bartelman. were carrying a box out to the barn and Miss Bal. tripped on a board and fell & pulled Miss Bar. after her - and the man next door jumped over the fence just as Miss Bartelman., who wasn't hurt was lifting Miss Bal's head up. The man pulled out a bottle and said "Its drug store whiskey. It won't hurt you" and made her swallow some. She cut her forehead a little and was faint for a minute. But we laughed for about an hour over the man - I'd like to know the difference between drug store whiskey and any other kind of whiskey. That delayed dinner quite a little - but we wanted to go to chapel so much - that we rushed thro -dinner and left without dessert. We got to the College quite late - so didn't go into chapel- But waited outside for the girls to come out. The chapel is right in the Main building. When the girls came out - well I never saw so many girls to gether in my life and such a hubbub! I spotted Miss Wylie of G.R. as she came out. She Introduced me to two more G.R. girls - Miss Judson & Miss Findley who are rooming with her. They have a suite of rooms In the Main building. Miss Wylie had a letter of introduction from Mark Hall - to me. Wasn't that funny? It was a very nice

letter. By the way I didn't get Helen's letter until Friday afternoon and I was so glad to get it. After seeing Miss Wylie I went with L. up to her friends - Gertrude Keith's room. That poor girl was dreadfully homesick - had not gotten her room until a quarter of six P.M. - didn't have her trunk, had a room-mate whom she didn't like and was terribly blue. Her room was very bare had plastered walls - white - had two beds stuck in [each] two corners - two bureaus side by side & two wash stands side by side. But I think when she gets her things she will feel better. But I'm glad I haven't her room-mate to live with. About nine o'clock we came back again - on the cars, and Miss Bartelmann made us eat the dessert which she had saved for us. Wasn't that thoughtful in her? By the way - we have no wash stand - but use the bath room which is right next to us - very convenient indeed - Miss Bartelmann just came in and said that she had just gotten my letter which I addressed to 26 Corlies Ave.- Chicago - Ill. Wasn't that stupid of me. But I think it is wonderful that it ever got here at all.

We are going down town this afternoon to get a lamp. I think I can get along without a desk. The table is just a small low center table - but I am going to try it anyway. We are going to see about a washerwoman this afternoon. I am going to send back those tan gloves; when I was putting them on in the train one of the split right up the middle- I thought perhaps you might be able to change that though I don't know whether you can or not. I shall have to get another pair this afternoon too wear tomorrow. I am sorry about it. They were the 50 ct. gloves in Field's basement you - know. To night we have the reception, and I shall wear either my organdie or my white dress. I don't know whether I could get the white one pressed out or not. They wear light dresses in the afternoons so much at the College. So many had them on yesterday.

Could you send on my napkin ring - and what about a laundry bag? We forgot to put that one in.

What do you suppose happened. You know I had ten dollars in that little money bag and two fives in my purse. One was in the little compartment that is off by itself. I used part of the first - to pay for my dinner and other things like that and yesterday afternoon when I went up to the College I thought I had better leave the other five at home- and went to take it out - and it was not there. Since then I have spent all my spare time trying to find out where it went to. I have looked in every conceivable place and have come to the conclusion it must have been taken on the train though it seems to me they would have taken the change also. I am hoping it will turn up- because I feel dreadfully to lose so much. But I don't remember taking it out at all - or even opening the compartment except once, while here, when I put some cards in it- and I didn't notice then about the bill.

I think I shall have to stop as it is lunch time. The meals have been very good so far - but there are no other girls in the house. I do hope some more will come because it is so much more fun with a crowd. But it doesn't look much like it now. Two people came yesterday to inquire - but they were a mother and daughter. But they didn't stay - Well good-bye for now. Give my love to all and write soon.

Lovingly Lea.

26 Corlies Ave-

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.