

[30 Apr 1922]

Sunday

Dear Mother, Father, and Pete:

First of all, Mother, the glasses came in the afternoon mail yesterday and fit very well. I shall have to have them adjusted a little. I think the frame is a little short across the face, but it will do till I get home. My others still haven't turned up.

As usual, I was quite excited yesterday, and sleepy--for a change- and got no work done all day. I counted on working all day today, but the debaters enjoyed Vassar and staid till the 4:13, so that is where my day went. But to begin as the beginning.

The audience was quite small. No wonder--a gorgeous day, a busy week-end, Saturday, and an old subject. But it was a most responsive audience. They were laughing all the time, it seems to me.

The Brown debates were absolutely marvelous speakers. I never hope to be up against a stiffer set of opponents. They were finished speakers. Their last one, Gertsonlauer, is to be their class-day orator and Commencement Speaker. He certainly ought to be, on the basis of ability. They combined splendid oratory with facts. They pulled off only one oratorical figure that I really objected to. Their first speaker compared the F. with a child that cries for a pistol, and of course the child shouldn't get the pistol. So when I got up, I merely turned the figure, and said that they should judge after the facts I gave them, whether it was the child, etc., or the full-grown man demanding his natural right of freedom. And all the audience ha-hahed, which fussed me considerably. And in rebuttal, thinking I was still at Barnard with a speaker still to follow, I asked them to answer

three questions, yes or no, and completely forgot I had the last word. But of course that was not disastrous, merely amusing. The judges were Dr. Adams of Yale English dep't, debate coach and teacher of argumentation, Mrs. Whitney, a N. Y. lawyer nd[sic] member of Industrial Commission, supposed to be quite good, and Dr. Denby, President of Packer Institute. The latter voted for Brown. He marked on the stupid basis of points, and they had 26 to our 25. I left out one point accidentally. I wonder what he would have done had I made it! He said, however, that he considered Vassar had by at least 30% the harder side of the question. All agreed to that. Believe me, I did, too. And he congratulated Miss Waller and Mr. Getsonlauder, particularly, for the brilliant work they both did for their sides. You see I wasn't the shining long light I was at Barnard! But Dr. Adams congratulated me personally on "the brilliant rebuttal" I gave. After all, that is where the real shining is. I felt beforehand that my speech had no possibilities in it. In either side, the economic speech is the one that counts. But if I had taken that from Evan she would have had to work out a completey[sic] new speech, and the only purpose of putting me in was because Cowles was weak and Peggy wanted me to do the best with that end of the subject that I could, since it was a boring part of a necessary division of the debate. The subject-matter was that there were capable of self-gov't, by ability and by what they are dong[sic], and that they maintain law and order in the islanders. And of course everything that I said was against my better judgment. My concluding sentences were respectively 51 and 55 seconds long, perfect grammar--so judged and timed by the time-keepers! I spent three of my four minutes of rebuttal rebutting their marvelously

strong Japanese speech. It was in substance what I said at Barnard, and stronger and clearer and longer. They certainly made Japan out to be a real menace. Luckily, the night before I did the only new reading I did in this debate, some chapters in Russell's "Philippine Independence". One chapter is devoted entirely to an affirmative view of the Japanese situation. So I lit in to that, and they immediately after the debate all congratulated me on the way I did it. They suggested that we have rebuttals immediately after speeches without any intermissions. Of course we wanted to be dead-game sports, and did it. I think Betty Cannon suffered a little by it, but Evan and I didn't in the least. I think it is a very good idea. None of us used any notes, except in rebuttal, and I didn't use them in that either. I was not nearly as good as at Barnard. I know that, and several of the kids who were down there told me that, too. They said I shone down there, but I was just "very good" here. But they also said it was because of the limitations of my subject, because I was convinced on the other side, and because, my two colleagues were both very good and the difference did not set me off as it did down there. I was not satisfied with myself, neither with the decision of the judges. I felt strongly that they should have won--in fact, I congratulated them in advance. Prexie thought they should have won, and so did Miss Thompson. I don't know what Miss Ellery thought. I shall ask her tomorrow. Prexie changed his mind after while though, and said perhaps we really did. he was not at all restrained about expressing his opinions! Dr. Adams said we won, on grasp of all points and use of them, debating form, manner, grace, dignity, and good English. He said they murdered the English language, and lowered themselves in doubting the sincerity of such men as Wilson, etc. They did go too far in that--just because we knocked Wood. He said it wasn't prejudice on his part, either, because he had always voted against Wilson. Mrs. Whitney said we won on knowledge of the subject and use of it--they saw big issues better than we did, but left out too many of the small things.

The debate was taken down by a stenographer right up in front of the stage. It will be printed in the Debaters' Handbook as one of the six best intercollegiate debates of the year! Prexie presided. Again I was introduced at Miss Frances Aaron.

We had a dinner party at the Lodge, at which he and Miss Thompson were guests, Dr. Adams, the debaters, and several committee. At the dinner Peggy handed over the Gavel to Camp for next year. I am delighted she got Chairmanship. The dinner-party was great. I was placed between Wilson and Camp, with Miss Thompson and Prexie, one removed on either side. I have loads to tell you about Prexie when I have time. I was impressed by his marvelous facility to mix. I don't think the college in general appreciates that.

After dinner we took them to the exhibition[sic], which was splendid. This Ruth Page studied under Pavlowa. They had taken their defeat quite hard, and Gertsonlauer was surely and snup up like a clam all evening. However he slept it off and was most interesting today. After the dance we went up to J and danced till 10. This morning we met them for breakfast at 9, then took a walk and took them to chapel. After that we took them to dinner in Main, and then they left. And here I am.

I slept from 2 to 7 today. I shall work now from 5 to 10, and then believe me, I hope to sleep. The pictures will be in the papers next Sunday; I am told.

Helen Reid is going to teach at the Dwight School next year, English and English history. She will get \$50 a week, expenses paid, whatever she means by that. She has to teach only [?] only [i?om] nine to one. Pretty soft, I should say. Tell Aunt Hattie. Her old principal is still there.

I really must work, now that all the excitement is over. Oh yes, there is a little more. Maxine Goldmark, who was up at Amherst, said Brown was at least three times better than they were. Everybody raved about how marvelous they were. They have their Willaims, Brown, Dartmouth debates this Friday. It is on Cancellation of the European War Debt. I should hate to tackle that.

Love,

Fannie

[Too] fond of esteem of world to do anything rash.

6. Goto - fact that 65 % of Japan's [sick] goes to us - is reason enuf that we hold Japan Ec. by throat - [Havoc in] trade we could give them terrible. Chinese boycott of. Jap. goods a bitter enuf [ex perisuss]

+ with them, all depends [n] friendly trade relations

M.B.

Quote Marquis [Akinna] - h346

343 - Russell

Japan - 1920 Premier Hara pledged himself to jb. agreement between U.S. + Jab. to protect + [presirae] Phil. autonomy

2. Korea, China, etc. would rebel

3. [we] would protest

4. Raw materials needed ar in other countries, not in Pl.

5. In 1921 - 5 [luisicent] Jap. statesmen assured that japan had over no designs on Phil.

Brown-Vassar

Debate

Assembly Hall

April 29, 1922

Resolved:

That the United States grant immediate independence to the Philippines.

Grant means to convey the title of and sovereignty in. Immediate means as soon after the present as the mechanical procedure of enacting the necessary measures permits. Independence means absolute sovereignty.

President Henry Noble MacCracken
Moderator

Judges

Mrs. Travis Whitney, Member of New York State Industrial
Commission

Professor John Adams, Yale University

Dr. John H. Denbergh, Packer Collegiate Institute

Debaters

Vassar-Affirmative

Brown-Negative

Elizabeth Cannon, '23

Marcus Milton Bates, '22

Frances Aaron, '23

John Andrew Wilson, '23

Evangelia Waller, '24

Robert E. Gerstenlauer, '22

Committee

Rachel Higgins, '22, Chairman

Miriam Hussey, '22

Frances Thorndike, '22

Helen Campbell, '23

Maxine Goldmark, '24

Mary A. Crews, '24

Charlotte Carpenter, '22, Secretary

[enc w/ 30 Apr 1922]