Letter from May 26, 1890

Lavinia Coombs

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May 26th, 1891

My dear Hellee,

I have known for some time that your letter would come among the next ones to be answered but I didn’t realize till I just looked at its date of receiving that it had been four months since I read it. You wrote just after Christmas and now when you get this it will be in the summer vacation and I wonder what your plans for that time will be.

You were well remembered at Christmas time indicating that you have formed a pleasant circle of acquaintances in your new home. It can hardly be called a “new” home but must have become like your...
own by this time. Does Rebecca
go to Church with you?
You spoke of the queer fashion
of having odd dishes. I think we
(Miss Butler & I) may be glad to
follow the fashion & in that line
at least, for we are thinking
of beginning housekeeping
and can hardly afford to buy
a whole set of crockery but
pick up what we can here
and there. The Burkholders
propose to go home in July next
and the Stiles family will go
to Philmont and the miners
move into the Stiles house
and then Miss Butler and
I think of setting up for our-
selves in this house where
the miners are at present.

Isn't it a postal just after
I received the first numbers of
the Country and probably mention-
ed the fact of the miners being
here. They came while we were
all away at yearly Meeting
and only Auntie Bachelors here
in midnap to receive them,
and she sick in bed that
day so their reception was
rather, or might have been
to some people, but they seemed
to take it all right. They stayed
at the Bachelors house till we
were all home from G. But
then came over to the Stiles
house as there was more
room there. They stayed there
till this house in which they
now are was repaired and
then I moved over with them
to help them in getting on as

they knew almost nothing of the language at that time.

Two weeks ago tomorrow morning a new little Miss Dinner came to town very unceremoniously. Dr. Bachelors had barely arrived in time for her reception and Auntie B. was not sure I had begun to initiate her to the mysteries of the necessity of cleaning in this aisle world but I was glad enough to hand her over to Auntie when she came which was shortly. Everything has gone on all right and Miss Dinner is to have her dress on tomorrow. They are very western but good folks. Dinner has a lot of petticoats in him. We are sorry and glad both to have the Bachelors go. Sorry because we never are in a condition where we can well enough old hands. Glad because this is the twelfth year.
They have been here and they
wilt and deserve a vacation.
Mr. B. and the children especially
shew the need.
I was glad to hear of Mr. and
Mrs. X's safe arrival in
America. I hope he won't re-
pet poor Dr. Phillips' experience.
He was here ten years but she
came out the same year I
did. It will be eight years
next fall. She arrived here in
November I believe.
Dr. Bacheles had a letter from
Mr. George by the last mail
in which he spoke of coming
to India but said he didn't
see how he could leave his
motherless little girl - Vivian-
he surely ought not to think
of bringing her out here. He
has accepted a call to Worcester
Mass. I believe.
Mrs. Bachelor is counting the days now till Mary will be through with her examining and then she will probably slip in America only a short time after that. I told your uncle that Mrs. B. may live till she gets here and there seems no reason to think she may not, for she has been very well since her return from their three months' stay in Darjeeling. And I suppose you may have heard that Sirs Eng. wishes to planning to try it again! All the reasons I have heard for her turning back were the great unpleasantness of the voyage across the Atlantic, the passengers made themselves extremely annoying to her and she was driven to travel and alone and unacquainted and I suppose she reasoned if the ten or eleven days across the Atlantic was so nearly unbearable what must the five or six weeks' voyage be from Liverpool on! At first I could have no patience with charity for her and I'm afraid if she had seen or heard some of us about that time she would have thought no harder to face that the long Atlantic itself but after hearing many of the circumstances I am prepared to give her a proper welcome if she actually does arrive here. Mr. Brown must have a great faculty for forgetting and forgetting. Mr. Phillips too will be coming next fall. It may be they will all come together. Under those circumstances Miss Enlow will hardly turn back.
I have the money you and others of the "more than 134 friends" sent for my buggy. It was not a secret. My brother had written him some time before that he was trying for it and when he sent the money to Mr. Given sent me the list of names of those who had subscribed. It was a pleasure to read these over and see what a lot of persons had done a head in it. I do need a new carriage very much and it will be such a relief to have one in which I shall not be continually expecting a breakdown. I have given the first installment to the man who is to make it and he is at work on the wheels but— I suspect it will be very little like the "buggy" you may have pictured in your mind. I hope to get a picture of it and myself and the open
and driver and 25 feet, and will send you one if I do; but these natives are so slow that it may be a year yet before I can get the carriage to say nothing of when the picture may be forthcoming.

The Centurys are a great comfort to me, and to others as well. I lend them to all the houses here in turn, and then I shall leave them bound-six months in a volume. I suggested that you have them come to you first and after you have read them, remail them to me but you do not do that I see. Do you see them done where else? I am interested in every thing Kennan writes, and especially pleased with Joseph Jefferson's Biography, such an honest simple style as the Sam's interesting
and laughable in many places.

I'm glad you are getting more cards and hope they will reach me all right. My appetite is inebriated for them. Can never get too many. I give them tea cards at school to every scholar present and then give them a larger one when they have four of the little ones and a larger one when they have four of that kind and so on; and as there are more than one hundred children (or scholars rather) in the 5th School you can see it needs a supply. The Misses lost a lot—and also Stiles has had a lot sent to her which she shared with me & the other all right for some months yet. Mr. & Mrs. Stiles & Edith are just now off on a vacation trip to Behrampore—the beach just below Balasore.

They went the first week in May and we expect them home the last of this week. Their letters have told of cool breezes, excellent bathing and big appetites. They have been the guests of Mrs. Griffin who is there also with her family, and later Dr. Harry Baker & his family went. Both eight grew up children and eight smaller ones. Only one house and four rooms boarding them selves. There is a big veranda through which they could utilize for rooms to some extent. It is getting to wards the rainy season now and I am so glad. It is now vacation time because of the heat but I am not planning to go out of Singapore. I am having the teachers two hours each morning to
revised their old studies and give them a few normal lessons as well. I said they were getting rusty and needed brushing up. The Bible School vacation doesn’t begin till next week, then I think Miss Bull will make a trip to Calcutta to look for a home or school for an orphan girl she has adopted. Her father was an Englishman, her mother a native and since the father died they have been in very strictured circumstances. Miss Bull can get us some things to for housekeeping. A trip to Calcutta means a lot of shopping for most everybody has something to send for. When the miners came they bought me quite a lot of gifts from home—gauze, handkerchiefs, towels, stationery, canned peas, rice, beans, and codfish! That last was such a treat! I suspect you don’t half appreciate your privacies—fish balls a day! The Distinct from London sent me two dresses and a bonnet—just a fit and so nice. Here I describe this just as fast as my pencil can move and there’s nothing missionary wit
Miss Zellie Whitten
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