

AL/1875

Bedford College

Oct 21. 1883.

Very dear Mother

I suppose you are settling down more in the house now & getting all straight. Have the engravings come yet, & are they or any of the old ones hung up? I am sorry I did not see about the nails before I came away.

I have not heard whether Mrs. Hall made a sketch of the beech-tree. Have you had any visitors except the Powells?

Nothing very exciting has happened here this week. I have got my classes quite settled now, & I shall certainly have plenty to do. I rather want to test my powers of working, - for I did not do very much last Session as you know. But do not be afraid that I shall overwork or that I shall neglect other duties (of kindness &c.) for I have not the slightest intention of so doing.

At tea last Sunday we cautiously asked Miss Ashdown whether we were allowed in the Council room, & suggested that

we should like some arm-chairs & some quiet: she was most amiable, and said she would turn it over in her mind. The result of the turning over was that last night she told Marian Sherratt, who is the eldest in the boarding house, that ~~some~~ the library would be provided with a fire & some arm-chairs on Sunday afternoon, & that the three eldest of us might go in if we were quiet. On consultation we decided not to accept the exclusive privilege, & Marian & I respectfully told her so. She thought she was doing just what we wanted, but when she was enlightened she said all might go in except the very juniors, only she must make

Marian & me responsible for the quietness & order. This decision was announced at breakfast this morning. We have found since that it really is very comfortable, - three wicker arm-chairs, a delicious rocking chair, a nice writing table, & a fire. Though not perhaps all we could wish it is a great improvement, & will, I hope be appreciated. And it has the advantage of having been got by perfectly peaceful & quiet means.

I went with Berta & Ellie to Dr Fraser's this morning. The sermon & indeed the whole service were very nice, & I think I shall like. We are going to decide about our settings to-night.

AL/ 1875 con V

Last Wednesday I went for a walk with Berta. She said that my letter about fags, & then the one retracting it had caused a good deal of discussion at her home, & they decided that something did want doing (You know she has had two sisters in the College). We talked a great deal about it, & suggested various things, but decided finally to have some sort of reading together on Sunday. So we took two other serious elder girls into the conclave this morning, and made our plans.

This afternoon nine of us are going to meet in one of the practising rooms, & we are

going to read Romans XII
sing two or three hymns, & read
a chapter from Miss Havergal's
"Kept for the Master's Use," & we
hope to have some discussion
on it.

Our idea is to have meetings
something on that model
every Sunday, & by degrees to
get more girls to come. But
we wanted to begin with
those who we felt would really
care for it.

The B.A. & B.Sc. Examinations
are this week & Bessie Joone
& a B.A. girl have come here
for the occasion. I do hope
they & the others will get through.
There are eight for B.A., and one for

B.Sc. from the College.

Our poor Debating Society
will be in a sorry plight this
term. Nearly all the girls who
used to speak have left, and
I am afraid there will be
hardly anybody left to take
an interest in it. But we
are anxious to keep it up
somehow.

I hope to write to Etta
before Wednesday, but if not
please wish her many happy
returns from me, & ask Oliver
to remember what I spoke
to him about at the station.

I send my best love to everyone

Your very affectionate daughter,
Aileen