

Neenham - hall
Sunday. July 16th 78.

AL/3679

Dear Abby
Many thanks for your nice long
letter, which I should have answered
before this, if there had been any
particular news to tell. But there
was not. I should have written to
congratulate you, if the result of
the examination had been at all
satisfying as a great surprise —
as it was it seemed such a matter
of course to all of us, that we
none of us felt in that gushing
state of mind which pours out
congratulations. I waited to hear
something about the whereabouts
from private sources, feeling quite
sure that I should have cause for

I think the Rev. Mr. Holland is a great blessing — he never
shakes

explosive sympathy after that, but
could not learn anything from Miss
Clough, except that she had written
to tell you whatever was known,
but she was rather cross that moment
and would not tell me what that
was. However I have not the
slightest doubt that - wherever
you be now - you will see
your honours ~~most~~ emphatically
by News-time.

It was very nice of you to think
of me and write me such a liberal
epistle, only second to Miss Bowis!
I will give you such a budget
of news in return as I can
find or invent. In the first
place, the ~~two~~ elder Leopards have

unfortunately let their den to
some country - since that want
to live as before - since for a season
dating from the 19th inst. Cousin
quietly both the young leopard and
I have not got a roof to cover our
heads in London before the 24th,
when Mrs. Weil will take me in
for a day or two, while leopard is
going to haunt a spiritist - relative
at Coling. I have not yet settled
on what day I leave for Germany,
but am afraid, my stay in London
will not be long. If I should
protract ~~it~~, so as to have an after
noon at my disposal, I need not
tell you how pleased I should be
to see you once more! I shall wish

and tell you what my plans are - as
soon as I am in London and can set
my way further. At present I am
somewhat doubtful whether Miss Clough
will keep me here up till Monday
morning. I am going to put the
question to her to-night, and will
her as an alternative, but I shall
otherwise have to go to a public
which I know she will not like for
a Newham-student.

We have had a rather pleasant
day-week, though I missed
much; but Miss Harrison took
her airs and graces away on
morning, which rather added to the
comfort, though it subtracted from
the brilliancy of our entertainments.

Miss Kirkman treated us to a delightful "Abfintfest" taking the shape of a boat-party yesterday afternoon. The means of course an esoteric circle, including the leopard, Miss Miffins, Miss Mar-
 line, the older prig (called Miss Meri-
 field) together with her younger prig-
 sister called Flora - who has come
 up to do Group A - Mrs. Gaskell,
 Miss Power and my own humble
 person. We started in two boats
 from the ferry, putting all the thin
 people in one with the provender
 to steady them, and the fat-ones
 in the other, where you were
 very much missed, my dear,
 plump friend. Do not take
 offence, however; since I was counted
 among the heavy parties, I am

sure you will not consider the
change a very serious one. We had
lovely weather for boating, warm
and still, with a kind of veiled
sunlight from a hazy sky, and
going at 2 o'clock gave us a long
afternoon on the river. Of course
we went on the freshmen's river,
up that branch of it which winds
along under an over-arching
arch of big trees, beyond the Grand
chester fields. I had no idea there
was anything half so idyllic in
the neighborhood of Cambridge.
I even tried my hand at rowing,
which of course afforded infinite
amusement to my party, all at
my expense, but I enjoyed it none
the less for that. In coming to
Byron's pool, we had to carry the

boats & the proceeds of a war,
which - after some trouble -
with the help of a few men and
boys - we managed to effectuate
losing some of the proceeds in
the river, of course, and getting
all our clothes very much in
a mess, which made it all the
more delightfully comfortable.
We anchored in a wilderness of
yellow Lilies at last, drank an
unheard of quantity of bottled
lemonade, besides the correspon-
ding amount of cake, oranges &
cherries, dropped one of my gold
spoons into the river, whence
it was ineffectually abstracted
retrieving it, crowned by homeric
laughter - and at last returned

by the ~~great~~ mill and the main
branch of the river. Unfortunately
our programme had not exactly taken
punctuality into account, and as we
came in after everybody had done
with their dinner, Miss Clough
called us all up separately and
gave us a private holding by turns
however we did of course lay all
the blame on Mrs. Gaskell, whose
party it was officially given and
to be, and so escaped corporal punish-
ment.

I have just returned from a tea-party
at Miss Merrifield's - a very swell
one with chocolates and candied
fruit and a select party of all
the nice people in the house to par-
take of them. Miss Gladstone

AL/3679 cont

the whole, Miss Gladstone working
in having 'no lectures' and
shop very freely. Only Miss Lane
has had to give up working in the
evening and can't go to sleep
without sleeping. Daughters

I say, this is a very shabby
letter! If anybody were to inter-
cept it and to publish it in
Punch, as the typical epistle of a
N. Coll. student, would it not be
a disgrace to the establishment.

Good-bye, my dear Penelope.
I am sure everybody would
love, if I had only thought of asking
them for it. Miss Pivencia
me with the commission of hers the
other day - I suppose the other people
will all speak for themselves by & by.

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had seen Mr. Balfour (at Mrs. Sidg-
wicks) who seemed to be much in-
terested in you, wanted to know
what subjects you were going to
take for the trip - thought it
would be best not to take more
than two, and inquired most kindly
by who was going to advise you,
implying that if you wanted any
special advice, he was quite ready to
give it. I hear you got half an ounce
in chemistry, which was your
worth subject.

Miss Gardner & Miss Marshall were
better than all the men in the
May-papers, and went off in triumph
accordingly. The grouped people
seem in very good condition on