5707 Blackstone Avenue
Chicago

Dear Helen:-

It was exceedingly pleasant to hear from you, and heart-warming to find that you remembered my birthday time. Never was a birthday paid less attention to beforehand by its owner, but before the day was out the ~~least~~ most careless had to sit up and take notice: for Richard planned and executed a surprise dinner-party, which was perfectly delightful, including guests ranging from Margaret-Allais,

you will so arrange things; but that he is determined you shall take things easily and shall have much more rest than college work. In this last, I am sure he is quite right. As to how much he needs you — as to balancing his needs against your own, or those of your family, or those of the country — I am not competent to speak: too many elements of the problem are unknown to me; and I have seen astonishingly little of your uncle this year. I've seen very little of anybody, in my great busyness. He looks rather worn, and older.

About the living plans at

and am perfectly well. Incidentally, I am permanently a dean now.

I don't suppose Massachusetts has ~~to~~ rocked the news.

With love and hope of seeing you soon

Faithfully yours
E. F. F.
May 19. 1918

aged two, to Elizabeth Port and my sister from Riverside. Richard and Hulda calmly let me order an every day dinner and do the marketing for it; then, after I left the house, they called up the shops, countermanded my orders, and substituted grand ones of their own...... We had an awfully good time. And not the least pleasant part was the fact that it was all planned, and so well planned, by my boy. Also he had designed and made for me at school — the labor of weeks — a reading and writing desk or rack that stands astride my chaise-longue, for me to take

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to when I grow weary of my desk-chair. His art teacher asked him to make a drawing of it, because the design was so good. Grand patent!

Now about your questions. I have delayed this long in answering them because I have not sooner been able to talk with your uncle and father — in person. I am positive that he did not know I was fattening! My conclusion is that he would greatly enjoy having you with him for the six weeks — that he hopes

-possible for a large body of people to be got over to the farm and back to the city in the same day. But we have just returned from a triple christening there: Margaret Allais and Elsabeth Ports' four-months-old twins. Richard was godfather to Margie and to the boy twin — David — and he is very proud. It was all very lovely, with the little chapel embowered in blossoming apple-trees. It is the only time I have been to the farm, except for the Christmas play, the Nativity play, since last year's festival. I have had practically no social life. But I've not missed an hour at college

Wellesley for next year. I feel, curiously enough, much clearer. I should advise your living with the group you speak of. So self-contained a life as yours of this year in its social aspect is not normal or desirable for a woman of twenty-five. It is not inspiring, I think, for a teacher. You ought to have the fun and the stimulus and the experience of living with that group, *meo judicio*. Never mind about the "faction" aspect: you've lived a year apart from all that and have created your own impression; and

I am sure you are strong enough to hold it. You cannot live in a social world and maintain the inviolability of complete independence at the same time. At least, if you can — Jimmy Hulbert approaches the condition — you decidedly lose more than you gain *through* your isolation.

I wish we had you here at the University. In these days when one feels that the destinies of 1378 young women ought to be guided by the wisdom of angels, there are all too few women in the faculty of the University of Chicago; and at least some of those fall somewhat short of the stature of angelhood in their wisdom. We need heads for halls too. Why are there so many young men in the English department!

There is to be no festival at the farm this year, both because of the war in general and because, under government supervision, the train service has been so altered as to make it im-

October 30 (1918)

Helen dear:-

Be clement, and do not cast me forth from your heart! If Wellesley were a college with S. A. T. C. and S. N. T. C. units attached, you would not need to be told I have been almost too busy to wash — let alone write letters. This business of teaching in an armed camp is stimulating rather than restful. And then Richard acquired influenza on the second day of his college career, was very ill for a week, and lost seven of his newly gained eleven pounds. And then I helped nurse the Grabos, down, all four of them, with the influenza, and without a maid or a nurse. Were there times when one used to talk with a friend, or *dine* out occasionally, or go to a movie? I've forgotten.

I should have *loved* to see you in Boston, on the eve of departure for which your note came; but I had just one free hour there between social engagements, and I could *not* ask you to come down from Wellesley for *that*. I hope all goes well with you. Love. E.F.F.