March 15, 1896

Dear Mamma,

I don't believe you can guess what I did last evening. I was awfully tired, having given one of my extra lectures besides having two hours in town in a dentist's chair and feeling more than half sick with a cold. Vida Harper came over to see if I could suggest anyone who would...
Over and play on the piano to her father who was tired out and wanted to hear some music. I took the bull by the horns and in other words made up a bundle of Beethoven, Schubert, Greg and Kern and for nearly two hours played and chatted alternately. Once the poor man went to sleep. He seemed greatly pleased and, as for me, I haven't had so good a time in a long while. The piano is a Steinway grand and by far the best instrument I ever touched. It just sang and my poor stiff fingers couldn't get anything but music out of it.

I am trying to arrange some kind of a reception for Mr. Horace Scudder who
is to be in Chicago this
last of the week. Mr.
McLemore is helping
me place, but we cannot
do very much until we
know exactly when
he can be with us.

It was quite amusing
to meet George Riddle
again. His hair is
quite gray, tho' it
does not look so at
a distance. He was
very affable and says
Dear Miss Marion

Many thanks for your note which puzzled me for twenty-four hours. I’ve received a letter this morning asking me to address the English Club. I have written to Mr. Mc Clintock that I would speak if the time I had at my disposal permitted. If he finds that he can have me, I should be much pleased to see any of your friends and for most of all, to see you. Can you see what he mean do?
I want at any rate to visit

the University while I am in the city

and had planned to do so. I want

to see you and Mr. Morley and various

other. Indeed I don’t see how I can
do all I want to, for I am only to

be in town from Thursday to Monday.


Sincerely yours,

J. E. Seuddon.

No. 250 Red bury St.

Boston: 12 March 1896

My address in Chicago is

Care of W. H. Hubbard, ensl

82 Coter St.
Dear Miss Marion

Your note with its pleasant invitation greets me on my arrival. I shall be most happy to lunch with you at one o'clock to-morrow, Friday, and look for you with pleasure to see you and the University, a pleasure which is not lessened by the relief from speaking a piece.

Faithfully yours,

A. E. Sedgwick.

52 Arbor St.
19 March 1876
Dear Mamma,

It was good indeed to have tidings from you in your own hand. My affections are moving on prosperous and I shall set off for Boston on Saturday at 10.30 reaching Huntington Ave. shortly
Mrs. on Sunday before three, if the train is on time. I presume there is apt to be some delay on Sundays, so do not be anxious if I am late. I will telegraph from Albany if possible.

The enclosed telegraph has just come and relieved me immensely, as you can well believe.

It will be so proud to see you all again. What a happy time we shall have!

I am glad to enclose the check, which has been waiting some days. I shall count on seeing the dear little girl in her new clothes soon after I arrive.

My special love to Papa with thanks for
his letters

Ever fondly,

Marion.

Tuesday P.M.
and Mrs. Susan Hale of Boston. At the close of the reception in Walker, I returned to Kelly, where Mrs. Cary had been doing the honors, and had a special tea party in my room. One of my guests was Mrs. Connell upon whom I had called and who, as she said, had seized upon me as "the victim of her venom!"

It was a most Vernon thing for the helpless little woman to come as she did to this
great city. She expected everybody to call upon her and everybody did not. I must tell you more some time. It was a great effort for me to go.

Thursday I missed a reception to Miss Homer which was a great affair. I was too headachy to take the long trip. Yesterday I attended the afternoon Unitarian service which Mr. Fenn has just started as a little half one. Tell Papa I gave him the money for the skirt. With much love, Marion.
My dear Miss Talbot:—

Your editorials to Dr. Goodspeed have been handed to me. It is very interesting to see how the papers are taking up the Bemis matter. I am inclined to think that it will soon quiet down and we would better remain quiet. Of course there is nothing to be said except a statement in reference to incompetency, and it may be better not to make such a statement.

Yours truly

[Signature]

CHICAGO
Aug. 20, 1895.
University of Wisconsin
Madison
Sept 7th, 1895

Dear Miss Talbot,

Enclose a
cyclopaedia of the work done
here in the School of Eco-
nomics as a prelude (the
cyclopaedia, not the work) to
asking you if you will
accept your name to be
used for one of the committe-
on Parental Service, of
which I am Chairman, for
the National Council of
Women, and its meeting at
Atlanta in Oct? It is
only the beginning of work
in this line, and nothing
will be asked if you have
the cooperation of your name
and the sense of strength it
causes with it. I want the
committee to be ex parte simply.
I wanted much to see you
during the stay at 40th
House which has just
ended, but you were away.
An early reply will oblige
Yours Sincerely
Helen Campbell
My dear Mrs. Talbot,

Whenever your family or other friends have hereafter appealed to me to use my influence to have you retained as the secretary of the A.C.A. I have gladly refused for I felt that it was important both for the Society and you that you should keep it. Now that your position is assured and your hands full of other work there is no occasion on your part for you to keep it if it is drudgery. And the Association has its good record behind it and I do not believe it will now suffer. Therefore I wish...
To know you had written about it — if we must break up a new sketching h.
No mind — we'll put it — it's time.

I really was moved somewhat by the story you appeal which was made to me & said I would think about it — all the first opportunity. There are many other ways in which you can make the A.C.B. & perhaps more to better advantage.

How are you getting on? I suppose you saw Prof. although he has not written me a word about it. I have only had postal cards.

I hope to see you soon. I am getting too deeply involved in some public work when I did not mean to do anything.

Yours ever,

Ellen H. Richards
Dear Miss Talbot,

I have had such a delightful trip seen so much of interest & beauty & met a lot of nice people & real girls-made one. Give my love to the A.C.A. I am sorry I cannot there. I believe this is the first annual meeting which I have missed. But I cannot do anything for them this year. I do not think it matters about the President—provided we can have the Sec. Ami wrote that they wanted to have you for Pres. & that it would then be the close carpenter she asked if I thought you would take it. I shall write her I hold on—up me depend on her. I think you will suit her. How wide spread the disaster fiction is & will see the necessity of making some change. Do not let me be put on anything but the Committee for the Natural History. I hope you got the book which Min Mon sent—Return it by & by. Have you seen Gilman Thompson's Dietetics.
Published by Appleton? It mentions our work. It is a very fair compilation & you should have it in your library.

Tell Mrs. Allen that unless she can clear herself from the charge of neglecting to answer.

Miss Jones & Jones Min. Richard. Evidently got me the wrong letter. This is Mrs. Webster's pupil who has waited a month. Well ask Arnie if she has it guilty. College women must not neglect their duties.

I shall want to hear full accounts. From what you tell, the halls are doing as well.

Your affectionately,

Ellen H. Richards
April 14, 1895

Papa,

I have had the "Transcript" account of the banquet and judge that you had a big success of decorations and numbers and quality of people were any measure. I hope that you are spending this lovely Easter Day in Holderness.
and resting up well after the long strain.
Yesterday I received the official announcement
ment of my appointment as dean of women in
the graduate schools andpromotion of an
associate professorship
at a salary of $2500, begin-
ning Oct. 1, 1895.
This makes me feel
very easy in my
mind on several accounts. It establishes a firm precedent for the advancement of women in the University about which some people have had doubts.

In the second place, it assures my position as senior dean of women, even if somebody with pray hands should come as dean!
The brunt of the administrative work is done for
the quarter and I shall
try to carry my classroom
easily with as few outside
cares as possible.

Please do not forget to
send Hovey’s bill as I
would be glad to settle it
promptly, especially as it
stands in your name!

I hope that domestic
affairs are running
smoothly. I wish I
could have helped more.
Dear Home Folks,

It is midnight but I must tell you that I have just returned from the Auditorium where the announcement was made of my appointment as dean of graduate women and of my former...
to an associate professorship. I hope that this will be a little comfort and pleasure to you. Mr. Depew, his son, his niece and the daughter of Warner Miller were my guests at luncheon today. Goodnight. Marion

Monday night.
Marth Scituate, Mass.
July 22, '95.

My Dear Marvan,

I was much gratified to receive your kind letter and ask for my little book. I shall take great pleasure in sending it to you in the course of a day or two when I next go to Boston, as I have exhausted my stock here. You will find enclosed in it a copy of my...
must request photograph taken 11 years since at the age of 30, for my Fifteenth College Commencement. The story of it is this. Many of her old pupils who had received copies of the leaves direct from me, expressed something like dissatisfaction that I had not included a portrait of myself as well as Mr. Phayer. So this I could only say that I did not consider it in good taste to do so as I am still in the land of the living. However I have compromised the matter by having some pictures made by one of the new processes, of the same size as a leaf of the book, if they see fit to stick it in.

Trust that you will enjoy your vacation.

Yours very truly,

Thos, Cushing

Prof. Marwin Saltar
His book ref. to in letter in Historical Sketch of Chauncey-Hall School, with Catalogue 1828-7894

With regards of
Thomas Custance
Miss Marion Talbot
University of Chicago
Chicago
Kelly Hall.
Illinois.
417 Birchard Ave, Fremont, O. Aug. 20

[1895]

My dear Mrs. Talbot:

I have often wished that I might have a little uninterrupted talk with you; but I never have had that privilege, and it never before occurred to me that I might write. If it had I should have conversed you about the maps you preferred for Kelley Hall before we sailed forth; but as they are being changed - satisfactorily I hope - that is of little account.

I appreciated with a good deal of amusement your little jabs to me
in September about Mrs. Kelly, for I know she is often busy and narrow; but I know, too, as you cannot, the very sweet and winning sides of her character, and all the lines in her way. If you took care of her mail and received her callers for a while, as I often do; if you knew the churches and schools and libraries she has helped; the nurses and doctors she has sent around; the rents she has paid; the institutions and individuals she has helped—generously and continually and unpretentiously; her unspoiled simplicity and her loyal friendship; you would see much to admire. And then if you knew the ceaseless demands upon her, the "stingy if you don't" tone; the times she has been deceived and imposed upon—you would appreciate how suspicious and wholesale refusals have been fairly forced upon her. She is so responsive to a little expression of good-feeling—for herself apart from her money, and she is so sadly alone, that I pity her from the bottom of my heart. I do not like to think what sort of person I should be, if I had been placed in her peculiar circumstances.
Then she does not talk about tides and servants all the time. She has had all sorts of adventures and traveled everywhere; and her husband was one of the fine men of the earth.

I do hope you will not think me officious with all this, or that I am in any way personally interested. I will not let Mrs. Kelley do a great many things she would like to do for me simply because I prefer to keep an independent way of looking at her; and she is grateful out of all
proposition for the real liking
I am for her. Of course I should
never have written so frankly
if I did not know how often
you come in contact with her,
and if it did not seem hardly
fair to me not to let you see
her through my glasses. Pray
do not think me meddlesome—
I hate meddlesome people! May
we not see you at the reception
on the 5th at 2716 Prairie?
and I beg you to believe me

Very sincerely yours

[Signature]
CHICAGO, Nov. 29th, 1898.

My dear Miss Talbot:-

I desire you to send for Miss Louise Sherwood and call her attention to two things:

1. That she has taken no steps to present certificates for her entrance work. She was received by the Examiner upon my recommendation and I supposed that she had sent for certificates, on the basis of which we should admit her. This, I am sure, she can easily arrange.

2. Her present conduct in receiving in such marked manner attentions of Mr. Alexander Smith is not in good form and is something which cannot be permitted to continue. Unless these attentions cease I shall ask her, through you, to withdraw from the University at the end of this quarter. You may show her this letter which will show her that the responsibility is mine not yours, and if she desires any fuller statement in the matter I shall be glad to see her.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
My dear Miss Talbot:—

May I ask you to suggest to Miss Josephine Allen greater prudence in her public conduct. Perhaps I need not give you details. You need not hesitate to use my name in the matter.

I am wondering whether it is in accordance with the wishes of the house committee of Kelly that young gentlemen should come in on a Saturday afternoon and dance. I am under the impression that a report to this effect would not be beneficial to the best interests of the University.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Dear Papa and Mamma,

This weekly letter-writing seems a one-sided kind of business from my point of view. I am very impatient for the time when your letters will begin to come. Just after I wrote you last Thursday, I received an extremely cordial letter from Miss Chapman, enclosing a check for the balance of my expenses and twenty-five dollars in addition. She certainly could not have treated me more to my satisfaction.

The last week has been rather unusually full. Perhaps you would like to know the program. Thursday and Friday I registered the graduate women. Friday I made a long round of calls. When I do this I take a carriage to save time and strength. Saturday morning I had three meetings. At noon I gave my luncheon to the women fellows and had Mrs. Potter Palmer as my special guest. I had said nothing in advance about her coming and it was rather a pleasant surprise to the young women to meet her. There were sixteen of us at the table, and Miss Chapman got up a very dainty luncheon of five courses at a cost of seven dollars and sixty-seven cents. After luncheon we made a big fire and I called on each fellow in turn to describe her particular line of investigation. In many cases this was very technical, but the descriptions were exceedingly well done and the talk very clever. Mrs. Palmer seemed greatly impressed and interested, and said a few words herself. In the evening I went to a meeting of the International Folklore Association at Mrs. Palmer's house. She again expressed her delight in the meeting and her gratification that I gave her the privilege of being here.

Sunday I went to Morgan Park to see Miss Robertson, who has decided to go with me to New Orleans. We shall probably start on Friday, the eighteenth, and be gone.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
about twelve days. Monday I was called to Lake Forest to attend the funeral of Mrs. Chapin, who has been so kind to me in the past. She leaves a devoted husband and four young children, so the occasion was very sad. Tuesday I put in a luncheon party between my morning's work and my seminar in the afternoon, and consequently felt pretty tired when night came. Edward Everett Hale has been here today. His sister Susan, with some other member of the family, I believe, sailed on the Columbia for Algiers where they are to stay some time. I presume you will see them. He made an admirable brief address to the students on the Education of a Democracy. This afternoon I went to Mrs. Spragues to a social meeting of the Students' Loan Fund Society and met several friends very pleasantly.

An exciting episode of the last two or three days has been my refusal, heartily endorsed by the President, to allow the girls to attend a party in the club house of a fraternity which was censured by the Faculty last Saturday. There has been a good deal of hustling among the men in consequence, and they have succeeded in straightening things out so that the ban has been removed. Some of the Faculty are a good deal interested to see how potent a weapon I somewhat unconsciously used. None of us, in fact, fully realized the influence the girls have in such matters. The men, or rather boys, who came to see me, claimed, rightfully, I think, that the organization was doomed if the young ladies could not accept their services. It was found that the censure was deserved by only two or three fellows and we have no proof that there was any more serious fault than loafing and neglect of duty. These few men lived in the club house, and I think the other members who are scattered over the city and seem to be first-rate boys will see to it in the future that no shadow rests on their house. It was a hard lesson for them, but one that will bear good fruits in the University life as a whole, and that the older men seem grateful to me for having administered. I hope it will be a merry day for you as you can make it. Our celebrations will have to come when we are a united family again.

Into constant love.

[Signature]

Marion Salbot.
The University of Chicago.


My dear Missrelbat,

That is precisely
the kind of man President Eliot
has for some time been. Eliot,
Chamberlin, and Jordan hold
substantially the same views;
the story of the cradle, and
any dope you want at the end.

It is really a pity that so
much worthless should have been
wasted on President Eliot. I
am inclined to think the
final judgment upon his life
will be that he has done the cause of education harm, in spite of the frequent worst in which his courage and fear have done it good.

Sincerely yours,

M. L. Hale
"Pushing to the Front;"
or "Success under Difficulties."
"Architects of Fate;"
or "Steps to Success and Power."
By D. S. Marden.

113 Beacon St., Boston, July 14, 1896.

My Dear Miss. Talbot:-

As you will see by enclosed prospectus, I expect soon to start a self-help magazine for the young, and I would like to have your name on my contributors list. It is difficult to get women writers who know how to reach girls, and I am anxious to make the magazine as helpful to girls and young women as to boys and young men. I am anxious to keep the girls side up equally with the boys side, and I want everything I can get hold of in the line of "new fields for girls," "new opportunities for women," ways and means of girls working their way through school and college; in fact, everything which will be helpful and inspiring to the girls and young women of the country, without necessarily dwelling too much upon the discussion of woman suffrage.

I enclose a partial list of contributors already secured. I feel that your name would help me much among young women even if you could only now and then give us a word of good cheer and encouragement. I assure you I would not call on you often for anything. In the first number I am to have a symposium Salutatory made up of the endorsements of our plan, of prominent men and women, together with their portraits. I enclose extracts from some already received to give you an idea of their character. I should like very much to have you give me a few words of endorsement if it meets your approval, as I am sure it will. We hope to introduce this magazine into the public schools of the country. Mr. Pritchard, whom you know, Mr. Arthur W. Brown, of Providence, a remarkable man, and Mr. Thos. W. Bicknell, will be interested with me in the enterprise, with others.

I am sure you will be able to give us many a good suggestion which will help us to make the magazine especially helpful and inspiring to young women. You will, no doubt, run across many good articles and items of especial interest which would be helpful to us. I shall be very grateful for anything which you may put in our way, and will endeavor to remunerate you in some way. You may be able to help us to secure good writers and contributors. I dare say there are Chicago ladies and others in the west of whom you know who would be very helpful to us. I shall be glad to send you copies of my books which, perhaps, you know, have attracted wide attention in different countries.
Pushing to the Front has been adopted in the Boston and other public schools, has been used as a text-book for the Epworth League and other organizations, and both of the books have been published abroad. I have a book running through the press now for the young, the first edition of which is 50,000 copies. I shall be pleased not only to send the magazine to you but to any in whom you are especially interested.

I am getting up an article on How Girls Pay their Way Through School and College. I am writing to the different colleges for specific examples, but find it hard work to get interesting material. Should you at any time know of any way of getting this material for me or putting me in the way of it, I should be much obliged to you.

I address this letter in care of your father, thinking you are in the East. I should like to have your photograph to publish with the other contributors, if you will tell me where I can secure the best one. Would Mrs. Potter Palmer be able to assist us in this enterprise, do you think?

I congratulate you upon your success. I think it was a great honor for you to secure that position. Who, in your opinion, would be the best and most available young woman to take charge of the girls department of the magazine? I would like some one who will gain the confidence of young women, and who can make friends for the magazine, and who will make a good impression among the prominent women of the country whom we are trying to enlist in our cause.

As we are starting with comparatively small capital we cannot pay very high prices at first.

With kind regards and best wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours,

A. S. Warden

P.S. I am anxious at some time to have a talk with you in regard to this publication, but do not know when and where it would be convenient for yourself.
Dear Grandma,

I kept hoping for the best, after you wrote that you might come to me, this I did not see how you would be able to manage it with all that is before you. The arrangement about moving seems very satisfactory. I wish I could be there to help.

I have been taking life a little easier the last week and have succeeded in loafing quite a bit. I have achieved one good thing. My thirty dollar check from the Review of Reviews justified me in doing what I have wanted to do for some time, so on Monday I bought two Kio Keliee covers for my couch and cat. They are fine pieces, one at $25 and one at $16 and make me...
room very handsome. This is rather more desirable, as it has to be used when I have company. I have also bought material for my best spring suit. I am writing from my office so I would enclose a sample. These letters may interest you. Please return them. I have not seen President Parker, but hear that he enjoyed his visit greatly. Mrs. Cobb intimates that my candidate for the temporary headship of Beecher is to be appointed. But she questioned her on account of her seeming opposition to Mrs. Burkley. I imagine that thereby hangs a tale. Next week I am to begin my lectures for Dr. Henderson, from its number. I am also to treat myself to Irving Macbeth. How I go to my class with love to all.

Marine
Miss Marion Talbot,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.,

Dear Miss Talbot:-

Your letter of November 24th was duly received. It is impossible for me to send you from here the copies of Bulletin No. 21 which you desire for the reason that our supply is practically exhausted. I know too that the supply at the Department of Agriculture is also limited but I will write them recommending that if they have any to spare they send a few additional copies to you. If this does not secure them there is a bare possibility that either of the Illinois senators or perhaps your representative may have some copies furnished them when the edition was printed which have not yet been distributed and which they would undoubtedly be glad to put in your hands.

Regretting that I cannot answer you more satisfactorily I remain

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Special Agent in Charge of Nutrition Investigations.

I suppose to be in Chicago in about a week and hope to see you.
My dear Miss Talbot:–

Yours of the 18th is at hand. I wish very much you would take up the case of Miss Reeves, make it a typical case, and raise the question which you have indicated in your letter.

I shall be very glad to see you at any time to talk about the equipment of your new room. Meanwhile, I congratulate you that so many are coming to study Sanitary science.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]

CHICAGO  Nov. 23d, 1896.
1507 Park Ave.,
Baltimore
Dec. 8, 1896.

My dear Miss Talbot,

I have

had come of this
paper, lying on my
desk for many
years, and long as
we use it, and for only
t for me!

In the first place,
I am very much
ashamed not to have
answered your letter
of the summer. I came
Thin I was travelling about, it got
milaid, it was
always expecting to
find it out, then it
finally turned up the
moment for study or
written pursuit. I
am thoroughly in
agreement with you
in regard to the
fellowship. I think
the scheme has done
an immense deal
for women, more than
I had expected, or
at least more rapidly
I had in mind and
for the aid and comfort
Of the individual
women than the
making it well known
that women were
engaged in studying
in foreign universities,
and with some
attendant distinction.
As regards loaning
money to students, could
not that be done
as a separate thing
(by the same committee
perhaps) it being dis-
quietly understood
that no honor attached
to the loan? I
Don't know that I
Should object, seeing
as a student volunteer.
returning the money in after years, provided it was distinctly understood that it was not expected of me.

But I am writing to you now in regard to a subject that is of even greater interest to us both. I am looking forward to the opening of the Johns Hopkins Division to women, that is, the post-graduate department. The thing is very much in the air as yet but I have little doubt not to be mentioned.
[Handwritten text]

"For the present" put or have been asked to "prepare a scheme" for carrying it out. Of course, the simplest scheme would be for the Unionists to trust simply to an announcement that the Unionist is open. But one must be content with that one can get. May I ask you then to send me in the first [Illegible]"
Place any printed description that you may have
of the organization
of the Woman's de-
partment in the
Chicago evening,
and in the reason.

I'd like to tell me
(without giving
yourself too much
trouble) what
you would con-
consider to be the

especiallly what you
have in the way of rules,
then be announced.

ideal arrangement
for such a
department.
It is quite possible
that this memorandum
may come to nothing,
for the reason
that what the
factors have in
mind is a more
restricted guidance
for it women
students than
than we should
be able to take
any interest in
this now.
The thing at heart?

I am always deeply interested in all the nice things that you are doing, and I regret that it does not fall in my way to see you oftener face to face. Shall you be in Boston during the Winter Vacation?

Yours sincerely yours,
Christina Ladd Franklin
he often thinks of the
time he nearly killed
me in the barn loft at
Rye Beach. Do you
remember? I don’t.
I heard him read the
first part of *Midsummer
Nights Dream* and en-
goyed it much more
than I anticipated.

Dess Butler has just
been having a long
talk with me. She
tells me that the en-
jagement between
Mr. Raycroft and Mrs. Clark is broken. My feelings are quite mixed.

Please thank Papa in his kind letter which came today.

I often think of you all with love and it is a special pleasure to know of your content in the new smile. I have forgotten

to tell you that Mrs. Harper gave me the kiss which was sent by proxy. The President seemed to have enjoyed thoroughly his visit with you. He is very kind to you always and so I am glad to have had him with you.

Goodnight.

Marion.
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

Office of the Dean.

March 13, 1896.

At the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, a new administrative board was established having charge of certain matters connected with student organizations.

You were appointed a member of that board. The first meeting will be held Thursday, March 19, at 4:00 P.M. in the faculty-room.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note: H.P. Judson]
Dear Mr. Brown,

I am writing to inform you of the development on the 2nd Street Bridge. As per the decision made last week, the construction is to proceed with the installation of new support beams at the bridge's main structure. This will ensure the bridge's stability and safety for the public.

We anticipate that the work will begin within the next two weeks and should be completed within four months. We will provide regular updates as the project progresses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

PS: The City Council has approved the project and allocated the necessary funds.
Sunday P.M.

Dear Mama,

I am greatly interested in your report of your conference with Mr. Holmes. I wish I could repeat some of the statement made by the President to the Councils yesterday, but I think you can imagine the drift of his remark. The Dennis letter alone on its face a complete misunderstanding of some of Mr. Harper's phrases and it is thought here to have killed Dennis. At any rate the official statement of the President...
was made by authority of the trustees, who are not men of the Benn's pattern. One thing was said at the meeting which I shall repeat, for it did me good, although in a way I was sorry to have it said as so official and public a way. The President, in presenting different matters of business said "Our academic students need more care and interest, I mean the men, the women receive better care." Of course I was glad to hear that he appreciated the work I am doing in that way, and it was a good thing for Mrs. Bulkley to hear of his satisfaction. I have spent a good deal of time and strength in following up individuals and their needs. I am still doing all the dean's work, for Mrs. Bulkley cannot get into it yet. She has shown a great deal of patience and tact in her House affairs, but she has also shown me her claws, for she is objecting to being made subordinate to John Dewey, the head of the philosophical department. She will make a great mistake
if she prefers independence
to the help which a man
who is held in such confi-
dence can give her.
The dinner went off delight-
fully. Mrs. Thomas and the
cooks did themselves great
credit and I think everyone
was surprised and Mrs. Burkeley
much gratified. There were
fourteen at the table. I had
a superb dish of fruit for a
centre piece and fruit carn-
vations and ferns for decoration.
The cost was only about
ten dollars.
I have had a call from Lewis
Mr. Carpenter who was very
agreeable. He lives twenty-five
miles away so I shall not see
him often!
Monday mon. 1895

Dear Mamma,

The Westboro episode is very amusing at this distance. I am seeing quite a little of Mr. Dan. Born, as I have company in my amusement. He is to speak on "Byrard the poet. politician" at the university this noon. I dined with him at Mrs. Leslie Lewis' yesterday and am invited to meet here at Mrs. John Vance Cheney's tonight. Friday he was at Mrs.
Coonley's whether Mrs. Reynolds and I also went in spite of a furious storm of wind and snow. There was a large informal dinner party and others came later for a talk on favorite books. Much was said that was clever. Mrs. Hamline Garland, Mrs. Cheney, Mr. Sanford and Mrs. Reynolds especially helped make the evening very entertaining. We spent the night, but I reached the University in time for an 8:30 meeting. Then I had a little rest before going to a faculty meeting that lasted 2 1/2 hours. At 3 came our reception. We were simply astounded that so many women, about 500, had the flinch or forthrightness and interest to come out here, in spite of the big drafts and biting wind. They had a good time, and were well treated. The jills in the Brownes played hostess as a matter of duty, but they had an
unexpectedly good time
and are looking forward
to next Saturday with
great pleasure. If the
day is at all propitious,
we shall have nearer 2000
visitors. The faculty
turned out well and
served asjudges. Mr.
Jordan was chief marshal.
Mr. Dow, Mrs. Perkins' 
brother was one of the few
gentlemen who came. He
and his wife seemed
much interested. Mrs.
David Kelly, Lodi's
acquaintance was also here.
My dear Miss Talbot:

I was much interested in this valuable article. It is a real investigation, with real results. The queries which naturally occur in the light of our recent chat, are these: 1. Is it a fact that there is general or large dissatisfaction among the students? 2. If there is such dissatisfaction, what is its actual basis?

Very sincerely yours,

H. J. {Signature}
Dr. Hudson
Review of Reviews
article

Chicago
75 Appleton St.
Boston Feb. 11.

Dear Miss Talbot,

You need not write the letter I asked for regarding the Boston University position, for I believe the matter is pretty well determined and any other plans are changing. If you have already written, I wish to thank you for taking the trouble. I had a most delightful time in Wellesley on Saturday. I think the English faculty one of the very best in the State.

Very sincerely,
Oscar L. Tregaskis.
Dear Mamma,

The busy week has passed successfully and I am none the worse for it after today's rest. My address on "Domestic Science in Colleges for Women" before the Chicago Branch went off with unusual vim and aroused a good deal of interest. I had rather a lonely time in the evening going to Mrs. Pope's dinner-party on Michigan Avenue, more than half way to town, but a good time while I was there. Mrs. Pope is a sister of Mrs. Greenleaf, wife of the proprietor of the Vendome, and she is to be with her for the next two weeks. If you have time and strength to spare to call upon her, it would be very pleasant. She has neither husband nor children and spends a great deal of time travelling. Last year she went around the world. I met at dinner Mrs. James Nevins Hyde, whom I have occasionally seen at the Fortnightly. She said she had been meaning for some time to find out if I were the daughter of the Mrs. Talbot who was so kind to her and her sister, Mrs. Bishop Cheney, at Mrs. Eaton's at Old Point Comfort, ten or twelve years ago. I told her that it was probably so. She remembers you with extreme gratitude. Mrs. Cheney was terribly ill and the anxiety of that winter caused Mrs. Hyde's hair to turn white, although she was a comparatively young woman.

Her husband's sister was the Miss Hyde so well known in connection with Hampton Institute, and her son Charles, who graduated last year at Yale and is now in the Law School at Harvard, knows the Armstrong girls. Dr. Hyde is a dramatologist, and I judge has a large income from his profession.

My special problem this week has been in connection with the girls' sororities. Under the present rules of the University, men's fraternities are allowed under regulations and there is really no reason why the sororities should not come, except the feeling that they are undesirable. You see I have no weapon
to use except moral suasion and I don't know how long I can keep up the conflict.

The Transcript which came today gives the account of the meeting in the interests of the Festival. I hope it will prove to be a great success and not use any of you up completely.

Please tell Winthrop that it is President Harper's older boy that he is thinking of putting in the camp. He is exactly like his father in appearance. He seems active, fond of books, and very pleasant in his manners. When I dined with Mrs. Harper last Sunday I showed her the Camp album. Uel didn't seem much interested and his mother said he didn't like the idea of the camp work. If it could be understood that he went to the camp with enthusiasm and interest, I think he would be a good boy for Winthrop to have. Mrs. Harper told me that Mr. MacLeish is thinking of sending his boy, if he could. I don't know the boy, but the parents are fine people. You remember Mrs. MacLeish, probably. I hope Winthrop will see President Harper and talk with him. I hear very good things about Mr. Barnes' success in his church and settlement work.

Give my special love to Edith. I wore the gowns to the bleu club concert on Friday.

Ever lovingly,

Marion Salbot
Boston, June 26, '96.

Mr. Marion Talbot,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of June 23rd., I am sorry to say that I do not know how tickets can be obtained to the Chicago Convention. I have none nor have I means of obtaining them. I should think the way would be to apply to the local Democratic Committee of the City of Chicago.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
May 2, 1896 (date not quite clear, year OK)

Dear President Harper

I would suggest that the schema for student analysis be phrased throughout by the method shown in I and II, so that the record may be made definitely by a combination of numbers and letters. This will avoid large expense in printing and be more compact.

I have started some Dean's record cards and, when it is convenient to you or Mr. Judson, would be glad to tell you about the work I have done and see how it can be combined with this proposed study of students.

Faithfully yours

Marion Talbot
Dear Miss Talbot:

I thank you for your tempting invitation to the next Round Table occasion, and I add, with regret, that Mondays is quite impossible at present, for me to get away. Well you note, vast Col. Higginson, and Mr. and Mrs. Paine for me, a grateful but invisible guest? and believe me, with cordial good wishes,

Faithfully yours,

Louise Imogen Guiney.

Auburn Dale, Massachusetts,
20 Feb., February, 1896.
Feb. 20, 1896.

Dear Mamma,

We are having a "spell of weather" indeed. Tuesday evening there was a regular mud-storm and the "beautiful snow" which fell on Sunday is now merely a dirty coating over the earth. Yesterday there was a terrific blow and bitter cold and today is just about as bad. Fortunately I can stay housed except for my morning duties at Cobb Hall.

I want to give you a brief account of the affair with
Mrs. Buckley. On Feb. 1, in accordance with a previous vote the names of all students who had not reported for gymnastic work were presented to the Board of Physical Culture of which Mrs. Anderson and I are members. I was requested to confer with Mrs. Buckley in regard to the undergraduate women, as after the council met, I saw her and said that the names had been reported. She interrupted with the remark: "I consider that very unfair, and then assumed such an injured and unresponsive manner that my efforts to explain seemed quite fruitless. I wrote her a note that afternoon. As I had received no reply by the next Friday, I called at her office and inquired if she had received the note. She said: "I have seen Mrs. Anderson and do not think the conference necessary." "Excuse me, I think it is necessary, as it was called for by Pres. Harper and the Board. Will you think of a time that will be convenient and let me know later. I supposed that as I received no response of any kind to my note, it could not have been received. Then I had a talk with Mrs.
Judson and Mrs. Anderson. The former says there is nothing that I have left undone or can do; "at patience have her perfect work." The latter thinks she considers we have deliberately planned from the beginning to make her work hard. Having nothing further I wrote again on Feb. 16, and received a reply the next day. Mrs. Anderson is now ill, but when she is better I shall write again asking Mrs. B to name a time. Isn't it too bad! My experiences in failing to work with other women have been
The subscription was paid the last of March, and was intended to run for a year from that time, not from January.

I think it is not best for me to try and go home in March. The vacation is exactly a week long, and I cannot lengthen it very well. The trip to St. Louis will be a very brief one. I shall leave here Friday night and get back Sunday or Monday morning. What do you mean about not going to Detroit? What is happening there?

I am sorry for the delay about moving, but trust everything will come out to your satisfaction. What a handsome gift to Will! It should make him very happy. Tell me about Russell's tea. He didn't ask me!

Goodbye with dearest love.

Marion.

Please return the letters soon.
New York State Woman Suffrage Association.

Sherwood, N. Y., October 14, 1896

Miss Marion Talbot,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Miss Talbot:

Your letter regarding women's fraternities is at hand. I wish I could answer it more satisfactorily than I am able to do. The question of introducing them at Cornell came up, I think, the last year before I graduated and I opposed it most earnestly, as did others. A small beginning was made, however, which has developed of late years into several flourishing "sororities", as they are styled. My objections are therefore based upon theory rather than experience.

I am going to send your letter on to a friend who graduated from Cornell in '35 and ask her to tell you what she thinks about the matter. She is especially well qualified to judge as she belongs to a society, having joined before she began to realize that there was any reason why she should not do so. She was obliged to give up the work for a time and returned more mature and more thoughtful. Things looked differently to her and secret societies among the rest. I know it was a great question with her whether to retain her membership or not. I am sure you will find her testimony valuable. She is the secretary of our "Cornell Women Graduates' Association," Miss Agnes L. Tierney, 118 W. Coulter St., Germantown, Pa. Possibly you have already written her as I suppose your letter is a circular one.

As for myself, while realizing the pleasure that may come to the members of a sorority I deplore the existence of every one.
I believe in the friendships that are formed naturally from sympathy in taste or association in work. Groups, or cliques, are inevitable. But even those that come of themselves are often the cause of unhappiness. I do not see how it would be possible for the regularly organized ones with all their accompanying performances, to exist without rousing unpleasant feeling among the women. As I say, I know nothing of the inside workings but I should suppose that the added distractions would not be a benefit.

Perhaps I am prejudiced but I am really quite rabidly opposed to them. I feel so sure that they cause unhappiness.

Yours very cordially,

Isabel Howland
My dear Miss Saltot:

In reply to your letter I should say emphatically to keep the fraternities out of the University, if possible, for in the State Univ. of Wisconsin, where I have watched this system very carefully, I am sure it works against the "liberty, unity, and equality" of the young women, and fosters cliques, narrow judgments, and forced friendships, to say nothing of the great amount of time and strength consumed by the "rush" to secure members, and to maintain...
We are now to have our first meeting of our Branch of the A.L.C.A. and I am sure that we shall take up our year's work with renewed zeal as a result of your visit of last spring which inspired us all with a great desire to do our part as well as we could. We shall have several new members and two older graduates whom we had been trying to interest in our work for some time without avail. They have heard your talk at the Church, that they were ashamed of new art, and would work with us this year, so that is another good result of the very satisfactory address which you so kindly gave us, and which we shall long remember with pleasure.

I have a dear little new baby, now nine weeks old, and since I find him with the best nature has prepared for him, I shall not be able to attend our annual meeting, as I otherwise should make the greatest effort to do. I should so love to be there! With kindest regards, in which Mr. Le- han to my sister join me, I am,

Cordially Yours,

Julia J. Smith.

Botanical Garden,
tain the social standard deemed desirable. The financial question involved is also a serious one, for young women in college have not usually had enough experience in the use of money. To know how to plan for its use wisely, and

I have known them to be so inclined with fraternity debts that they have been obliged to carry the indebtedness long after graduation. For these, and other reasons which I might mention, I should feel it a calamity to the women's depart-

ment of the Univ. of Chicago. If chapters I, fraternity were admitted.
Morgan Park. Oct. 14th,

Dear Mr. Falbo,—

I find it

quite difficult to give an

opinion as to the desirability

of allowing fraternities in

Champaign University. My

experiences with these societies

have not given me much

confidence in their useful-

ness, and yet I have always

felt that they might be

organized and carried on

in such a manner as to
supplement the college work to give social and moral support especially to those students who are away from their homes. In the case of my own college I must say (confidentially of course) that I have been pinned at the excessive amount of social life in the way of receptions, hops, etc. which has grown up as a result of the existence of the fraternities. Perhaps it would have grown up anyway but it is certainly due to their presence.

As you suggest, the problem is different here. It would
seem that the social life afforded in your halls should be sufficient, with the opportunities for artistic and literary entertainment everywhere at hand. But if it seems necessary to accede to a pressing demand, I sincerely hope that the introduction of fraternities for women may prove a help. Aught you to discriminate between the sexes? The music societies are already allowed.

Very sincerely yours,

Gertrude B. Blackwell
May I trouble you with a matter of my own? I am preparing an address for the K.C.T. at Kansas City in which I wish to speak of the domestic science department of Chicago University. How can I learn something of it? Can you grant me an interview next week, or are you too busy. Do there any one familiar with the work to whom I may apply.

I dislike to keep you on your time. Sincerely I. B. 63.
138 Front St.,
Binghamton, N.Y.
Oct. 12, 1876.

My dear Miss Talbot:

I was very glad to receive your letter this morning and to feel that although I was no longer at the University, I might show my interest in everything that concerns the life of the women there.

I remember that we once discussed the question of women’s fraternities at Wellesley, and I spoke most emphatically against them, and should do so now as first thought. My only personal knowledge of women’s fraternities was at Cornell, and, as outsiders, all of the graduate students agreed that we could see little good...
In them and much harm. For the first few weeks of the fall term, the time was spent in rushing the new, attractive girls, while the plain, quiet ones were left almost alone; there were numerous spreads, teas, and receptions. At Sage College, the members of different fraternities seldom had anything to do with each other, and bitterly resented anyone who was not a member of some fraternity. I never could see, while there, if what benefits they were to any one. But in talking the matter over with students of other colleges, I have come to believe that a great part of the trouble at Sage was due to the Lady Principal. I believe that she could have influenced and directed the girls so that there would not
have been such a bitter rivalry between the different fraternities and so that a girl's life would not be perfectly unhappy if she did not belong to one. More than one girl told me that, and I remember that one professor told me of a dinner party to which his wife had invited some girls from Yale who happened to belong to different fraternities and who quarreled throughout the meal. I do not know that that was the fault of the fraternities, but of the ill-breeding of the girls themselves; yet when I hear of such things, I feel opposed to the whole system of societies.

On the other hand, I suppose there is much to be said in favor of them, of the pleasant friendships made.
and of the good influence which
they much sometimes enjoy.
In a small college I should
be much opposed to them, but in
a large institution, I can see
that they may be useful, especially
if directed by the Heads of the
Houses and the Deans of Women,
at Chicago.

You see that I am somewhat
warying in my opinion; but as
I saw the working of the system
for only one year at one institution,
I ought not to speak too decidedly.
And I most earnestly wish that
only what is for the best for all
should be introduced into the
Houses at Chicago.

Very sincerely yours,
Frances Tillott.
Milwaukee and Downer Colleges,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

October 12, 1896.

Dear Miss Saltot,

Replying to your favor of the tenth instant, let me say that I have not come closely into relations with women's fraternities in college life. I have not given the subject the careful consideration that I shall probably have to give it ere long. I trust I may have the benefit of the results of your studies on this subject in some expression from you when you are ready to give it, and I look with keen interest to the result of your thought upon it.
Milwaukee and Downer Colleges,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

My feelings are strongly against the admission of such organizations. The arguments that come to my mind for their are counterbalanced heavily by the objections as I conceive them to exist.

Believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

Elian C. Sabine.
Oct. 15, '76.

My dear Miss Talbot,

During my own college course, no women's fraternities had knocked at the doors of N. W. U. and I therefore had no opportunity to observe the workings of the system. Many women's fraternities are now at the university but I must confess that I have not paid any special attention to them.

Frice graduation

I was much pleased...
to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa not so much for the honor as because the chapter at N. W. U. (for the first time I believe) included men and women. The granting of this chapter presented difficulties in a co-educational institution. Women were given as apt as men to carry off the honors. Some objection at first was made to granting the chapter since N. W. U. insisted upon rewarding merit irrespective of sex.
his eyes met astonishment to see his cherished plan come
by a woman.

I can well understand your anxiety in deciding this question. It would seem that
the social and literary advantages of fraternities
are already secured and yet if the faculty
permit fraternities of men how can you
decline to permit fraternities of women.

An advantage of belonging to a fraternity
has greatly preceded some past Thurs-
day. In large cities a well known fraternity
is very apt to have a socially formed of repre-
sentatives from the different colleges and thus
association and fellowship with older men I think a decided advantage to the college boy.

Very sincerely yours,

Benji Bradwell Helmore.
Dear Miss Talbut:

We have had two women's fraternities here since the second year of our existence, and I must say that they seem to present in a lesser degree similar problems to those connected with the men's fraternities. There is a certain tendency toward clannishness, but the tendency toward extravagance is very, very slight. Even in the matter of clannishness, I do not think that the girls can be charged with any excess, although I have heard the charge made at Roble, where there was a fraternity living with independent girls. These circumstances perhaps fostered the fault. One of the fraternities, the Theta girls, have always had a house of their own, and that plan seems to work admirably. They are general favorites, and I must say that as far as we have had any trouble with our girls, it has not been our fraternity girls, but rather little cliques of independent girls, naturally formed, but nevertheless showed the worst faults that can be charged upon the fraternity system. I shall be very much interested to see how you solve the problem at Chicago. With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Mary S. Barnes.
My Dear Miss Talbot,

I have never been a member of a fraternity, and my views on the subject are formed only from observation, not experience.

It seems to me, however, that the House furnishes for students living in it, an amply sufficient social life. This is true at Hull House, and at the Jane club; and it was true at Cornell, that the girls who lived at Sage College found, in my day, not the slightest need of fraternity life.

If, then, the University is in a position to offer to all the women students the advantages of the Houses, its course seems to me a clear one in favor of debarring the fraternities on two grounds: 1st, As being a superfluous and artificial form of social life; 2d, As tending toward the formation of cliques, always a disadvantage.

If, however, the University is not in a position to offer to all the women students that which, for instance, the Jane club offers its members, namely, good living arrangements with all the expenses covered by three dollars a week, as to include even the poorest students, in the advantages of the social life of every day—then I do not see what standing ground the University would have in debarring the women students from participating in
whatever form of social life they see fit to provide for themselves; since they are already losing the advantages of the every-day social life in the University Houses by reason of the failure to provide sufficient cheap accommodations for them.

As I look back over twenty years to my Freshman year, I see clearly that the most valuable thing in it was the life at Sage College; the long, free talks with the women in the upper halls, the meals with the men and women students, and the recreations shared by the men and women and the younger professors. If I must part with either, I would give the whole class-room work, and keep the University life.

In other words, it seems to me that the University could not userily dog in the manger; and, while failing to provide Houses for the poorest women students, prohibit them from forming a cheap (and perhaps nasty) substitute.

The wise solution would seem to me to lie in affording ample, cheap, good college accommodations, and then prohibiting fraternities.

Sincerely yours,

Florence Kelley
It is also my observation that in the presence of college life an ambitious student can hardly attend to her studies, her fraternity affairs and general society as well without allowing within her health or the quality of her work to suffer. As a rule, the members are obliged, if only from the limitations of time, to let their fraternity
affairs engross them to the exclusion of more general society. It is therefore not so much the fault of the individual as of the institution if cliques are the result.

As for the intellectual benefits which are claimed by the patronies which make a point of literary exercises, I think they might be...
obtained as well by other means. Why would not an open debating society afford equal opportunities?

This is however the other side of the shield. No doubt many a lonely girl has found her fraternity house in form rather a pleasant home than the usual boarding place. But that consideration has no application to a college which has halls of residence.
Nor do I doubt that many have found in
their patronitis a certain intellectual
stimulus and social training, but I
think that as a rule those who get the
are those who stand least in need of it,
and that in any case their need might
be met equally well in other ways.
I have some regrets at exposing
myself in a way so much at variance
with the opinions of many friends.
strength of the natural tie of kinship does not always result in the greatest happiness of the individuals concerned. I was told of one alumna who admitted that her college life had been spoiled by a division in her society. It is not very infrequently the case that people who are not really congenial find themselves in close relations in the fraternity, even when the
choice of members has been deliberate as it often is not. This leads me to speak of the evil of “rushing” which seems to me very objectionable. Perhaps this is not a familiar term to you. It refers to the approaching of those who are regarded as possible members. A girl is often paused and entertained and then suddenly and for no apparent reason
dropped. Criticism has probably very much modified their procedure, but the evil is almost inseparable from the institution, or at least has seemed so in Michigan.

All of the objections made to fraternities among young men are equally applicable in the case of young women, except as to the abuse of initiations which have of course
never been invited by them and never would be. While it is undoubtedly true that the [paternity has exercised a wholesome restraint upon the condition of it, untoward freshmen, yet on the other hand, if even one member obtains entrance whose influence is undesirable that influence has a double power from the closeness of the bond.
among the fraternities for whom I have much respect and admiration, but my convictions upon the subject are strong. While they may have been beneficial to some individuals, I feel that the good they may do is more than counterbalanced by the harm that is almost certain to result, and while I do not feel...
Sure that it is possible to keep them out, I should certainly see their introduction with regret, and I am fully convinced that the institution has a tendency against the social and intellectual democracy which I think very desirable in college life.

Yours very sincerely,

Artie W. Young.
86 West 17th St., New York.
Oct. 16, 1876.

Dear Miss Talbot,

At the time when I was a student in the University of Michigan, women's fraternities were already flourishing there and I therefore had no basis of comparison by which to judge whether their presence had been advantageous.
or otherwise. But I recall a conversation which I once had with a friend who had been a student in college when the first woman's fraternity was organized. Being in intimate relations with members of it she had been able to observe very closely the growth of fraternity spirit and subsequently as a resident of the town...
had watched the multiplication of fraternities. Her testimony I should
value. She told me that the unity
of college social life departed with
the birth of the first fraternity, and
that while formerly every newcomer
had been welcomed with open arms
from that day there had been a
separation into cliques and a change
in the old spirit of equality and sisterhood.

As she is a close observer and a woman of great good sense, that has always seemed to me very decisive testimony regarding the alleged benefits of the fraternity to society. My personal observation of college societies leads me to think that their benefits to the individual are also questionable. The attempt to give an artificial bond among the
449 Marshall St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Oct. 17 - 1896

Dear Miss Talbot,
Graduate School
University of Chicago.

Dear Miss Talbot,

I thank you for the compliment of asking my opinion on the subject of women's fraternities. I have delayed replying to your letter because the matter is such a difficult one to express an opinion about. I desired more time for consideration.

I am a member of the fraternity Kappa Alpha Theta which is the oldest of the women's fraternities and should like to state...
what my experience leads me to consider the desirable features of fraternity life. Fraternities foster warm and lasting friendships. The loyalty of fraternity members is remarkable. They develop firm and self-reliant. The older girls consider themselves the models of the younger ones and emulate their actions. I have known many a freshman saved for discretion because she knew her fraternity would criticize her actions.
The type of girl who would be indiscreet will accept advice from her
impressing that she would con-
form a charade.
The interest and loyalty of the
alumnae is strengthened by the
knowledge that future students will always receive a warm
welcome when they visit their
alma mater.
The contact with other colleges is strengthened and the patience of old and
new friends is expected and
hoped for.

First to assist in this manner are measures adopted by the faculty.
On the other hand, I know
there are disadvantages connected with their admission into college.
They do not have the benefit of the
society of their female sisters.

They are isolated from
the clique less. The
spell leave their friendless sisters
ultimately but hardly an accu-
quantum mental interest fit.
The offense will not great. Permit
ably keeps more at, and the
shirring as on is demoralizing.

I mean this is a new unsatisfac-
tory solution, but it is the result I consider to have.
I am sure we all have the best interest of the Wm. Wm. in
heart.

Harriet Bell Merrill
Oct. 2nd, 1895.

Winona, Oct. 15th, 1895.

My dear Miss Talbot,

I fear that my thoughts about college fraternities are of no particular value, because in my college days, Wellesley had only a few small literary societies, and my impressions must therefore be those of an outside spectator of fraternities in other colleges.

My feeling is, however, that it is valuable and often foolish to try to produce an artificial equality among students. It seems inevitable...
that most of the same facts, general attainments and culture
and of the same wealth should gather in groups. Only natural
forces can draw them together.
and an attempt to break down
duch barriers as we advance in
this way hardly seems to prepare
the student for life outside of
College walls. In the college
Colleges and universities as smaller
units than the college seem to
necessary for any real social and
intellectual companionship.
For these reasons I am inclined
to favor fraternities for women.

but, on the other hand, in some
instances that I have noticed,
the fraternity feeling seems to
absorb all the energies of college
life, and to substitute other
occupation and aims for those
which should belong to undergraduate
existence. This is, of course,
detrimental both to broad
sympathy and to true scholarship.
Whether this advantage is likely
to outweigh the danger seems to
me a question which must be
decided according to the
peculiar social conditions of each
individual college. On the
whole I favor fraternity life than it can be made subservient to the wider college life.

My truly yours,

Alice Ames Winter.
Hotel Eliot, Roxbury, Mass.,
October 17, 1876.

Dear Miss Salbot,

Your letter of October 10 is at hand.

My knowledge of secret societies as they exist in colleges has been gained from observation and hearing, not from experience.

At Vassar they have never been permitted and at Cornell they were introduced among the women after my time.
But from all I have been able to learn of their character and influence (and it is considerable), my judgment is strongly opposed to them. With women as with men, they work in direct opposition to the broad, catholic spirit which it is the special aim of the higher education to encourage. Women need an especially broad, generous training in youth, since their later lives are usually confined within narrower limits than are the lives of men.

Secret societies tend, at an early date in the student's career, to restrict her social intercourse to a clique which may prove in the end to be uncomgenial and even positively injurious; to fix her social status; and to determine to some extent on her intellectual bias, often in the wrong direction. The student's mind should be in a state of fluid.
Furthermore, secret societies, under the guise of fidelity to fellow-members, raise false standards of morality, thus substituting generosity for justice and quasi-honor for the true metal.

Cordially yours,

[Signature]

Vassar & Cornell
October 25, 1896

My dear Wm. Salbot,

I hardly know how to express my opinion on the question you ask, loyally as I respect my own fraternity and gratefully as I acknowledge the benefits I have derived from it, in both graduate and undergraduate days, I have often hoped that I should never be called on to defend concerning the admission of fraternity to a college where they did not exist. The chief evil of fraternity life is the
it could be done by mutual agreement among the fraternities, but the one or two "Pan-Hellenic" conferences arranged for the purpose, largely at the initiation of the A.U. chapter of K.N.T., failed to achieve any satisfactory result on account of the too optimistic and unrealistic character of some of the undergraduate delegates. I think the sincerity shown by the fraternity would rather not enter into college than to be bound by any rule imposed by the faculty.

In time I hope the committee will have some sense of the fraternity spirit and will not distracting from their responsibility for them.
annual insanity of the
"rush season." The political
measures that adopted, the
competitive spirit evoked, the
personal jealousies and gen-

erally demoralizing spirit
ment are matters of regre-

to all thoughtful
members of fraternities, more
true than they can be

on, and those who merely watch
from the outside. In

some way this period
would be passed with his

vention and society, there
would be little to criticize
in fraternity life among
women. But I have never

yet seen how the mat-
ter could be regulated.

In earlier years I thought
and the habit of aiding, strengthening and correcting one another afford an excellent training during these years while the greatest temptation is to hypocrisy; and I think it is in exceptional young women who do not learn from her fraternity charity and tolerance.

The objection which I have stated above far more strongly to mine than to women's fraternity, and I am inclined to think that the benefits to women are greater than to men. In fact it seems to me that a college that admits women's fraternity must logically admit women, and may do so with more confidence of desirable results. I have not spoken of the advantage to the student after graduation that must be apparent to every one. Now if you will accept a bit of personal testimony, let me say that a large part of what I prized most highly in my own college life and what I shall regard as the best of my undergraduate education came through my fraternity, and I should certainly am today...
a letter and a stronger woman than I could be without H.K.T.!

I hope to meet you in Providence; we may have time then to speak of this matter.

I beg you to excuse the delay in answering your letter; it has been unavoidable.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Dixwell Holcombe

17 Hempstead ave,
Northampton, Mass.
A.M. Boston
Ph.D. Yale
October 15, 1876.

My dear Miss Talbot,

My experience in regard to women's fraternities has been very limited, and my opinions may therefore not be unbiased. These fraternities do not exist in Vassar and Bryn Mawr, and their character may have undergone great change.
in the University of Michigan since my college days there. Although some of my best friends in the University were chapter members, and personally I was made neither unhappy nor uncomfortable by the existence of the fraternities, I thought their tendency was decidedly against unity, equality, and the general good fellowship.
that seems to me desirable. When many girls are brought together the
tendency to cliques in all to be sufficiently strong under the most
democratic conditions, but as far as I can judge, either from my
own observation or from reports that have reached me from other
colleges, this tendency is strongly emphasized by the presence of
secret societies. It seems to be a fact, too, that sooner or later bitter
feeling inevitably finds place between the members and the non-members.

It may be that my experience is exceptional, but in that case the fact will come to light from the reports of others, so that no great harm will have resulted from my generalizing on insufficient grounds. I shall be much interested in the position the University of Chicago takes after consideration of all the points of view.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth Sentry.
Boston. Oct. 18, 1876.

Dear Miss Talbot,

I have no hesitation in urging upon you the desirability of refusing to permit the introduction of secret societies into the University. I have seen enough of the lack of principle roused by such organizations in their members to feel sure that no good purpose is served by them that cannot be fully
replaced by open clubs and societies.

Very sincerely yours,
Edith Talbot Jackson.

grab. of
Boston, No.
2038 Spring Garden St.
Philadelphia, October 21, 1876.

Dear Miss Salbot,

For several years, I have not had the questions in connection with women's fraternities brought to my attention, so that my thoughts upon the matter is not based on recent observation or on recent consideration.

My judgment is against their introduction: the only argument that has weighed in their favor is that they foster the lowest spirit which seems to be weakened by our modern ways.
of living.

On the other hand, where such associations are strong, they introduce a spirit of caste which the membership constitutes a kind of aristocracy.

The existence of artificial distinctions in the social life of our colleges can not be too much deplored, for in them only is preserved the development of a social life characterized by equality in its members.

The tendency of the faculties is, to decrease a sentiment of contempt to the society, at the expense of the attachment to the College.

Such associations may constitute a difficult element in case of any difference of opinion between the College authorities and the students. Antagonism is not easily tampers, for the fond understanding that exists between the faculties and the women students in our colleges makes it easier to adjust all differences; nevertheless the existence of the faculties makes such a position of affairs less unhappy, and more difficult to
deal with.

I shall add that the fraternities seem to be characteristic of undergraduate life rather than of graduate, and that they detract somewhat, for that reason from the dignity of university society.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith

A B Vassar
Ph D Bryn Mawr
Lake Forest, Ill., November 27th

My dear Miss Talbot,

Your letter of inquiry should have had an earlier answer but that the pressure of daily duties drove it temporarily from my mind, and moreover my opinion on the subject of women's fraternities is not perfectly crystallized. With only the experience of Ann Arbor in mind I should have said that they were in general a good thing and that the small germ of evil I saw in them
might not at all interfere with their usefulness. Let your dormitory system right out the very evils I saw latent and at least it reduces the benefit to be derived from a sorority house. In Ann Arbor the girls needed clubs, or social living places, and fraternity such as the sorority houses afforded within two or three weeks I have had an opportunity to see something of the working, or rather results, as I am an outsider of the fraternity system in Evanston. I am much out of conceit of it. It interfece in many cases with study, it furnishes opportunity for the
growth of an unenviable ambition to outdo others in social entertainments and display. In short--I saw it as a fashionable "fad" and I was disgusted. Yet the social side in moderation I do like and approve of.

President--Raymond always strove to maintain at bazaar a social democracy. To do this he thought it necessary to banish secret societies. As a result we had numerous clubs, some of them secret in imitation of fraternities. But we could not proselyte in a wholesale fashion or "rush" in college slang--and we could not pass the secrets on to following cliques. In short--the pristine and nomadic nature of our secret clubs saved them from
the evils which crystallize in a perfect and aristocratic institution. All institutions, I need not remind you, become aristocratic and dogmatic in time.

You see I have no definite fixed opinion to offer you; if this summary of my observations is of benefit to you I shall be glad.

Would I ask a personal favor? Although I sent the postage and wrote the check in the President's office has failed to send me my thesis on George Eliot and an article in the New Englander on Browning's Dramas. Could you kindly jog his memory. Have them sent here, please?

Sincerely your friend,

Iola N. Street
Tifftara, N. Y.
Oct. 20, 1896.

To the Dean of the Women's Graduate School,
Univ. of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Madam:

Your communication to me was not signed, but I conclude it was made in good faith and reply to the best of my ability concerning the fraternities in college.

I am not a member of a fraternity, but have acquaintances who are—and also others who are not members.

There are certainly some advantages in the system. Those who join are brought in close connection with the members and kept up a friendly personal relation longer and more intimately with college mates, and have a closer relation with members of earlier and later classes, than seems possible to those who do not belong to fraternities.

On the other hand, acquaintance is limited by many to strict fraternity lines. The time of the fall term is spent with the leaders in a fraternity and the most interesting of the new semester is largely
taken up by the process known as rushing. There is a marked tendency for certain new comers to spend time and money in entertainments with a view to gaining invitation to join a fraternity. Jealousy and unhappiness naturally result with those who do not receive invitations, especially at Saybolt.

As yet I am informed that wealth, scholarship, nor any other one criterion determines the selection, in fact the selections are made before scholarship could be known.

To me the most serious objection seems to be the large demand upon the time for matters which are of a purely social nature. On the other hand, a certain organizing power and responsibility are gained. The cliqueness is only somewhat emphasized not introduced by fraternity and I am frank to confess that I do not see how fraternity can be excluded if students are bent on having them.

I am aware that an opinion with only one view of the subject would help you more but give you the two views which I see.

Sincerely yours,

Dowanna Phillips Sage

Wife of Prof. Lloyd C. Cornelius
My dear Miss Pelbot:

A short absence from Northfield and consequent pressure of College duties have delayed my answer by your letter. I fear that it is too late for you to persuade. However, I will say that my observation and experience in the matter of women's fraternities is that they lead to...
College Politics.

It has been the policy of Carleton College to discourage and forbid fraternities among the young men. The question has never come to an issue among the young men.

Very Sincerely yours,

Louisa Holman Richardson

November third.
destroy the unity of the whole body, making factions which are often more or less hostile. In some instances where most of the college women belong to secret societies and a few do not join, from preference or otherwise, the few are deprived of definite rights and privileges.

The organization of fraternal clubs leads to
Dear Miss Talbot

I have written rather warmly and lengthily; it seems but I then had such a pleasant life both in Michigan and Chicago and have known so well the inner working of both. That I feel that if my judgement is worth considering in any matter, it is to be considered here. Perhaps, though, I have grown too old to take the point of view of the undergraduates, I admit that my opinion now is quite different from what it was in my college undergraduate days. And if the societies are admitted, I shall say to my people, go in to win the first place.

We are settled in Berlin after nearly six months of painting about, and
I am happy to get to work again so much sightseeing you long to get back into your own milieu after being annihilated by so much genius in art & life. I have not gone into the University as it seemed rather absurd to do so when I can barely understand conversational German. Instead of this I am going to a girls' school to listen to the recitations. I think I get a good training in this way: beside I have a special tutor, I shall read scientific German a good deal.

There are forty women admitted as Hofzuhörerinnen to the University lectures most of them are Americans. The printed instructions are appalling but it is well to know just what lies before you.

With all your kindness and best wishes for your maiden voyage. Kisses and love from Selma Herron
Berlin, November 18, 1896.

My dear Miss Talbot,

With regard to the introduction of women's fraternities into the life of the University of Chicago there are two or three fundamental questions to be asked, it appears to me. In the first place, not does there special good effect by these societies in other colleges exist even now in the University.
out of all was the lesson of forbearance and that incident to such a relationship. Now, have we not—
I must still say—We already these benefits in connection with the House life and the many organizations of the University of Chicago? It may be urged, however, that the women not living in the Quad-caught do not participate in these things, but the physical obstacle of distance is not to be over-

come by organization, and it will remain a difficult matter to keep up social relationship with busy people, who live, each a sabbath day’s journey from the others.

But if there are advantages, what must be paid for them. The price is the straining and complicating if the already rather trying life of the women, or rather the young girls in the University—for it must be to them that these organization
From a very pleasant personal experience in the leadership of a non-secret fraternity, I found the advantages to be about those: a pleasant social relationship with congenial people of my own age and with the very kind and hospitable faculty ladies associated with us; a certain training in the management of smaller or larger social affairs, and to a slight degree in parliamentary usage; but perhaps
appeal. The social and benevolent interests of the college together with the very great attractions of the city seem quite enough "distraction" for any slight inclination toward study.

Beyond these considerations, one must remember that "fraternity" is not in this sense connected with "liberty" and "equality"; while there must always exist in any social body many unfortunate individuals who are "not in it" still, it is the part of the enlightened to learn the hard and fast lines distinct and unvaried. And fraternities draw their lines often in a very erratic fashion, leaving without those who would do them great honor. I recall now many clever women whose college life was embittered by the fact that they were not of "the chosen."

I have written too
much for my matter and have been perhaps disloyal to my own society, but not to the interest of a larger number.

Please pardon my incoherence and belief in

Sylvia Herron
Cambridge
Dec. 24, 1895

Dear friend,

I am sorry if I missed answering any letters that you have been answered. I write on my back only for a few hours a day, so it is hard to keep up. I sent messages through R. Hove. The War seems settled, but I hope the tone will be reasonable. Antigonus is suffering its turn and is almost more rampant than the other. When the dust clears away I think we shall see better. The President has rendered a great service.
many spirit it forced us to decide one for all whether we are to assert the Monroe doctrine or abandon it. For myself I think we should assert it or let any merely commercial ease or fear prevent it. To evade this in that spirit is as unmoral of us now, I think, as 30 years ago.

I write the Station

notice of Aldrich's delightful vol

- that you perhaps have in the Transcript.

As to the R.T. of course

I approve in advance anything which you do or ask others to do.

I thought it a little better to delay smally file it could be on deck, as he is a stranger, I don't know our ways, Cordially (I trust you are better)

F. W. Higginson
December 14, 1895

Professor Marion Talbot,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Dean Talbot:

The article you have so kindly sent, and which has reached us to-day, is admirable, and we shall be very glad to make use of it. I am not quite sure how soon we can print it, but it will be within two or three months, I hope. We have one or two other articles in hand or arranged for, which will help in a general way to reinforce yours. Believe me, with many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Dear President Harper,

The members of Kelly House have been desirous for many months to have the furnishing of their parlor completed. They are proud and fond of their college home and wish to have its public rooms as comfortable and attractive as possible. The recent gifts of Mrs. Foster to Foster Hall have given a stronger impulse to this desire, and they have determined to raise money to complete the work which Mrs. Kelly has so generously begun. They have held two meetings and have waited on me to obtain the official permission of the University authorities to give an Old English entertainment in Kent Hall for the benefit of Kelly Hall. It is the purpose of the members to make the entertainment of a character that will reflect only credit on all who are concerned. Will you please consider the matter at your earliest convenience and let me know your decision?

Very truly yours,

Sharon Salbot.