

Ellison and Lottie Hildreth Papers

Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 15

Finding aid for collection available at:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.015>

Series: I. Correspondence

Box / folder: 6 / 71

Folder label: LLH to/from Lucelia Wetherbee (aunt), from United States

Dates: 1907-1909

For copyright information see: <http://www.library.yale.edu/div/permissions.html>

Originals of collection held at:

Yale Divinity School Library, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511
(divinity.library@yale.edu)

Scanning and computer output microfilm prepared by Conversion Service Associates LLC, Shelton, CT with financial support from The Center for Christian Studies, Shantou University, 243 Da Xue Road, Shantou, Guangdong, China 515063

Dear Aunt Belle;—

B.B. in a letter I had from him the other day suggested that I write up Union in a pretty complete way and have someone in the family send it along with the Round Robin so I'm asking you if you will do it. You and B.A. have indicated your interest, No one else need read this unless they choose.

In the first place this couldn't possibly be complete. But I'll try to make it show what I am doing so much as possible. So I'll begin by describing yesterday, a day far from typical. But a good deal nearer than the average to what I ought to do. It was a holiday and at 9.00 I began on spiritual conferences, reading 5 books = 49 good sized pages in about 3 hrs. Then lunch and four more books = 52 pages from 1.30 to 5.00. Then I went for a walk after dinner I wrote two letters then studied theology, and copied some notes

and got to bed about 11 P.M. Augustine's
conclusions I found more interesting than
I expected. Especially Ch. 9. telling
of his conversion. But in some places,
especially when he discusses the
pagan beliefs of the sect he formerly
belonged to. I had great difficulty in
keeping awake. On passage I read
over Ch. 9 or 3 times and each time
in spite of greatest efforts my mind
would wander when I was about $\frac{2}{3}$
thru. and I finally gave it up as a
bad job. and when I told B.B. that
theology at 10.15 P.M. was fascinating
he'll understand that I didn't care
much for Augustine. Perhaps some
one else will be interested to know
that these confusions are said to be
by far the most interesting work
we had in that subject. and we
have 1000 pages to read. and thus
far I have averaged between 10 and
15 pages an hour.

I considered yesterday a hard
day. Today was an easy one. Four
lectures in the morning 9.00 9 readings
of Jesus. 10. Church History. 11. Life
world of modern missionary. 12. Theo-
logy. 1.00 Lunch. After lunch I read
a chapter in McNeill's Apostolic
Age. the one describing the conversion

of Paul, and his beliefs based on that experience.
Remembered Sabatier's brief account of Paul's
doctrine of atonement, which differed in some
important particulars. Got it out and began to
compare the two, looking up scripture references,
first in English then in Greek. Found that the
difference hinges on the meaning of the word
"justify" which Sabatier (who is my prof. in
Church History) interprets differently from the
authorities. I tried to follow the reasoning by
which he tries to prove it, and had to quit it up,
because I had been studying 3 hrs and was tired.
Couldn't go out on account of rain so read a
chapter in "Social Passage of Modern Pulpit"
by B. Brown of Oakland, Cal. After dinner
read Literary Digest, and am now writing, when
I finish this I shall read some more, probably
in that last book. To finish this afternoon
work I shall have to decide that question of
"justify" look up all the scripture passages
in Sabatier and McNeill. A hundred or so
probably, and decide which I think supports
Paul correctly. I say in my spare moments
I can debate what effect that is to have on
my theory of the atonement. That is all

Especially, to those chapters. But
all of them involve a good deal of looking
up Scripture. We are supposed to
read that book, and ought to read two
or more others to get varying points of
view; then we translate, "pages of
sources"; and a paper to write. That
course has 4 of my 15 hrs. Somewhat
worse are Teachings of Jesus, and
of John. Two hours each. The former
asks me to read Matt. Mark & Luke
in the Greek; Psalms of Solomon and
Testament of the 12 Patriarchs in
translation (about know how many pages
scholars Jewish People in Time of Christ
(part of it) 387 pages; Wendt's
Teachings of Jesus. 2 vols. #06 & #14
pages, respectively; and a paper.
The subject I have chosen is Jesus's
conception of spirits and the spirit.
John offers the reading of the 4th
Gospel and the Epistles in Greek.
Ignatius & Polycarp. 51, and 6 pages
respectively (Fortunately, I have to read
that in ch. history 60). Weiss, a book
about the size of Wendt and Scott,
which I haven't looked up. And the
paper I am going to write on the
Holy Spirit
Theology is
not quite so bad. One can get along
with almost no work on that, but that

is exactly the thing on which I would
like to specialize this year if I had
time. In Homilies I have to write
a sermon outline a week, also read
social message - and have
Rauschenbusch's Christianity and the
social crisis. In life & of
missionary, nothing is required, and
in City problems I'm not sure
whether any reading is required but
there is a paper to write. And the
fity of it is to think of the vast
opportunities going to waste because
a man literally hasn't time to avail
himself of them. I'm getting
on better because I am learning to
accomplish things as the rest of the
men do. Last year was a sort of a
heavy contemplative existence,
like Venice, compared to Broadway.
If a lesson was too long we used to do
part of it. Here, the ordinary man does
the whole of it, no matter how long,
and it's a continual wonder to me
how some men get the work done.
That they are doing right along.
I have more cause every day to be
grateful that I left Rochester. In
the best analysis, no matter how
much the courses might be

improved. I had the feeling that the atmosphere of Rochester was unfavorable to scholarly work. I am more convinced of it than ever now. Then I was comparing it with Andover which also has the recitation system. I believe in the system for a college but not for a graduate school. When I compared Rochester recitations with Andover they were not so good. But here we have the lecture system. The whole class hour we are learning, and the time outside is spent in reading to see what we can get out of it. At Rochester the preparation was to make a recitation, and the recitation was often hopelessly useless. In 7 of my 13 hrs. the ordinary recitation was time thrown away. I used to write letters which I could have done better in my own room; but never missed anything by not paying attention for there was nothing to miss. And $\frac{7}{13}$ is a pretty big proportion in ~~the~~ required courses. There are courses here which are not much good, but they are not required, and there is only one man whom everyone acknowledges to be poor; he was very good in his day.

but is expected to be retired any day. The two men
at Rochester are comparatively young; one rests
on his oars and there positively no hope of his
getting any better; the other works hard - I say
and the only reason his no better is because he
hasn't it in him to be a teacher; the first was a
failure as a preacher; one of his parishioners
endowed a chair on condition that Mason occupy
it as long as he live. The other was a failure
as a preacher; his father is president of the
Seminary. His sister-in-law is a Rochester and
his uncle gave the new dormitory. Each is a
most excellent man. Mason being a true gentleman
and Strong having one of the sweetest spiritual
natures I ever knew; each is an absolute
failure as a teacher. That each was a failure
as a preacher I have on the testimony of my
own pastor and the wife of a Springfield man
who graduated from Rochester. There is no
prospect of being either; they are young. No one
will ever want them for anything else. and they
have comfortable positions and congenial
surroundings. One of the men who
came with me here is engaged to the daughter
of Rev J. G. Boston of Somerville a Rochester graduate.

who insisted he was to go to Rochester
instead of Paris. wrote an introduction
to Mr. Strong - and has been invited to be
an orator at Stanley's commencement
at Rochester (if he ever graduates there)
At the anniversary the Rev. Mr. Minster
told him that 3 men were going to leave
Rochester, and intimated that he didn't
blame them. Rev. W. J. was mad, and
was going to write to Mr. Strong at
once. They decided to wait till he got
home, when he sent for Stanley and
begged to go for him. Stanley immediately
offered five in return, and talked him to
a complete stand still. In fact so much
so that his "fa-in-law" agreed to the
(then) plan of his going to Union for
a year and then returning to R. to
graduate. We all faced the question
(had to) whether a man could get a
Baptist church on graduating from
Union. Especially leaving Robt to do
it. My answer was that I would rather
be a live thinking man without a church
(or rejected by the mission board) than
the useless thing I knew I would become
if I stayed. With Rochester's trade
mark of orthodoxy to give a false
impression. For Rochester's conservatism
and Union's liberalism are equally
exaggerated. Study Robert and Dr. Stone

answered it by saying they would go
back to Rochester. but it is becoming
more and more apparent that that
answer won't do. I can't go back to
Rochester; to do that would be un-
ethical suicide for me; and I don't
believe they can when the time comes.
Even now they are wavering. and Fred
admits that the only reason for returning
to that he can get some fairly good
courses if he does and get the support
instead of the opposition of Rochester.
I recognize the value of that consider-
ation; but with me it's not sufficient.
If I am rejected by the Baptist mission
board, I am prepared to go under some
other; failing that, if I can't get a
Baptist church I am prepared to take
a Congregational. or most any kind.
or go into W.M.A. work. settlement
work. teaching, or most anything
that offers the opportunity of doing good.
I have no authority to speak for Lotie
in this, but feel sure she would agree
with me in it.

When I started this letter I meant
it for a Round Robin. but before I
had written a page, changed my mind
and wrote just for you and L.P. Won't
you please send it to him when you
see him, and ask him to send it to
Lotie when he has finished. The
rest of the family wouldn't be

interested in most of it. I'll write
one in a different style for them if they
wish. And I have said quite a
number of things I wouldn't say to
any but you two — and Lottie.

Won't you both please
criticize any thing you find in the
letter to blame — & to praise.
I always realize when I write or
say any thing of this kind, that
I am young and may not look
at things in the right light and
proportion. At the same time I feel
very strongly what I have said.
If there is any thing wrong, please
tell me so, and please, if you
love me, both of you, put it
straight. If there is any thing you
find to criticize, say exactly what
you mean without regard to what
my feelings may be. There are not
many people to whom I would say
this! I wouldn't to you two if I
didn't mean it.

Now replying to your letter.
Chas. G. Bennett Hall is our president,
and I mustn't start to tell you how
much I like him, or that would be
another letter as long as this already.
I should be surprised indeed if
you didn't like him too. As to I

haven't read it. I just wish you could see him I really
believe you would. (if his preaching is at all like he
is here) like him better than anyone else you
ever heard. I hate saying considerable w/o. and
fully realize. I will try to find out about his
other books for you. I don't see how a man as busy
as he has time to write any books. though.

Truly,

Allison.

700 Park Ave
New York City
Nov. 6 1907

P.S. 25 9.30 and I shall have just about time
for another chapter of "Social Heritage"
P.

EMMA WILLARD SCHOOL
TROY, NEW YORK

Dear Aunt Cole and others; I am writing with my fountain pen again and I am so glad to hear it. I guess it has been out of use for the greater part of at least a year. Yesterday when I came in, I found not only the pen but a little package from Miss Benson (Canada) containing a pair of white knitted mitts to wear with elbow sleeves. They are dainty and warm and I have already enjoyed them much.

This week has been somewhat unusual. I tried to visit Albany Normal but they were having connector exams. We have had exams and in consequence I have been able to write 27 letters since Monday morning and send little or a small gift for them.

On Thursday evening we had a faculty

concert and the violin numbers were
 were perfectly beautiful. They made me see
 all the beautiful ocean and concerts and
 all the wonderful sights which I saw this
 vacation.

On Friday evening we went to the basket ball
 game. I was between two girls-teams in the same
 school and the boys sang songs for them and cheered.
 It was too funny! but very interesting and made me
 feel very anxious to play again. I was nice to get
 away from school atmosphere for awhile too.

My marks are all made out for this
 semester. It doesn't seem possible that a half
 year's work is done.

You know the beautiful calendar which Mattie
 made for me my freshman year at College. It is
 priceless -

The other night at table the girls were trying
 to find out my first name and somebody
 suggested that it might be Louis Lane. Oh
 I have had to stand a good bit of teasing this
 week.

I may possibly find it necessary to go to New York for the 22nd about a position next year. This changing is expensive business.

Don't be frightened if I should turn up home some day. Things are not particularly smooth here. There is no use in explaining for you would all side with me I'm sure and I'll assist developments.

Will you tell Pope that my fountain pen arrived yesterday but that the bell must have come to him and I will send money if he will tell me cost and also about my watch. I will write him about 4 spoons later. I p. Mrs Mass Kennedy who wanted to know about them.

I am pleased with all of George's marks except the History exam and hope that he will try to improve there. Ruth's are good too. I am very glad that the boys are going to church. It will please Pope and everybody.

What was the matter with Uncle Charlie?
Feb. 2 '02. Love to everybody, Lottie

Bridgewater Mass
Sept. 25 - 1905.

Any one dear Lottie has
a birthday tomorrow
and I wish her
many many happy
birthdays. The time
was good to us on
that September day,
twenty six years ago,
when they left you
in that little back
room in Walford.
and they weren't what
of our kind & yours were
they? They didn't
choose a very elegant

place, but they do choose
the very best family in all
the world, or anyway the
family that would give
most. Aren't you glad they
left you these instead of
in some manner?

I'm glad the birthday
comes on Saturday and
hope you can celebrate
in some way that will
do your soul good. Has
Ellison returned from his
rambles yet? If so he
may help you. By the
way I would like to know
more about those ram-
bles. A pretty post. card from
Orl. Washington has told
us all we know. He will
soon be back in New York.
If he is not there already.
And how are you ever going
to get in all the good
things he will want.
You'll share with him? I
hope the work will grow
easier as you go on, but I
know there will always be
more than any one person
ought to do. Don't allow your

ask a go. woman and
wish I will you, desire
your health is too pre-
cious a thing to be
sacrificed for any
school board, and
if they are demand-
ing more than any
one ought to do, just
give it up. That might
mean cowardly, but
it would really be
the bravest thing you
could do. It would re-
quire ten times more
courage than I would
- buy or and make
a wreck of yourself.

Love lovingly

Ann C. C.

Bridgewater
Mar. 25 - 1907.

Dear Ellison.

I know my
debt on that pen is
outstanding - but I
want to be honest -
all the same. I don't
think of taking over
for it - that I gave
many years ago.
hence the enclosed.

I wonder where
Lottie is today New
York - Iverton, or
Rockford - you have
had a happy year
together so far - have

you? And now your
time of special prepa-
ration for life's work
is nearing its end.
Are you looking
forward with joy-
ful anticipations to
entering the great
army of bread-win-
ners? I hope you
will find the actual
struggle happy and
inspiring.

Letter will tell
me, when I see her
the latter part of
this week, how I
is going with you
but when you feel

like I. and can write
I should like to receive
a letter "from your own
hand".

Lovingly yours

David L. L.

Bridgewater - Sept. 24-69

Return

Dear Lettie - Glad I sit on the back
slips - mad all through because
Miss C. wants something all
about - up. Got a very good wood
in which I will a built day letter
is it? I don't offer rebel at her
stitches - indeed she doesn't often
insist on them - but we do differ
about the amount of feet air one
needs. It is horribly muggy, but
I claim that ~~any~~ feet air is better
than dwarf feet air.

Pat is home from school
now 10 a.m. Don't that fine! Friday
is her easy day - only German. you
know, do you not, that she had
dropped type - writing and stenography.
All who were interested thought
she could not get enough in
one year to benefit her. I am very
glad for Marion's sake - for she has
quite a little time to help her now
and the poor girl needs her help
sadly. She is the biggest kind of a
comfort to - and I feel sure it is
going to be well that she is here,
from all sides. You has been home
the last two nights - an short unpaired
extended thing - Marion was very happy
and she thinks to that she

ever was of the actors when they
were so little - go with Rust and
the baby, and his own good resolves
we have high hopes. The baby grows
dears every day. weighs twelve pounds
now. and is plump and fair. - 3 miles
at us and "god's" to answer for anything
Mrs says she believes I worship Christ
and I say, "why not?" It is right - we
shif godliness and beauty. They are
divine qualities. Little Horace has
been over & get his daily portion of
Amor jelly. I mean 1. beef the
supply equal the demand.

Hadn't it been in your mouth &
bring Ted out so we could see
him again. He is just as brown and
sturdy as ever, and his father's head
rejoiced over him. I think he has
been hungry for his boy, and I
can't think it was just right for them
to be separated so long. C. B. says I
will never suffer again. He thought
he had changed so much that he
would not have known him. His
own visit was so short we hardly
felt that we had seen him, and your
mother's about the same, away from
them. til Monday morning. And these
glimpses refresh us.

Wm and little Horace came & see
Dell yesterday. will stay till Sunday
I believe. I would get into a clean shell
and see how I can them for a few
mounds. Her keeps being and is better

I think Edw. Dell's for the present
you know.

Now, dearie, wishing you all
happiness ~~and~~ your birthday, and
praying that there may be many
many returns, I am
your loving Aunt-Coley

P.S. excuse the blot, please. I must
have drawn it over the ink by slipper.

lighted. ^{but} hasn't heard from Nell - p.
Did you hear that Adie's little girl came
Friday morning - just nine weeks after mine.
She's a dear wee baby - a five pounder. It'd like
to have another rigit off when I see her, she's so dear.
Only I could wish her a tiny baby girl - it
seems. Mine seem all grown up.
Certainly this little fellow knows a whole lot. He
smiles beautifully & goes & talks all the stories

on. didn't have time to finish -
She will write me later -

Dear Ella, I thought
that you might be
interested in these
letters. How is Ruddy?
I wish her to well.
Or - little
from Oct 29, 1901.

Bridgwater - Oct. 12 - 1901

Dear Lottie. I hope Ruth or Della
have got you know that your check
came all right and was gratefully
received by all three of us. My eyes
ached so much last week I could not
use them for anything and was
afraid I should have to go to Dr Cook
at once, but they are much better
now, so I think the eye trouble
was caused by biliousness. I had
the impression that there were no
more checks to come this way.
You are sure you are not send-
ing too many, aren't you?

It is such a cloudy morning -
(though just now it is brighter than
it has been for 36 hours) and I am
more stupid than the morning even.
It is too bad to neglect a letter to you
now, but it is really my first chance
since you came last time. None came
this morning, though I made the
letter carrier look them over twice. I
was so sure yours must be there.
It is all right it may be at the
post now or possibly you didn't get
it started so early as usual.

You have had so good to send
us some of E. S. It's better and he
wrote me one himself last week.
Please thank him for it and tell him
I appreciate it, but may not be able

good to know about his work and
I am so glad he is enjoying it - and
must, and keeping so busy - I am
certainly his very sympathizing
his "silly boy" and his countess-
mious parents. I wish all kinds
even in a small school like that
possible.

How fine that you could
see New York in its gala array?
The papers and magazines have
been full of it. Of course I have
read much of it - only a ^{long} ^{and} ^{very} ^{interesting} ^{and} ^{very} ^{descriptive}
and then, but enough, to get a glimpse
of the spirit of the occasion.

How I wish you could have been
with us or had of our walk last
week through that beautiful wood
land road around the foot of the
hill. The first time there was my
Marion, Everett, Elizabeth Parshley and
Baby and myself, but Sunday there
were eleven of us - nearly all the
family except Della and Ruth B.
and I believe Baby enjoyed it as
much as any of us. He would
lie in our arms and look up thro'
the trees and see in the sweetest way
He is just heavenly - grows fairer and
more beautiful every day and ~~no~~
no words can tell how fine he is.
We all think he is more like you
than any other child in the family.
No more today
Pile of love - Aunt. A.

Bridgewater Nov 21-1907.

Dear Leticia - I'm afraid I - is very late to ask you to change your plans for Thanksgiving, but I seem to just^{ly} have awakened to the fact that all your family will be here except your own dear self. You know, as a rule I hate holidays, and don't think much about them till they are right upon me. Of course I have anticipated seeing your mother and all the others, but didn't realize that you would be the only one who would be far away. Marion suggested some time ago that we all contribute and make you come, but I said, oh, I - will be too hard a journey for her to take for ~~her~~ ^{her} a time. But you, see I put you in my place instead of myself in your place, when I said that. Can you follow

my twisted bright? ^{tho} Now my
scheme is for you to take ten
dollars (or more if necessary)
from the next check you
are to send me, and come to me
just as speedily as you can.
If you haven't it by your last
allowance, or shall ^{in any of your} ~~shall~~ I will
make it right at this end.
I shall never miss it, and
it will hardly be a gift even,
for it will simply mean
ten dollars more for you
& do for me when you
have got rich leaving the
heathen, and I am feeble
and old, and feebleminded.
Have you an engagement
that can't be broken? ^{tho} Other
we must be haffing with
you. but you would reject my
scheme on any other grounds
will you? If I ~~can~~ ^{was} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~silent~~
I'm not going to say anything
about it to any one, so they
will not be disappointed if
you don't come, and it will be
a big beautiful surprise if you

You know we are all v-
el-inarians, do you not? It is
well worth the trip just to
see our beautiful baby. I
know you will say, as I do,
that he is absolutely perfect.

If you can come and visit
I will, only come as soon as
you can I-362 Summer St-
your loving Aunt-Lila.

Please forgive the blots. I
suppose it is my unaccustomed
use of the pen that makes me
so awkward with it.
L. G. H.