

discouraged. I was determined to like here tho' every one of my toes were frosted if there was a prospect of doing any good. One night I dreamed I saw a beautiful, bright star and the next morning I went along to school when, lo, there stood a large wood stove! You need not laugh now—for I never was more rejoiced—not for a long time.—Since then I have kept pretty comfortable. I shall now think it best to remain thro the winter, perhaps longer. . . .

I'll tell you about our Christmas. At the tavern where the bell is they had a something in the evening. Some say it was a dinner, others a supper, while others call it a ball. About fifty were there. As a compliment, of course it could be nothing else, as it must have been known that I would not go. I received an invitation, printed in due form, as a "Cotillion party." Well, that passed off, and friday evening I had another invitation to visit with a very pleasant family. A few ladies and gentlemen were present, and we had a fine time making molasses candy.

Shall I tell you how nicely I commenced the New Year? I made half a dozen calls, wrote a long letter to a friend, and in the evening went to a prayer meeting. The morning I commenced by opening to a hymn as we used to do at home. Today I went to school, found no fire, began to make one, and had the misfortune to tip the stove over; down it came pipe and all; but we got it set up again, and went on as usual. How finely I began, didn't I? Well I do not intend to tip the stove over every morning for it would be too much trouble, and cease to be a variety.

My health is very good except a cold which I took getting initiated. It has kept me coughing much of the time, but will wear away in time.

. . . The great excitement here is about getting the Capital located here. Whether they will succeed or not, I will not pretend to say.

Arozina

Fairfield, Iowa, May 20, 1851

My dear Brother,

. . . I had become discouraged completely—no, I saw, or tho't I saw, that it would be better for me to go to some older town, and wait for young ladies and children to grow there. Therefore C. McK. wrote to know if Mr. Bill wished another teacher at his Seminary. His answer was that the condition of the school would not justify the employment of another at present. I then wrote to Mr. B. merely mentioning a few things I could teach, and requesting him if he knew of any situation where I might be useful to inform me. He then wrote me immediately that matters had so turned about that he wished me to come on. This was quite unexpected as I had not the least idea when I wrote to him that he would want me, judging from his letter to Mr. McK. Whether it was the style of the letter that interested him, (for I do not always write carelessly) or sympathy for my unpleasant situation, that caused this decision, I am unable to say; and as he wished an answer by return of mail I wrote that I would go. Afterwards, however, matters at the

Fort took a decided turn for the better; there seemed to be a complete reaction of feeling in the minds of many, and instead of looking upon the lone Yankee as a speculating adventurer they seemed to understand that she had come there for the sole purpose of doing good among them. This change was effected mostly by visiting and calling among the people which the winds and cold of the winter had prevented me from doing as much as I usually do in a strange field of labor. At the close of my second term I got up an examination, which delighted the children, and had I remained I had assurances of a large school for the summer. Then I concluded to stay if Mr. Be. would release me. But a couple of teachers whom he expected from the East (Miss Mary Condit and her sister from Oswego, N.Y.) had been prevented by unexpected providences from coming on, and he urged the necessity of my coming immediately. Then I picked up again and started. I had a delightful ride over the prairies. O I wish you could see the country in the vicinity of F. Des M. and about Pella. I never saw as beautiful and so every one says that travels over it. Nothing in the eastern part of Iowa, that I have seen, can compare with it. The town I left is improving rapidly. Strangers are coming in every day, and we passed swarms of emigrant wagons going on—21st. Now I must tell you about this place. Fairfield is one third the distance from Keokuk to F. Des Moines, consequently you perceive that I have come east more than 100 miles. It is the largest inland town in the state at present, I think, and is said to be very healthy. Probably by coming here for the summer I shall escape the chills which are unavoidable on all the river towns. Rev. Mr. Bell is a man of about 60 and has two daughters at home who with their mother superintend the household matters. The schoolroom is in the same buildings, and there are accommodations for about 24 young ladies as boarding pupils. At present there are but six boarding scholars; the session has just commenced, and more are expected, tho' the number will not be so great as in the winter, while the number of day scholars is much greater. I have the sole management of about 25 young ladies during school hours, and act the matron and lawgiver to our boarders!! What strange leaps I have ever made thro' life. Think of my hencoop school-house at Fair Haven and my transit thence into the Academy. This change is even greater from such a—to this pleasant and convenient location.—There is also a primary department, and a separate room for the little girls. The teacher Miss Wier is a western girl. She is about 30 and an excellent person. She rooms with me. The total number of the school is about 50. Each session consists of 21 weeks. I told the people at the Fort who were so unwilling to let me come away, that probably I should return there in the fall, but I shall not promise anything definite to anybody. I barely cleared my expenses there, and had just enough to take me comfortably thro' to Fairfield. Therefore I have given six months instruction gratis. If they, or the Board require more, they must wait till I have earned enough here to repair my clothes etc., and have a few cents, at least, to resort to in case of sickness. Do you think it is wrong? and ought I to have staid there thro' all the trials? . . .

Oh I have grown weary of writing letters, and tired of everything. I never was so completely low in spirits in my life as I have been for sometime past. And I have striven to appear cheerful till it almost seems a vain effort. And I cannot comprehend how you can always feel so happy. Do write me something cheerful, for I scarcely care whether I live or die. I am not homesick, neither are my feelings the result of imaginary griefs. If I ever see you again perhaps I will tell you just the truth. Till I came west I never knew much of trouble, but I like here, and probably shall live and die here. The weather has been so dreadful for two or three weeks, that it was sufficient to cloud any one's brow. It has rained every day and there have been several long heavy tempests of lightning, thunder, hail etc. I never knew so much thunder in the Spring before. —But I will not complain, I ought not, for only think what a comfortable little room I have, no nice and cosey, with a little stove, a little bookcase for my big dictionary and its minor companions, and place for my Accordion on top with room for a vase of wild flowers. There they are blooming now—the bright, painted cup and wild phlox so sweet and modest. Then we have a little wardrobe—Oh hush! little fingers tapping at the door Come in! And here is a large, beautiful bouquet of sweet williams and, and—a variety of flowers I never saw before sent up by one of my young ladies. I could not live without flowers I believe. Now it is schooltime and I must wait till noon to finish.—Noon has come and gone, and I have just dismissed school for the night. But I find myself nearly sick abed. A cold, which I felt first last night, has been increasing all day, and now I can scarcely speak above a whisper but I am delighted with my school. The young ladies were all so orderly and behaved so well that it will be nothing but a recreation to teach them, that is, if they continue so. I believe there are some pleasant spots in life after all; don't you? Zina

The State of College Athletics

The history of college athletics in Iowa is . . . not as edifying as it might be. The interest of athletic enthusiasts over the state is centered in the action which Iowa college faculties are going to take . . . for greater emphasis on clean sportsmanship and high scholarship with less attention to the question of mere professionalism. There has been a decided movement for a revision of the antiquated rules which govern Iowa intercollegiate sports.—*The Register and Leader* (Des Moines), October 1, 1905.

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