

Waterville, Oct. 5. 1890.

Dear Miss Coburn,

I have been looking for a letter from you for several days. Did you receive Dr. Baberman's letter that I enclosed for your reading?

I received yesterday a letter from Mrs. Dr. Pepper. She wrote very kindly thanking me for what I have done, a "service", as she calls it. This new movement, she says, "is a concession to the laziest and worst elements in the college and out."

I heartily appreciate the feeling which prompts her to write so plainly when to do it she is obliged, as she says, "to take issue with the present administration."

What a miserable piece of business this is! To think that a person can't in this land of free speech and free thought say out his

honest conviction for fear of discouraging to some one high in authority. I am heartily sick and disgusted with the whole thing. But I do feel that the moral victory is ours though we may have to wait long years for the triumph of the right. I think we should get many more words of commendation, if people felt free to speak.

I must tell you what Prof. Leatic said. Of course it reminded him of a story. "There was an Irishman who had a boy and when the boy was little his father used to whip him. When the boy grew up, however, he gave his father a whipping, but the Irishman said 'he never could a' done it, if he hadn't brought 'im up.'" Pretty good, wasn't it.

And now a little matter of business.

That we might have some extra copies, I ordered 100 more at the Mail Office. We expected to have them for about \$3.00, in which case we, who live here, would have taken them. But owing to the fact that about

half of the type had been distributed and had to be re-set, they have cost us the enormous sum of \$10.00. The money already assessed from the girls pays the bills thus far but these 100 must be paid for in some way. Now what I wish is that the girls would take as many as they can afford to at the rate at which they come, 10 cts. per copy, and help us out. I will take ten, Alice five, Hattie five and more, she says, if we can't dispose of them all. I have written ^{to see} if Bertha Soule will take five or ten.

Can't you take some? I think they might perhaps, work good for our cause if sent to friends of the college. I think the enemies of co-education will do all they can to ignore our action and cover it up and for that reason I want as many as possible to know of what we have done. Dr. Baberman requested me to send a copy to Dr. Upham of Chelsea, an old graduate, ^{and I have done so} Prof. Hall said something to Hattie about copies to send around to the libraries

but he may have thought better of it. I have heard nothing more about it.

If you should decide to take any, will you let me know as soon as possible?

The Sigma Kappa is in a quandary, about these new girls, whether to invite them to join us or not. I am inclined to think, as you do, that perhaps it is best just now to take them in while the new plan is on trial.

But sometimes in the bitterness of my heart I say, "Better bury the society than degrade it." If, in time, the character of the girls does really degenerate very much, I should think it would be better to refuse to admit any more and let the society die. But it hunts me to think of it, and of course we should lose much of our hold and our influence among the under-graduates. The cons. provides, they say, for only 25 acting members.

What is to be done? If we take in all of these new girls, it will have to be changed.

We might choose those we want, but it seems selfish when there is no other society for them to join. What do you think? Please write soon. Fraternally,
M. L. Leaver