

Fern Glen, Aug 30th, 1913.

My own dear Sister,

Rec'd your card from Yarmouth yesterday and the package of books a few days before and your dear letter a few days prior to that, and thank you very much for all. Have read Lodge's book and five of the Lectures and am so interested in them, will study them when I have read the other four lectures. I enjoyed Prof Peake's lecture best of all I do believe. He's a fine old fellow, doesn't dodge the question at all but he is brave and a good fighter. Sir Oliver is a very advanced Physical Scientist, have read some of his writings, and have always admired them as far as they go, and he always seems as tho he would like to go into the ^{Psychic} ~~Physical~~ _{Part of the} if he could only prove it, but it is impossible to prove the Spiritual by the five Physical Senses. However he is doing good work, I just enjoy his kind of books. I could scarcely leave it, have neglected my daily paper & magazines since receiving your package.

I've had a pretty rough life. you know a little of it, not much, for it isn't worth room in our precious letter space, to recount it. but thro' it all I have been trying to learn something, it has been hard work, for I haven't many "talents," I think I'm the man to which one was given. but I've kept "digging" when I could, you say you hardly know what my belief is, it would be hard for me to say, at 60 I'm just in my A.B.C's. I regret that I have not advanced more. I could enumerate a number of excuses but they would not exonerate me. I never make excuses. I am "guilty." but I doubt if even Sir Oliver could clearly define his belief, after a life of investigation in the heights & depths of knowledge. I might perhaps give you an inkling of my efforts to gain "more light" by giving you the titles of a few books on the shelf of my book case just in front of me for my desk opens in the lower half of it

Journal of Researches	Darwin
Origin of Species	"
Descent of man	"
First Principles	Spencer
Data of Ethics	"

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The Microscope - Grosse
Electricity in Modern life - Jungellman
Fragments of Science - Tyndall
Sound

Science & Education - Huxley
Other worlds than ours - Proctor
Philosophy of History - Hegel
Critique of Pure Reason - Kant

These will kinder give you an idea of
the lines I have been working on
with but indifferent success. at the
same time saturated in a business
exacting & fraught with responsibility,
amidst a lot of men to whom my
aspirations would have been entirely
unintelligible had they known them.
Mama, altho being well educated does
not lean to anything scientific, she is
just naturally good and is satisfied
to let well alone. That - so I have had
to plod on alone, and didn't get very
far but I've enjoyed it all, and look
forward to my advent into the spiritual
existence almost eagerly, hoping there
to advance more quickly. meanwhile
I am having a pretty good time in

The Ozark Hills of South Missouri.
The smell of Peaches is in the land
we eat peaches, talk peaches, sleep peaches
and wish there wasn't a peach in the
country, at least we say so sometimes
these hot days. it is 106° now, Sunday
afternoon, and I have lost a number
of Dollars by not picking & packing &
hauling to town the peaches which
will fall today & those that will be
overripe tomorrow; we began to ship
this last week and will haul a wagon
load to town every day now until the
Elbertas are all shipped which will be
about two weeks more. if you were
in Willow Springs today you would
view a busy scene and the aroma
of peaches would nauseate you. we
pick them carefully, and pack them in
small chip baskets, and then pack
six baskets in a crate, a car holds
500 crates and they expect to ship
one thousand car loads so you see
there are some peaches around just
now, and, Hot! - gracious if we were
not acclimated it would kill us. I

hauled the load³ to town Friday & Sat^d
and the way the sun beat down was
something fierce and yet we perspire
very little, but if you place your hand
on your bare body it nearly chills
your hand the evaporation is so quick
The horses too don't sweat & lather
as you would expect. Juicy Peaches
are heavy but they haul them up these
hills without much trouble. I'm a fellow
who favors my horse more than
myself. and we go slow and give
them a cool drink every time we reach
a Spring. we remember it is hard work
and fearfully hot, and try to make
them as comfortable as possible for
they are our faithful helpers. we
will have Mules old enough to do the
hot hauling next year. They can stand
the heat better than horses. we work
them now on the farm but they are
not old enough to take a heavy load
10 miles over such roads as these.

Frances took some snap shots on the
farm when she was here and she
enclosed samples in the last circuit

letter but I had to let them go forward
but will get her to send me a set &
will send them to you. Lillian is here
now. for 3 or 4 weeks. she will can
fruit & ship it to her home for winter
use. she will take some pictures too
I expect. They all have small cameras
and I like to encourage their use. The
last circuit letter contained 32 pictures
from Win & Jo & Frank. Then they enclose
samples of their new dresses & trimmings
&c. & we all keep posted as to what
the others are doing. - Must ask you to
excuse Alice not writing this summer
I have to be satisfied with an occasional
card. in her whole life she has made but
one close friend a girl of her own age
They were chums when young and have
always remained so. Alice schemed &
planned for several years to marry her
to Jim. whenever Jim went to see Alice
Edith was invited to meet him. she is
a splendid good girl. pretty & highly
educated but Jim would never "bite"
and it used to annoy Alice terribly for
she was always singing Edith's praises

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and I believe Edith would have accepted Jim. but finally Alice gave up in despair after giving Jim a good rating for being so blind & indifferent. He and then went & married her herself, and Edith has never married. and is spending the summer with Alice this year, so when I heard of it I wrote Alice and bade her good bye until Fall when Edith returns to her teaching in Kansas City Schools. and instead of writing letters they are climbing mountains & bathing in the Pacific and having a good time together for Jim has not been home since May 6th. he is busy on a big job in Arizona.

Was tickled at your description of the old Judge going to Church with such a meidival retinue. different from the Judges in the Ozarks. did I ever tell you of the time I was arrested. One evening a big fellow rode up & asked if my name was Jof, he said I am Sheriff of this County & have a summons for you. I said why I havent killed a man for a year. its worse than that he stated & read over the summons to appear at the County Seat on a

certain day to answer the charge of perjury for making a false statement in my assessment declaration. They had found where I had a mortgage on a farm for \$2000 I had loaned on it and failed to put it in my statement of what I owned, so I invited the Sheriff to put his horse in the stable & stay all night with me which he did. I told Mauna afterwards that I watched her close so she did not put poison in his food. Ha! we spent a pleasant evening together & next morning the Sheriff rode away & when the day came along I appeared at the Court house, didn't even engage a lawyer, in the Court room everybody was talking & having a good time. The Judges with the rest of them dressed in rough clothes, the Chief Justice and two associate Judges. I was introduced to them and chatted until Court opened, I had asked them to put my case early as I wished to return home, they kindly called it the second one, and I explained that my affidavit was made according to law a full list of everything I owned &

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all my investments on June 1st, which
is the day stated in the law, and
the Mortgage I made to secure a
loan of \$2000 was dated June 3rd
one fellow as soon as he heard this
spoke up & said "you have 'em
skinned". Ha. - I showed them the
proof and the judge said, "Mr. Fox
I'm sorry you beat us for the County
needs the money," I said "so do I judge."
and it was all over & the next case
was called as I left the room, the
judge had on Corduroy pants and
a blue wool shirt, and I suppose
a gun in his pocket, he farms between
sessions of Court. -

wouldn't I like to accompany you &
Hubert on your rambles, to think of
your long Summer daylight, it goes dark
so much earlier here, when the sun sets
you have to hurry for it is soon dark
I must come & spend a Summer
month with you some day, you
make me so hungry to see it all
again. Lois you are a born poet when
it comes to describing Country Scenes

and sounds. - Cyril has killed two Rattle Snakes this summer but one was a small one, the other a big fellow but Cyril spoiled its skin in the fight. There was a fine specimen killed on the road that runs by our farm a few days ago, but we want the one we send you to be killed on our farm by one of us. Cyril kills most of them, but he's so crazy when he gets in a fight that he often ruins their skins. but a fellow can't always choose just when to hit them, for they are pretty quick.

Well it is bed time have finished since some neighbors have left who came in this afternoon and stopped my letter.

We are all well and lean & bronzed and I hope when I next write that we shall be over our rush. Those bloaters on your card made me hungry, but they would taste good after so long. - we will have some when I come.

Toudest love my darling Sister.
Bro Dase.