

from  
Bridgeton  
Pennsylvania

to Bristol

Bridgeton Jan 27.

My dear Mrs. Belden

This letter will probably be written by sections but I guess it will be all the same to you. I have thought about you a great many times of late. (oh well, I always do that) and wished I could "run in" & have a good talk with you.

I was very glad to receive yours a short time ago. but sorry to know that you had been sick. Mrs. Hackett tells me that you write her that you have entirely recovered.

She was so pleased with you

letter, and told us some things  
you said. Mrs. H- is pretty  
well, but her nerves are so  
shattered that she can not  
stand the least excitement.  
I am sorry for her for it  
deprives her of so many pleas-  
ures.

In this mail I will send  
you a paper giving an account  
of Mrs. Bantredy's visit & talk  
to us last evening. I suppose  
you probably know her personally.  
She is a friend of the "Bridges" and  
staid with them.

We have advanced a little I  
think in opening the church  
for her, and filling it about

two-thirds full. To be sure we  
drew on the Baptists some, but  
we advised and talked it up  
well before she came. It was  
our affair and of course held  
in our ch. - a collection was  
taken which brought us in  
\$17.53 after her expenses were  
paid. Now for the talk itself -  
she is a delightful speaker,  
and thrilled me through and  
through with her accounts of  
woman's life in India, China &  
Japan, and the lines of work  
the missionaries pursue. To be  
sure we knew a good deal of  
it before, but her enthusiastic  
way of telling what she had

seen and heard herself, brought  
it right home to one's heart.

She told of one poor woman in  
China I think, who, for merit, had  
dug a well twenty feet deep and  
six feet across, with her hands.  
She was afterward converted, and  
Mrs B-<sup>and</sup> a friend, held that hand  
and joined, each in her own lang-  
uage in singing with her "Nothing  
in my hand I bring - simply to  
thy cross I cling." There is an  
association that will cling to me  
for a long time. The "Seven Gables"  
girls sat just under her eyes,  
and she made a very strong  
appeal to the young people in  
closing. After she was done

Miss Spyer went to her and told her (and spoke it to several of us standing around) that she was the first person that had ever touched her sufficiently to make her want to go herself. They went down the aisle talking with locked arms.

Oh, what an inspiration such a talk is, it makes one feel that they do so little, and show so little gratitude for what has been done for them. How can any body that has a heart and soul, stand aloof from that work, and refuse to do even the little that any of us can do.

Excuse my writing at such length about it, but I know you will

appreciate<sup>it</sup> for it is very dear to  
your heart, and when I am  
full of a subject somebody must  
be my escape valve.

That Missionary Calendar I  
sent you, is one of three  
dozen we sold at a little  
fair held in our parlors in  
Nov. - it was only a small  
affair but we cleared about  
thirty dollars. We cant tell  
yet how our funds will come  
out, but we dont want to  
fall behind.

Did you know Wattie Shoemakers  
had given up her Band into  
Mrs. Bridges hands? she and  
Mrs. Kirk are going to run it,  
and I guess they can do it.

I dont know much about  
the "Willing Workers", but Mrs.  
Potter finds it up-hill work  
I am sure, from the way she  
spoke one day. I gave each  
girl five cents in the fall to  
invest and make what she  
could of. I hope it may amount  
to something.

10 P. M. Mrs. Colwell and I  
have been to a revival service  
at Trinity ch. conducted by a  
Mr. Barker. now I am through  
for the winter and shall stop.  
There is no use in my trying  
to like, or even see much good  
in that sort of thing, for I  
cant do it. if it works well  
with them all right, but it

does not move me any more than if I was a stone.

A quiet earnest appeal such as we had last night from Mrs. Bainbridge, breaks me up a great deal sooner.

I have been interested and deeply thrilled since Christmas by reading "The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life" by Hannah Whitall Smith. Have you seen it? if so I wish you would tell me what you think of it. Ed gave it to me, and after I had read it, gave it to him to read, and it has moved us both as nothing in a long time has. It has inspired us with such a longing and

desire for a better, - holier -  
 happier Christian life, and the  
 whole subject is one that has  
 taken possession of me, and is  
 in my thoughts a great deal.  
 In reading the book I was  
 forcibly reminded of Mr. Belden's  
 sermon last Feb. "An art of faith"  
 "Stretch forth thy hand" - and  
 brought out the extract <sup>from</sup> of it  
 that I have. He says "you can  
 believe." He lays a great deal  
 of stress on the will, and  
 says the secret is in willing  
 or resolving, to give up our  
 own wills in complete surren-  
 der to God's will, and then  
 trusting him to do for us  
 what he has promised

because he has promised, and to believe in spite of our own feelings and even our own doubts. Some how the way in which the subject was presented was a revelation to me, and I read and pondered it through tears and prayers.

It certainly many of us fail to live the lives we might, and is it not because we are so slow to understand what we might have for the asking & believing?

Another thing in connection with it brought you to my mind, I was very much struck with the personality of the book, it seemed to

appeal so to my needs and wants, as if the writer had known my individual difficulties, and in speaking to two or three others about it they gave exactly the same testimony - then came to my mind the verse you have so often quoted to me "I have had no temptation taken you but such as is common to man," the same sins and the same needs the world over, require the same saviour & the same salvation.

I wonder if you mind my running on in this free & easy way to you. I was hardly conscious of it myself, but I

assure you there is scarcely any  
body else. (no, I dont know of  
any one) to whom I would say  
all this. You are associated in  
my memory with so much that  
is good and helpful, that I  
involuntarily turn to you with  
my serious thoughts.

Please tell Mr. Belden  
that the Miss. Reviews for Leeb  
have come all right so I guess  
things are straightened out -  
I did not mean to be impa-  
tient, but I did think they  
might give me some satisfac-  
tion. I did not want any  
favours, only justice. I am  
much obliged to him for  
interceding for me.

I thank you most kindly Mrs. Belden for asking me to visit you, and I would dearly love to do it, but I can say now just as well as next summer, that it will be impossible for me to leave home. I do not get away at all. my post of duty is here and right here I must stay.

Ed is improving but is not out yet - he has been housed about five weeks.

so is quite a stranger on the street.

Our dear little baby boy is so sweet and cunning.