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MC247: Folder 1: Gleason, Percy 1899 May 6

*This transcription from the original letter contains language contemporaneous of the time and is being presented as part of a historical record.*

“Point Pleasant”

May 6, 1899

My Dear Percy,

Although it is yet early all the folks have gone to bed. Maud said she knew I wanted to put in a “whole lot of loving messages” or I would have written before she retired. I am glad my letter came at the right time, but really I am afraid there wasn’t anything in it that would give you much satisfaction. I don’t wonder you feel angry at the way those people intend to treat you. But if you give good satisfaction in the school I should think you would be alright anyhow. I should think they would expect a teacher to be above a good many things. Really there is very little encouragement for a young man to try to be good: if “you don’t go in with the “the boys,” and be one of them, they have very little use for you. It doesn’t matter much, though, who likes what one does if we try to do what is right, everything will come out alright in the end. I do hope things will turn out your way + I feel sure they will. Maud said she was very glad she wasn’t thinking of being a teacher, as she thought all of them had so much trouble.

I think I would be very selfish if I wasn’t willing to do by you as you did by me; it would make no difference to me what church you belonged to, as you would always be the same Percy to me. I like Methodist well enough, I only wish I were just half as good as some Methodists I know.

You were right in not going to the dances, if the company was not what it should be. No one can be too careful about the company he keeps. Sometimes I feel as though I never wanted to go anywhere again, and especially, so, when I hear something about those whom I have know [sic] all my life. I sometimes wonder why this world is so full of vice and sin. People can not be happy when they are not doing right, so I can’t see why they don’t know even try to be good.

I think there is a great ad-vantage in having scholars who come so regularly, I don’t think it is because your school is small, it is because the pupils like their teacher so well.

I hope you will get long enough vacation this summer to come to see me, but as for seeing any of my “art in cooking,” I am afraid you will be disappointed. But maybe we will enough; such as it will be for you to get “fulled” up on as Richard says. And, little sister will be real obliging with her music. Maybe in various other ways.

It just makes me homesick when I think of those mornings at Prairie. We will hope that just as pleasant ones will come again sometime. I wonder where and how soon. I feel so lonely, tonight, how I wish you were with me this minute. It seems strange to be at home and still have an unsatisfied feeling. I can hardly explain what it is, but I know if you were here, or I was with

you no matter where, I would feel perfectly satisfied. Thank you very much for the school course.

We received a letter from Marguerite last evening, she is in M'ville, and doesn't know just when she will come home.

We have had some lovely showers today, and between them I helped Pa plant garden, or rather, I should say, kept him company will [sic] he did the work.

Leo wrote he intended coming up tomorrow, but I suppose the recent rains have made it too muddy for his wheel. I would hardly expect him, anyway, he wrote M a very nice letter the other day. I don't think she has answered yet. It will be so nice for you when you [sic] wheel arrives. Will enclose a little note Maud scribbled, just be-fore she "hopped" into bed she said she would leave it for me to put in, but hardly thought I would do it. I hardly looked for your letter this evening, that is. I thought it would be too good to get it, but was so agreeably disappointed. I am getting rather weary, so shall close with love.

From yours,  
Lydia L. Vineyard