

UC Davis Archives and Special Collections

MC247: Folder 6: Gleason, Percy 1899 August 5

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

“Strawberry”

Aug 5, 1899

My dearest Lydia,

It is such a bright lovely day that perhaps I can write you at least a halfway decent letter.

I do not intend to finish this now for you cannot possibly get it before Tuesday.

I feel just like raising old Ned as the saying is. I am going to a dance tonight and I'll have a high old time if that is possible. Oh if you and Little Sister could be here to go with me. Perhaps you would not want to go after reading my horrible letters.

The roads are going to be fine now since the rain. Oh, I forget I did not tell you that we had a lovely storm Thursday night. It rained quite hard and last evening it just poured down and the vivid lightning made the scene so weird while the thunder was appalling. We all stood put on the porch and watched the storm and enjoyed the strange scenery.

Young Mr. Sevey said the lightning struck several trees around him when he was coming home.

You say Miss Marie Peterson has fallen into that dreadful [sic] snare. Well I hope she may have a happy future. She can not be called one of the Prairie girls for her folks live to [sic] near Browns Valley therefore, she would be classed as being a resident of W.H.G.

Your view of the snowsheds and the surrounding country must have been beautiful.

Don't let me hear of your going to Reno. If I do I may do something desperate as you saw. Of course you know the meaning of the saying “Gone to Reno.”

I just tell you what it is, fly rods costs money and it is not a very profitable fishing trip when a fellow breaks his rod and only gets 37 trout. You must remember that these trout are small. They do not average much over 6 inches.

You said that you felt rest-less. Do you think you will feel entirely satisfied when you – oh well you know when?

“After the Ball” Aug 6

Oh how jolly I feel! Sure now I never drank anything strong-er than water. The dance came near being a failure on account of the music not coming. The fellow who did play had not played any for a long time and consequently his music was not extra good at first anyway. His schottisches were entirely too fast but his waltzes were very good and oh my! When he started to play a waltz, he forgot to stop. I was well satisfied with that part of it. I am certain he played for half an hour on one dance.

They could just scrape up men enough to dance two setts [sic] and there must have been at least 30 ladies. You have no idea of how exceedingly nice the girls could be.

Round dance predominated. After supper there was scarcely anything but waltzes. They called for four separate waltzes, one after another. Ha, ha!

Wasn't I in it? Only five gents danced round, dances to amount to anything.

I could fill a whole lot of letters about that hop.

Mr. Hamrick was the leader of the dance. I think you have lost him though for Miss Carrie set up a great flirtation with him – all for her sister's sake you know.

Mr. Alonzo Craft happened in to the hop while on his road down from a fishing trip. Oh, but some of these girls made him sweat – me too but not so much as he.

I thought of you when I was having some fine waltzes. My best dance was with one of my school girls. Was it wrong for me to have a good dance with one of my pupils?

I turned in at 4:40 and arose at about 8:00. I do not feel a bit tired, although I did not miss the part of one dance all night. I must take a long trip toward La Porte and well finish this when I come back. Tis now 9:12 AM.

Back from La Porte 6:12 PM.

I am having lots of fun. I have just arrive [sic] from La Porte, after a 30 mile ride and I feel more like dancing than ever.

At suppertime last night a young man treated us to about an hours entertainment with his graphophone and it was very good, in fact, some of the best I have ever heard.

It rained on us all the way down from La Porte today but I did not get wet for I had my mackintosh.

I have arrange [sic] so that I did not lose any time the Fourth and well consequently be out by the 12th of Nov.

Now please do not write me if you thought you really had to. Your late letters seemed to have had that tone I know my letters have been horrible so I need not say anything.

Give Little Sister my love is as it is all yours

Affectionately yours,
Percy