

GENMS10_Sweetser_18980518tr

Transcribed by Julie Cismoski

Gorham Maine

May 18, 1898

My dear Mamma-

Received

you[r] letter this afternoon
and will write to you
now. I have been working
over three hours on two
examples in partial payments
and have just got them
to come out right. This
morning I received a box
of pinks from Uncle Frank
and Aunt Ida. I suppose
I should have got them
yesterday afternoon but
they were delayed somewhere
so I did not get them until
recess time this morning.

[Page 2]

They were wilted quite badly but

I came over to the hall and put
them in water and tonight they
are looking quite fresh.

I wish you would thank Aunt Ida
& Uncle Frank for me. I would
write them a note and thank
them myself but am awful
tired and have a good deal
more studying to do.

I paid my board last Tuesday and
Mr. Corthell¹ said then that he did
not know when school would
close. He wants it to close June 17th 16th
but it may not until June 22nd.

All the teachers speak as if we were
going to have a school Memorial Day.
So I do not think I will plan to come
home then. Eunice & Grace are coming
home the next week and I think
I will wait & come with them.
I am glad you think of coming
over but if we should have a school
Memorial Day I am afraid you
would not enjoy your visit as
there would be very little time
outside of school.

¹ W.J. Corthell was the first principal of the Western State Normal School in Gorham, founded in 1878. Corthell Hall was named in his honor in 1926. <http://usm.maine.edu/library/specialcollections/usm-timeline#WilliamCorthell> n.d. Web. 11 Jan. 2017.

I shall have to have a new shirt
waist of some kind to wear examination
day. I could not do what grandma

[Page 3]

said very well. It would
do no good.

I tried to find something
in gloves and in corsets
here but could not. I suppose
you are too busy to go to Portland
some Monday but I wish
you could sometime before
Memorial.

The Gorham Fire Dept. was
out tonight practicing for
something they are
going to have Memorial.
They we[re] down under
our windows seeing how
far they could throw the
water.

There are three evangelists
(women) stopping here at
the Hall and there are
two men stopping somewhere.

[Page 4]

They are the worst looking
things I ever saw. They
are going to be here for
a week or more I believe.

They don't like to think
the girls dance here
after supper.

It seems good to have
Eunice back for I got tired
of rooming alone.

I expect Herman wonders
why I do not write to
him. Well I will when
I have a chance to
stop to think of anything
to write to him.

Well it is ten o'clock and
I should not stop to
write anymore but I know

[Page 5]

that I shall not have any time
in the morning.

Today has been much cooler
and tonight it has been raining

a little. My work in arithmetic
is awful hard. We are in Bank
Discount and Partial Payments
and we have quite long lessons.
I will not take down any of
the things in our room until
after you come over. Our room
does not look very pretty any
way but let me know when
you are coming so we can
wash the floor. We did not
intend to wash it again before
we go home but shall if you
come over. Could you have
that plaid made into a shirt-
waist² if I were to send you
my measure. You spoke of having
one made for me when I was
home. I think Ethel would cut
a pretty one if you think I can
have one fixed.
Last night during study hours
I upset a bottle of ink and

[Page 6]

things were lively for a

² A woman's tailored garment (as a blouse or dress) with details copied from men's shirts. "Shirtwaist." *Merriam-Webster.com*. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 11 Jan. 2017.

while. It did not do
any damage as it did
not get on to anything
we cared for except my
hands. It is awful hard
to begin to study before
it is time to light a lamp
especially to keep quiet
when you see anything
out of doors which you
want to say something
about.

Well it is now thirteen
minutes past ten and
in two more all lamp[s]
must be out so I must
close with love to all.

Let me hear from you soon.

Harriet

It has been raining nearly all
night & is now cloudy. Forgot

[The following is written along the right side and top of page 6]

to put this in the letter basket and Charles is going to take it to the P.O.