

Dec. 12- 21

Dearest daughter,

I haven't much for 2 reasons- great [crazy?]-ness, and each day thinking I'd go up in about 2 [more?]- Your letter was so welcome, + I carry it about with me in my hand bag, wh. gives a sort of feeling of having you near.

Sophie has been here "convening" with the W.I.L. I did too, all day Sat. + yesterday went to their mass meeting, which was well attended (every seat taken in a big hall) but which in my judgment lacked fire (was rather poor really). The three principle speakers, Miss Addams. F. Kelley, Miss Crook (a former secretary of the organization) each repeated the speeches they had made the day before at the smaller meeting.

The group is a pacifist group from a to z and as far as I can see. Mary [Wilson?] introduced a resolution, or not exactly that, but something looking forward to restricting the conditions of membership to those who would promise not to take any part in any future war. I brkfsted yesterday w. Miss Addams (or rather sat with her while she ate her brkfst) + told her I had attended the session on Sat. because I am interested in peace and want to help promote it and thought I might be able to do so by joining the W.I.L. but that M. Wilson's speech had made me feel I couldn't. Miss A. (she is international president) said there was no danger of Miss W's suggestion being adopted but I'm not so sure. I also told her that I could not make free trade a principle of mine, at least that I don't know enough about it to do so. I told her what the effect, in my opinion would be in [China?], + Miss Wald ([Keerson's?] settlement, also at brkfst) said it would undoubtedly [wrek?] great hardship at first, but that [strikethrough] things [/strikethrough] these new [economic?] relations would soon adjust themselves. It made me smile, because F. Kelley has roused the women's organization against our purposed amendment on the ground that it would 1) prevent or greatly delay future women's welfare legislation, 2) that it would re-open the old cases. Miss Adams, + I suppose Miss Wald, had seemed sympathetic with this view point. I gave Miss A. our [loyal?] opinions (I am very proud of [Shippen's?]) on the subject, and begged her to study them. We shall have to do a lot of educating all over the country I think, just when we are trying to see the heads of organization, at least I am, trying to prevent them from going so far along the war part that they wont be able to turn round again.

One woman, who lunched with us last week, said she had twice refused to vote with 14 other women, all leaders of organizations on legislation [secretarian?] against our amendment, all the others having cast their vote against it. She said she refused until she could see it, because she believed that we must intend great good for women and thought she ought to have our side. She is Mrs Wm. [Tilton?] of Cambridge + [Keens?] and greatly admires L. [Bradford?], has spoken for her at the L. [illegible]

She later brought us a Mrs. Weather, Chicago, to convert. Mrs. M. seems to be a great light, elderly old fashioned club woman type, sat in front row of mass meeting platform yesterday. Also at conference day before, + [illegible] influential. She had been much opposed to our proposition, but since seeing A. Paul has become interested and said she would come back to hear more.

I am now trying to get an opinion from Wayne Wheeler, which will not only be of great value generally among the Prohib. group, but may head of the W.C.T.U. group Mrs. [Jost?] (the W.C.T.U. legislative sec'y) is a member of the first congressional Ctte. (women) and has been hearing all the objections. I am going to see her today or tomorrow. She is lovely. We came across the continent in same train after Denr. Convention.

There's good news but I'll go to breakfast now. Please read this to Mother provided you are able to read it to yourself. Love to E.B. + to Robert. All [underlined] much [/underlined] cheered about [welfare?

Fed?] by what you write. Miss Addams is afraid of it for Chicago. Miss Wald for New York. Will tell you why when we talk. Too long to write.

Miss A. asked me about her [Ches?]. When I [illegible]ed, said "He is a good [fellow?] isn't he?" said he was very considered for some position in Chicago. Boys of course.

Good bye lovely,
Mother

[printed on the recto at the head of each page]

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