

Ada, O. Oct. 20, 1895.
10 P.M.

Miss Bertha E. Lambert,
Westerville, Ohio.

My Darling Bertha:

Once more this grand privilege is presented to me. How much I enjoy this opportunity after wrestling with hard tasks until weary and what a solace it is to realize that I am speaking to my loved one knowing that she sympathizes in every emotion and that her thought is constantly seeking my own. Yes 'tis wonderful indeed. and better experienced than told. I wonder sometimes how I used to get along when I realized that I was simply walking alone. not knowing whither I was going nor why I was living, but now it seems to me new life and inspiration has been imparted. I do not feel as I used to feel in many respects and it must all be attributed to your little but inspiring "yes" given as we sat facing the fire in your sitting room.

I shall not soon forget the inspiration and — yes surprise I must say — of that moment, but it was sweet surprise for although I felt that time would bring that answer, yet I seemed to have felt that I was asking largely and am thankful to say that I received accordingly for no other treasure is comparable to that which came with that moment. I feel so perfectly satisfied and confident that there is a Divine Hand in this, and no difference how pretty, refined, educated, wealthy, religious

or talented young lady I may meet, I see nothing
in her that is comparable in any way to my own true
and loving Bertha. How could it be possible otherwise
since one so noble, so pure, affectionate and devoted fills
every nerve and fiber of my existence. I feel that whatever
work we may take up our plan is wise. If the ministry,
J.M.C.A. work or mission work, I can conceive of no
nobler plan, for what is more ennobling than the love
and affection of a true woman or what could be a greater
wall of protection to a man than the virtue of a beloved
companion, or were I to follow a trade what a guardian
angel you would be. Besides as I look into nature's laws
and see her marvellous works and behold the workings
of the human mind, I must say that ^{it seems to me} a person does
not live only half a life when they fail to participate
in this great law of love. I sometimes become almost
impatient to think of the long time we have talked of
intervening ere carrying out our plans. I hope to be able
to decide this time just about how much schooling to take
and the nature of the work and I know that you are anxious
about this decision also. I would so much enjoy talking with
you face to face on this question, for I feel that since we are
one it is rather difficult for half of a person to decide what
so much and dearly concerns the whole person, but I think
we may discuss this in our next visit. I think I know about
what you will say in substance and we may have a little quarrel

But I should not trouble you with such forebodings, but
I certainly would enjoy troubling you with my presence
and I am anxiously awaiting the time when I shall
see you every day and enjoy the inspiration of soul that
beams from your countenance. But I must go on

Your letter brought a tone of sadness with it in respect
to the recent deaths. We are not apt to think much of death
until brought into its presence. Sam Small spoke
here last Friday night - and McKinley Monday night -
but I heard neither of them although I look hands
with the governor. Tuesday night - I think was the
grandest treat I ever enjoyed in the way of eloquence
pathos and sublimity. ex-confederate Gen. John B. Gordon
of Atlanta Ga. lectured on "The last days of the
Confederacy." He led one division of Lee's Army through-
out the entire war, and covered Lee's retreat from
Richmond. I wish you might - have heard him.

I recite Cicero De senectute at 10 Fri. at 11 Sci Rhet 1:40
Homer 6:30 in the evening. Doubtless had I not
made three visits - to W. you could get a "point"
for the lecture course, but now of course they
are afraid. They had a big Democratic rally
at Lima last Sat. but I did not go. Some of the
club thought it was the wrong direction.

Our next lecture will be held next Tuesday
night. subject Dr. ~~Jay~~ Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
by Robert Nourse.

you have read the book & believe have you not?
I should not tempt you about our visits. you
know how much I long to be with you and were my
circumstances as many young men I think it might
be quite different, but considering all, work etc
I think best to ask if we might wait until holidays.

I realize however that there is a certain element
contained in our affairs which does not want to be
set aside nor controlled by money or time considerations.

I don't want to go beyond that bound.

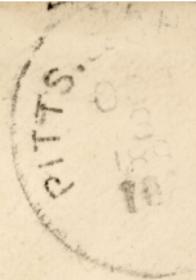
I leave the stage ~~Tue~~ night, but must conduct
our separate meeting next Sunday.

You may think from this letter that the
writer is a fit subject for the insane asylum
; but if so, you are the cause of it all.

may you be surely kept at all times

your Ever, J. H. Harris.

59.



Miss Bertha Lambert,
Westerville,
Ohio.

"Franklin Co."