

Muhlenburg Mission.

Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.  
Nov..5th 1894.

MY DEAR ELLEN.

Your very welcome letter reached me some time ago but I have been so busy that I found it impossible to write. There are so many business constantly coming that often there is scarcely time for a letter to friends.

The last mail was two weeks behind time and there is supposed to be a steamer every two weeks we had the two mails nearly together and after all it did seem a little strange to be getting letters and papers every few days. The steamer in going into port at Gambia ran on a sand bank and stuck fast so that they had to take out most of the cargo to lighten it so that it could be floated off and that put them behind time. It is no small task to unload a steamer on this where there are so few facilities and then have it all to put back again.. Ships are very often wrecked in these regions as the harbors are very poor and the sand banks are continually changing location, making navigation very difficult. There is seldom much loss of life as they steam very near shore and in case of disaster the people are taken off in small boats.

Our rainy season is about over though it still rains every day but only heavy showers which do not last long. Next month the dry season will begin and the weather will be more pleasant. It is not excessively warm but the heat is constant from one year's end to the other. Of course in the rainy season it is cloudy and the rays of the Sun do not come directly down but still it is sultry and unpleasant.

By every mail I have letters from Emma. She is improving in health but not as fast as we had hoped. We thought it best not to give her address when she went home as she was weak and nervous and not able to do any visiting or even much letter writing.

She is in Evansville, Rock County Wisconsin. It is a very pretty little place and with a cool crisp climate that will do more than medicine to build up the shattered system and get out the accumulated malaria. I can not say how long she will remain in the U. S. as all will depend on her health.

She will likely go East when strong enough still I cannot say what her intentions are.

The natives here are having a disease something like the grippe and it is spreading among them very rapidly. It comes on with a cough, pain in the bones, and headache followed by severe fever which kills them off by hundreds.. Of course there are no physicians among them and they do not understand this disease.

We have just finished gathering and cleaning our coffee crop and this year had about thirty thousand lbs. It is worth about twenty five cents a pound so from this source we have a nice income for our mission work.

I often think of you and wish you were here now. I could not only give you a comfortable home but what a relief you could be to me in the absence of Emma. I have a good set of housekeepers but there would be nothing like having your own color at the head of the house. Both the house girls are well trained and do their work splendidly. They were both raised in our home from small children and can cook and bake as well as any woman in more civilized lands. They are neat tidy and willing so I have no complaint in that direction.

I am sure you are improving in your writing. I am so glad you are. My own hand writing is very bad so I nearly always use the type writer. I not only write plain with that but so much more rapidly than with a pen.

I am a little tired this morning. Yesterday being Sabbath I had four hard services and in this hot climate that is about as much as any one can do. I do not often hear from the western people or at least not directly. Now and then some one tells me they have heard from them but I have no personal correspondence with any one of them. I have almost completely lost sight of all of them.

I wish I could hear now and then from them but it seems out of the question.

But the bell is ringing and I suppose I will have to close this.

I have a great deal of work on hand and will be just as busy as I can be to day. Good bye. Give my love to all the family.

Lovingly Your, s.

D. A. Day.

MISS ELLEN MILLER

MISS ELLEN MILLER  
100 N. 10th St.  
St. Paul, Minn.

*[The body of the letter contains several paragraphs of text that are extremely faint and illegible due to the age and condition of the paper. The text appears to be a personal letter, possibly discussing family matters or a specific event.]*

Miss Ellen Miller