

Muhlenburg Mission.

Oct. 9th 1895.

My Dear Ellen.

By this time you have heard of course of the death of Emma. The mail of one week ago brought me the church papers and letters from her relatives with all the particulars though I heard it two weeks earlier.

Four weeks previous to her death her physician wrote me that she was very bad and could not recover. I would have started for home at once but he informed me that it was too late and so it proved for in ten days the gentle spirit took its flight to the better land.

In some measure I was prepared for it by the doctor's letters yet the blow came with no less weight. I need not tell you, you, of my own loss. All of the church papers had extended accounts of her life and death. She was a model not only as a wife but as a missionary and Africa has lost a friend I can assure you. To this work she gave twenty years of her splendid life and into it went her whole heart. I hope you saw the Lutheran World and the Lutheran Observer as they give you much fuller account than I can write.

I have been suffering a good deal from nervous prostration and consequent loss of sleep but am getting over it now and improving every day.

The last mail brought me a good many letters and there was an accumulation for several weeks before so that I will have at least a full weeks work getting them off hand. I have not much heart to write to any one just now but then to do nothing only makes matters worse and the best way is to keep busy.

Your letter dated in Augt. came to hand by the same mail that brought the accounts of her death. I was glad to get it as I am always glad to hear from home and outside of what I get from you I hear almost nothing from any one.

I cannot tell yet of course what change this will make in my life as I have yet thought of nothing. I wish you were here to take charge of the house for me but that is out of the question. I may break up housekeeping in the near future though I do not want the mission home to go down and will try to keep it up until there is some other competent person to take it in hand. We have a good home and you would be surprised to see the comforts we have in it. I have a good cook, two chamber maids a couple of excellent house boys, a washerwoman and all the rest of them but at present no responsible housekeeper. There has to be in a place like this some one to manage these people and keep them in place. I have with me Miss. Davis, a young colored woman from Canada who would be fully competent but I do not see how she could be spared from her other duties. She is a fine scholar being a graduate of two good colleges. She is also a good musician and plays very well. She is a trained nurse from the Montreal hospital is cultured and refined and a splendid missionary. She sets broken bones, pulls teeth and does a hundred little things that we can not get done else were so it would be a pity to take her from work of that kind. As it is she looks after many household matters for me and is as kind as only that kind of people know how to be. I shall as soon as able more than likely go to the U. S. though I cannot tell now. Please excuse hast in this letter as I am not only very much hurried but in very poor condition of mind or heart to do work of this kind.

With kindest love to all  
I am your, s.

Lois A. May