

April 4, 1949

Dear Mrs McVicar,

I was glad to hear that you had had such a nice spring holiday and that Mr McVicar had got so much good out of it. By now, you will have had a talk with Mrs Brack and will have heard that all the archives, files, etc., were left in good order. I do hope that you will be able to hang on to the famous hall cupboard although something seems to tell me that our little friend in the library has her eye on it. I am more than ever convinced that, in any event, the historical material it contains ought to be preserved from a national and international point of view. If all else fails, a good large trunk would store most of it.

Since my return I have spent most of my time reclining gracefully in a dentist's chair, giving out loud yelps at intervals. However, I am glad I was able to hold out long enough to get back to my own man in whom I have great faith though he scolds me unmercifully. Nice to be back in the little apartment, too. I'm so glad I was extravagant and kept it on while I was away. If all goes well, I am planning to stay in Montreal until about May 15 and then to make my way out to Vancouver by easy stages. I hope to spend Easter with my cousins in Quebec. He has just got back from a stay of some months in England where he attended the Lambeth Conference and I am looking forward to hearing what they think of the state of affairs in general. His wife was the leader of a delegation of Church women who made a tour of certain parts of Germany.

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Dr and Mrs Cullen just before I left Hopkins. Both of them (and particularly Mrs Cullen) reiterated their conviction that the time was not ripe to publish the history of "the middle period" and that if this were done, it might create a most unfortunate situation between the School of Nursing and the Board of Trustees. A history cannot be written unless reference is made to the original documents and, ~~as you know~~, some of these imply severe criticism of persons still living. I told Mrs Brack about this conversation and suggested to her that it might be well for her and for you to have a talk with Mrs Cullen. I have a great respect for her judgment and, while she is quite fearless, she does not want the Alumnae Association to do anything which might, at this critical juncture in the affairs of the School, lead to any cleavage with the Board of Trustees. There is enough trouble already without adding any further sources of irritation. On the other hand, Mrs C. and most of the other members of the History Committee appear to think that the story of the "heroic age" could do no harm and might even do some good.

As you will see by the enclosed copy of a letter from ADW, I did not see her before to think leaving. I am inclined that now that I am out of the way, it may be possible to enlist her support of the point of view adopted by Mrs Cullen. At any rate, after a cooling-off period, she may be willing to give it some consideration. Here's hoping anyway. If all goes as well as I hope with the 1867 - 1907 manuscript, you and Mrs Brack may be able to win her over. I am, of course, taking for granted that this manuscript will contain a section on the organization and early activities of the Alumnae Association and shall look forward to hearing how you are getting along with your subject material in the little trunk. There is some grand stuff there.

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