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Title: Letter from Leonard Blakey to Jane Perkins

Date: 1914

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HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE

ROTTERDAM.

S.S. Totsdam

Monday afternoon, 191

My dear Miss Perkins:

Last things are beginning to come along - the last afternoon snooze on the hurricane deck has just ended. There was a chance still upon leaving Cologne that I might have time after landing to run over to Boston for a day but as luck would have it, we had very bad weather, the fog lasted for four days steadily, with the fog horn signal every sixty seconds. Many of the passengers did not have a good sleep during the whole time but such things did not bother others of us. This bad weather - rain, wind and fog means that we will not reach New York until tomorrow morning instead of Sunday night or this morning.

I will not reach Carlsbad until late
Tuesday night. It will mean missing
the first faculty meeting. I fear,

well, the voyage home has been
quite as delightful as the trip over.
We did not find the jolly, wigwag
crowd. Baldwin had sailed a week
earlier. His grandfather had died and
he was called home to look after the
estate. But the Potsdam has 65 professors
and doctors, a group of well-bred and
Vassar girls and the rest of a not very
different type. It was not very long before
Catherine, a Dartmouth-Harvard, asst Prof.
of Biology at Univ of Ill and I had Mrs
Prof + Mrs Kirby Flower Smith, sister of
John's captives and thereafter the old
smoking-bar room became as comfort-
able as the one on the Kaiser Franz Joseph.
Mrs George, however. Just time here we had

It may not be nice - nearly as the English
friends say, nor want to get back to America
but this has been such a remarkable
summer - so different from any

we get in America that I can not be blamed
much for feeling as I do. now that I have had
the opportunity to show my alpine sheets and relate
the whole series of events of the summer to
several of the friends on board I shall probably
be able to go before my students at Dickinson, Baldwin
kindly told me of the experience of one of the young
sustentious at Yale, by way of a warning, I
suppose. This man had had a very wonderful summer
in Europe and took several opportunities to relate
experiences to his classes the following year. when
the annual came over, the students had added
another vacation day to the college calendar - to give
the young men a chance to tell all the experiences on
one day. It may be a little hard to go to work
again. I have not done a list on board

anyway. But there are lots of things to be
done upon arriving in Carlisle and I suppose
before the week closes it will seem quite natural
to meet classes again. wonder how things
opened up with you. You have had several
days now and are used to it. I hope you by
your mother much improved in health.

I had intended to tell you about the loss
two weeks in Europe, but, honestly, its no place
to write on board a boat, with so much going
on all the time. I would not have been able
to get this time had Utlysen not settled down
to the same thing. He is going to get over
to visit his parents in Cambridge. Its a pity



S.S.

191

HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE

ROTTERDAM.

discussions opens as early. I'd come
over with him. But it will be
no Boston this time, when I'll be
able to make it now. I do not know
I hope to hear from you when I reach
Carlisle, and now for Hobbsen and
the custom office.

Very sincerely,

Leonard Blatney.

Off Sandy Hook,
3:30 P.M.

Miss Jane Perkins,

11 Verndale Street,

Brookline,

Mass.

S.S. Potsdam
Monday afternoon

My dear miss Perkins;

Last things are beginning to come along – the last afternoon snooze on the hurricane deck has just ended. There was a chance still upon leaving Bologne that I might have time after landing to run over to Boston for a day for as luck would have it, we had very bad weather, the fog lasted for four days steadily with the fog horn signal every sixty seconds. Many of the passengers did not have a good sleep during the whole time but such things did not bother others and us. This bad weather – rain, wind and fog means that we will not reach New York until tomorrow morning instead of Sunday night or this morning.

[page break]

I will now reach Carlisle until late Tuesday night. It will mean missing the first faculty meeting I fear. Well, the voyage home has been quite as delightful as the trip over. We did not find the jolly [Wrigler?] crowd. Baldwin had sailed a week earlier. His grandfather had died and he was called home to look after the estate. But the Potsdam has 65 professors and doctors, a group of Wellesley and Vassar girls and the rest of a not very different type. It was not very long before [Ditlessen?], a Dartmouth – Harvard asst. Prof. of Biology at univ. of Del. and I had met Prof. and Mrs. Kirby Flower Smith, latin of Johns Hopkins and thereafter this old smoking – bar would become as comfortable as the one on the Kaiser Franz Joseph. I miss George, however. Such times here we had.

It may not be nice – nasty, as the English friends say, [not?] want to get back to America but that has been such a remarkable summer – so different from any

[page break]

we get in America that I cannot be blamed much for feeling as I do. Now that I have had the opportunity to show my alpine [sticks?] and relate the whole series of events of the summer to several of the friends on board. I shall probably be safe to go before my students at Dickinson. Baldwin kindly told me of the experience of one of the young instructors at Yale, by way of a warning, I suppose. This man had had a very wonderful summer in Europe and took several opportunities to relate experiences to his classes the following year. When the arrival came [over?] the students had added another vacation day to the college calendar – to give the young man a chance to tell all the experiences on one day. It may be a little hard to go to work again. I have not done a lick on board anyway. But there are lots of things to be done upon arriving in Carlisle, and I suppose before the week closes it will seem quite natural to [meet?] classes again. Wonder how things opened up with you. You have had several days now and are used to it. I hope you left your mother much improved in health.

I had intended to tell you about the last two weeks in Europe, but, honestly, it's no place to write on board a boat, with so much going on all the time. I would not have been able to get

this time had [Ditlessen?] not settled down to the same thing. He is going to get over to visit his parents in Cambridge. It's a pity

[page break]

Dickinson opens so early. I'd come over with him. But it will be no Boston this time. When I'll be able to make it now I do not know. I hope to hear from you when I reach Carlisle. And now for [harboring?] and the custom office.

Very Sincerely,
Leonard Blakey
Off Sandy Hook,
3:30 p.m.