

March 15, 1911.

My dear Laura,

You see I am following your instructions and dropping the dignified title of Miss Kilpin. I really enjoy the odd sensation caused by obeying somebody else and not being the dictator.

Well I suppose that by now you are enjoying new scenery, and I hope much more attractive landscapes than the barren grounds of Park Square. You see my imagination is running astray with me, and placing me with you on March 17th instead of here in my peaceful and possibly somewhat stupid home city. Don't be alarmed though for I haven't the vivid, poetical imagination of Albert, I shall neither place you "in the middle of a lake" nor "above the stars", simply in a Pullman.

that you were not lonesome, but as
mamma was saying to-night, we
have been most unfortunate with
maids this winter and her own ill-
health, and just now when you
were getting in the position to enter-
tain you more, you fly off to
a more attractive clime and
leave us with no Laura to enter-
tain. Nevertheless I don't blame
you in the least, only please
remember that at any time when
you come to Boston, you will be
most cordially received at my home.

I am afraid I cannot make
this a bearer of much news as all
I know you know, but I will try
hereafter to write on some
subjects interesting to you

It was my intention when I
heard you were going on Saturday

not many miles from Chicago.

I consider that I have done remarkably good work to-night. My papers are all corrected, and my watch only points at 10:10. You see a schoolmarum can be a "beat spot," so to speak, and go on a "bat" without necessarily burning the "midnight oil." Will you please notice the title I gave myself? You probably know from experience that it would hardly be wise for anyone else to call me that.

I am going to mark this so you will not open it until Friday afternoon, a time when I shall be thinking of you so much and missing you at all turns. I can't even realize as I am writing this that you are really going, it has all been so sudden, and yet I have realized all along that it must come sometime.

Mama has just come upstairs, and informed me that she has fixed my roses so that she thinks they will be fully revived in the morning. I surely hope she succeeds for they were such sweet little things. The petals shall have a place of honor in my rose jar anyway, as a memory of a most charming afternoon, and one long to be remembered. Belle Burke I am sure will always be one of my favorites - linked with such pleasant memories.

I christened your little ink-eraser to-night and found it not only pretty but most useful. You can imagine me now as making blots on purpose so as to use my new toy as a child. You see fortunately the schoolmarm dignity goes in only far enough to last from nine o'clock until two.

I am afraid that I have rather failed in my good intentions of taking such excellent care as I promised your mother I would, to see

to give you some little remembrance
to take home with you, but your
earlier departure prevented this.
Flowers die so quickly, and
candy disappears so easily (at
least when I am around,) that I
thought I would rather give you
something that would last. When
I find just what I want I will send
it to you as a souvenir of your
faithful service as teacher's helper.
That title is almost as bad as school-
marm isn't it? Never mind
the sound. you have certainly
more than earned the title. I
cannot even begin to tell you what
your kindness and friendship
has meant to me these last
few months. You know teaching

is not all sunshine, and especially
to one who is young and longs so
for the good times of other young
people, but you have made it so
much brighter than it might
otherwise have been. You really
cannot imagine how much it
has meant to me to look forward
to our pleasant little Friday
afternoons. You know by the
end of the week when the real
work is over one often realizes
how tired they are, but you have
helped me to bridge over those few
hours of sudden relaxation
by many pleasant little incidents
which I shall enjoy looking back
on. Besides your help, your
friendship has meant a great
deal to me for it is seldom that

I have meant a person whose ideas
were so like mine, or whose pleasures
were mine. All in all I think I should
be more than glad to think that when you
came to your school you were assigned
to me. I hope that our acquaintance will
by no means end here, but be one of long-
standing. I certainly hope that your
dream of life on your father's ranch may
come true, and I hope that you may at
some time find ^{use for} what you have learned
in these past few months. I am sorry
you could stay no longer to perchance
finish the course, but I feel that you
have done remarkably well in the time
you have been here, and I think you will
find it possible to take dictation

at a moderate rate of speed
without much difficulty

Thanking you again for
all your help, and the numerous
good times you have given me,
and wishing you all the joys
of a happy home-coming, I am
your ex-teacher and most
sincere friend,

Matherine Poote.

138 Sycamore Street.,
Winter Hill, Mass.

Miss Laura Gilpin

Is reopened on Friday afternoon.
(Bacher's last order.)

