

June 21 - 1901

Dear Anna & Margaret

Well, here I am in one of the most beautiful homes ever found on this side of the big - river - Cousin Hannah Dickinson Boyles, on the shore of Lake Geneva, so closely nestled among the native oak trees that the neighboring three or four houses can not be seen; quite a little way from the main road (we are two miles from the village) beyond the reach of dust, with no sound from outside but the singing of the birds - with the most perfect house-keeping, dainty and excellent things to (2) eat, and every thing in the very best of order, and to all appearance with very little trouble or effort - one of the girls being in bed, sick, since yesterday, in the meantime -

The other girl, Emma, had just come in from the garden with six quarts of the most luscious, ripe strawberries - so Susan B. can revel in fruit at her pleasure - To-day, a large dish of peas from the garden, and a strawberry shortcake, one of the kind that makes you (3) wish every body could have as good -- It rained all the forenoon to-day, but this afternoon is sunny, but cool --

I am wondering how the Political Equality Club basket picnic came off yesterday - I hope splendidly - I felt that I should have been home to have helped to make it a success, but as I had never been here, nor only to call on Mrs. Gross, and only one night with (4) cousin Melissa, this time, I decided, upon further deliberation, I had better stay while here and finish up the visiting -

Susan B. is taking an afternoon nap and is getting on very nicely with only a slight cold, which causes some irritation of the throat.

This, I suppose, is the longest day in the year, and I dislike so much to so soon have them begin to shorten -

Now the house cleaning is done, and there is so (5) little to do in the way of house-work, I hope Margaret will finish the weeding of the yard from the place where I left off -

If you are taking the week to sew for yourself, you can tell her about how I do it - With the old fork, I pick off the moss & throw in the basket - with the knife dig out the weeds, then sprinkle on a very little seed & scratch it in with the fork, then take another narrow strip & go through the same process.

(6) I hoped to be on the way home by Wednesday, but it is being planned to have Mrs. Gross & cousin Melissa come here for a visit before we leave, so can tell little about how it will be - I may spend the rest of the season here - - Saturday 22nd -

Drove to village with Susan B. who is to attend the "Derby" Races in Chicago - Called on Mr. Dickinson, then on Nathan, and took long walk on lake shore -

Sunday 23d Went to New Congregational Church - love chime of bells - good Sermon from Mr. Clifton - many stories - Woman chopper of Arkansas - she & sister saw & chop one cord wood each Saturday, sold (7) it for one dollar on which she lived for the following week - and graduated with greatest honors - He did not say his church would give her equal privileges to make a living with her superior education she had worked so hard to get -

Susan B. returned from Chicago. Mrs. Gross is to come Tuesday P.M. for a day or two -

I have made bad work paging this, but guess you can make it out -

With love to everybody

Mary S. Anthony

Please keep this so I can keep track of my whereabouts as I have lost my little book - M.S.A.