

1903

611 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, Md.
May 7, 1903

My dear Kit,

Your current bright letter did me good and I was very glad to hear from you again. I hope you got to the Carnival. I am sure you did if Saturday was as beautiful a day there as it was here. You must excuse pencil for when I am in the house I have to rest and it is hard to write with a pen lying down. Kittie, my dear, I certainly do appreciate you inviting me to visit you this summer and love you for it. I would certainly love to go and would enjoy more than I can tell you a visit in your sweet quiet home. But I am under the Doctor's rule now. He says to stay here for a few weeks, then go to the Eastern Shore and get the sea air until July. Then you know my dear that I will just have to fly home to my precious Mother... the first that I am allowed.

I left home on the 19th of February. Think of it! And will not see my mother till July. It is so hard to stay away so long, but the doctors tell me I must, and that I will be well. Really will some day! You should see how I can walk! I have not walked for years as I am now. I stay out of doors all the time that I possibly can.

You say you wish I could get a dress for you. I have a friend here who has beautiful taste and who makes a living shopping for people. She does not charge you anything, but the store allows her a percentage. Won't you let her do your shopping for you? I am well able to go with her and lend my opinion. If you will send me a full description of what you want etc. I will get her to go with me and I think she will please you. A good many of my friends shop through her. Miss Maria Effinger. 2432 N. Charles Street is her address if you care to write to her. I wish you would tell your friend about her. She knows just where to go and has lovely taste. She got me a beautiful hat.

I have an engagement to take a steam *[bath]* so will have to stop. This is a dreadful letter. I will do better next time. Give a great deal of love to your mother and father. I hope your mother is feeling well. Your description of those strawberries made my mouth water. How I would love to be there. I hope you will ask me some time again for I certainly want to go. Write to me very soon Kitty if I can do anything for you. With love to each one of you especially your deaf self. Yours affectionately,

Lutie Irwin *[sister to the Rev. Irwin]*

May 18, 1903

Dear Kittie,

I have been trying to get up to see you, but have not been able on account of the rheumatism. So I mailed the pictures to you this afternoon.

Am sorry I couldn't come down to Cassel's the other night, but it was impossible for me to get there.

Andrew May and myself are going to try to come up to see you Wednesday afternoon, if it is convenient for you. Please let me know, if you can, whether it is convenient or not.

Your friend –

Bryce Jemison

March 11, 1903

My dear Kit -

I haven't time to write you but a short little note. I [*want*] to send you some samples so yesterday I got them. All with tags came from Kohen's. They are all very pretty in the piece and would make up nicely. The five cent lawns from Montague's will make beautiful kimonos and dressing *sagues* and some of them pretty dresses especially for the little girls. There is a black piece with a little white speck that I sent. Thought cousin Julia might like a wrapper off of it. Show the samples to everybody up there and if anybody wants any of them send to me and I will be delighted to get them for you. You had better decide as soon as possible if you want any for all the goods are selling rapidly. Wish I could write more but haven't time. Give my love to everybody.

Devotedly,

Margaret [*Trollinger*]

Christiansburg, Va.
Wednesday,
August 19, 1903

My dearest Kit,

I got your letter and will certainly be more than glad to come – you didn't say whether you wanted me to come in the morning or evening but I presume it will suit you best in the evening, if not get Billy to phone me on Friday. Dear old Aunt Nancy* is so sick and looks so much worse than when you left. She has been very feeble the last day or two and Andrew says that she can't possibly live but a day or two. She has been so opposed to dying but the last few days she has been more resigned and has been praying that she might die to get rid of all her suffering. It is so distressing to see her – I must close and go to supper. If I don't hear from Billy I will be there Saturday evening.

Goodbye.

Lovingly, Margaret *[Trollinger]*

Give my love to everyone.

**Nancy McClanahan Bass – Kit's and Margaret's great aunt*

August 10, 1903
Childress, Virginia

My dearest Kit,

I know you enjoyed that lovely note of mine. Will hurried me so I couldn't say half I wanted to. I am afraid you have injured your health working so hard for the last two weeks. Billy said you were just doing about... Have you been serving and getting ready to go to Lewisburg? Well Father has at last decided to send me to Hollins and now I am in a "terrible stew" about my clothes. I don't know what I ought to have. (If people just could do without clothes!) Miss Jennie promised to come and help me get ready but we have not heard a word from her and I am uneasy for fear she isn't coming. She has such good ideas about dress. I don't know what I am to do if she does not come. School begins the sixteenth of September. I am beginning to get scared already. Don't you know I will be scared half out of my wits. Ask Mary if she don't think I had better come to see her again.

Kit I wish you were here, we have some olives and can't get anybody to eat them. I have tried, but one olive lasts me for several days. If that is a fair sample of what "Quality" eats I would rather be poor white folks.

I was in Christiansburg last week but didn't have any measure taken or any shoes tried on for once. I did not go to see Willie last week as we had a good deal of company. Have been trying to go this week but have not succeeded very well.

Kit, we still have our little pets the pigs. They ate up Nan Boffman's milk and butter today. She set it on the spring house shelf and they got it off some way. I was real sorry about it for she had washed all day to get it. Oh I had forgotten to tell you that they have actually gone to work on the road through here! Of course we are rejoicing. Now when you come to see me you can gallop down the Jessie Hull hollow if you like. You must all celebrate the new road by coming to see me as soon as it is completed.

Kit you must pull up your parsnips and go to making wine if you want something real good to drink. Grandma and I went calling the other day and we were treated to parsnip wine. It was delightful. I was really afraid we would get boozy. The folks said it tasted like champagne but as I had never tasted any I kept quiet.

Have the Micou boys gone yet? I would like to have seen them. What about that big nosed fellow...has he come? I heard through the Smiths that you were going to Mountain Lake and the train left you. How about it? That was too bad.

As it is about mail time I must stop writing.

Lots and lots of love to all,

Mag [*Trollinger*]
July 18, 1903

P.S. I stold some safety pins from you when I was down there. Have you missed them? I will bring them to you.

Monday, August 31, 1903
Christiansburg

My dearest Kit:

I intended to write and send the samples Saturday afternoon, but remembered that you could not get the letter until today so have waited until now. You have no idea how homesick Jude and I are for you all. We moped around all day yesterday until Mama thought something was the matter. Ernest came home with us and was nice as he could be, but we couldn't persuade him to come home with us. We walked over the hill as far as Mrs. Whitehead's and then said he had to go back to Cambria to see some friends which was only a "bluff." Tell Cousin Andrew that Jude held onto her shoes (?) manfully, but strange to say they disappeared very soon after she got home. I came off in such a hurry that I didn't get to tell Cousin Andrew or "Shack" goodbye, so you must kiss both for me. I certainly was sorry about it.

Aunt Nancy* seems to be worse this morning. Coz Mag was just sent Coochy up for Mama to come at once. She seems to be getting weaker every hour, and doesn't seem to know anybody but Andrew Ellett.

I saw Willie, Mag, Ferd and Fan Smith in town this morning. Poor Mag is certainly having a time with her dressmaking. Willie says she went home for about five minutes and has been at Mag's ever since. Lots of love from us both to all, but keep the biggest for your own self, and "Pat." Tell that young lady that its time she was coming home. I'll never be able to tell you how we enjoyed our visit and appreciated the lovely way in which you all treated us...am going down now to get the samples.

Yours with much love,

"No. 3." *[Margaret Trollinger?]*

**Nancy McClanahan Bass – sister of Katherine McClanahan Ingles, thus Kit's great aunt*

Capital \$50,000.00
First National Bank of Radford
Radford, Va.
October 7, 1903

Wm Ingles, President
Jos. H. Chumbley, Vice President
F. Harvey, Cashier
Miss Katherine Ingles
Lewisburg Female Institute
Lewisburg, West Va.

My dear Kit:

It is trying to rain today and business is somewhat slack, therefore, as some apology seems necessary to make me write, I will drop you a line. I read your letter home and inferred from it that you were homesick, but not in danger of dying from it. Hope you are getting straightened out and have caught up with your work.

Julia and Minnie and Agnes returned from Christiansburg yesterday...went to Wallace's Circus Saturday...seem very much pleased with their trip.

Everything is quiet about town – there seems to be a lull... just waiting for the Fair tonight, however, there is to be a lecture in our dancing hall for the benefit of the Kings Daughters. I expect to take Miss Amy Caldwell...what do you think of that?

All of the connection are well, excusing of a cold here and there. John leaves for Norfolk again today, to be trainmaster, Minnie Harvey Ingles and several of the girls take dinner at home today. Billy Mac is growing fast.

Suppose you have some change yet. If you need money for some of your minor schemes write me and I will try and find it for you. Good bye, with much love,

Billy
[her brother]

October 11, 1903
Hollins Institute

My dearest Kit,

Why didn't you come down here instead of going to Lewisburg? You know that I need you for a roommate. My two do not exactly suit me, they look a little too ordinary; but they are tolerable sweet and study well. One of them, Mary Burnes, from Cambria and the other, Nellie Morris, is from Charlottesville. Mary has such "tacky" taste. Perhaps I will change after a while. Have you a nice roommate and how do you like Lewisburg? Hollins is a beautiful place and I think I will like very well. You know I am not quite crazy about it yet. I felt lost when I got here among so many strange girls and my room was the dreariest looking place; it made me so home-sick every time I went in it. But now since we have a few pictures hanging around it looks a little better but it is pretty "messy." We have two bureaus, two beds, four trunks, two tables, a wardrobe and five chairs in a room about as big as the kitchen at your house. Mrs. Cocke, the old lady of all, came up to see me one day and saw I did not have a screen so she sent me up an old one of hers. It is not so very pretty but it serves my purpose. Some of the girls here have beautiful rooms. There are three Kentucky girls rooming next to us that have a beautiful room; the walls are literally covered with pictures, nothing expensive, but they give the room a home-like appearance.

Kit you should have seen me the first time I was called on to go up to the board. I was nearly scared out of my wits and keens (*knees*) were mighty shaky. How do you perform?

Alright I know for you are not silly like me. There are some stunning looking girls here and a few tolerable ordinary ones. There is a girl here from Birmingham Alabama who says she lives just across the street from Frank Jones and is crazy about him. I didn't tell her I wasn't. These girls seem to think St. Albans a very small place. Is "beauty-spot" back there this year? Mary wrote me that one of the Professors over there was an old school fellow of hers at Fredericksburg.

What kinds of things do you get to eat? They feed very well here. We have delightful light-rolls and cakes. We always have ice-cream on Sunday for dinner. It was flavored with chocolate today and was fine. I get pretty tired of beef though. There is a little store near here that the girls go to and buy a supply when they get hungry. What I crave most is apples. Have been over to the orchard twice and got some hard, green, winter apples which we ate as if they were delicious. One evening we started with our laundry bags and were going to bring back a whole lot, but the teacher who was to take us informed us that we were not allowed to take anything to carry them in. But we brought our coat-tails full which did as well.

I wonder what you are doing with your dear old self today. Do you play basket-ball? I don't think I shall – it looks so rough. Aren't you crazy to go home to the fair? Do you really see how they can have it without us? Saturday is Tinker Day. I have written to Father to let me come home and go to the fair instead of climbing Tinker but don't expect he will. I generally take a homesick spell the first thing in the morning.

What class did you enter? I am a pitiful little freshman. I had my notions set higher than that but they classify you as low as possible here. Mary would have taught me more in books but it is good for me to get out with other girls. The teachers are to give a concert tomorrow night. I expect it will be very enjoyable. There was a reception given us new girls the week after I came that I enjoyed very much.

Kit when I got your postal I thought you were in Richmond. I didn't know Lewisburg sported postals like that. I was just getting ready to bless you out. I am so glad we did not go to the Richmond Women's College. One of the Richmond girls told me that not more than a half dozen nice girls went there. Jennie Childress and Helen Johnson are here but they room over at the cottage so I don't see very much of them. I sometimes wish I had roomed with Helen, she is real sweet. Jennie wrote and wanted to room with me but I did not want to go over to the cottage so that ended the matter.

Well Kitty if you get tired of reading this mess blame yourself for you told me to write you everything. Now write me a long letter soon. Neither of us have been sticking to that bargain we a made to write every week.

Your devoted cousin,
Margaret M. Trollinger

P.S. By the way, how are you and Will Harman getting along by this time? I expect you have the wedding day set. I don't like to write with a pen. You can write to me with a pencil if you like.

L.W. Irwin
Pastor Presbyterian Church
Radford Va.
Nov. 18, 1903

Dear Kit,

After a series of journeys in different directions about the country I am back in my room again, and feel as if I should like to hear a word from you again.

I am sorry you find Dr. Daniel tedious, but I am not surprised...he is somewhat that way I'll have to admit. But it is good training to have to do what you don't like to do.

I am glad that you like the school and Dr. Telford and hope that you will continue to like it. And I shall expect to hear of you doing something over there that I shall be proud of.

I suppose that you heard that Mr. Woods of Blacksburg and I exchanged pulpits – after Synod and he stayed over till Sunday after at Captain William's, and he seemed to think right much of a sister of yours.

Last week I went to Lynchburg to a meeting of the Presbytery to dismiss Mr. McFaden to the 1st Church Richmond and afterward I went up to Lexington and spent several days there with my brother from Minneapolis – and the rest. It was a quiet, restful visit, and pleasant for us to be all together again after four years. Lutie said she had heard from you. She is still taking long walks and I hope is getting over her nervousness – but does not attempt to do any work yet, as the doctor won't let her.

I am glad to hear that you have joined the Y.W.C.A. and the Literary Society – Both of them can be made of great benefit to you, apart from the religious influence of the one and the library training of the other...in enabling one when called upon to do so to bear oneself in public without embarrassment and with_____.

I think the little prayer meetings we used to have in my school days were among the sweetest experiences and now afford some of the most pleasant memories of my life. I know you will find these helpful to you.

I shall be glad if you will write to me all about yourself and your work as I am deeply interested in you and hope that you will look to me not only as your pastor but your friend as well. And if you ever need a little lecturing I shall be most happy to give you good measure! When you ask for it but not until then... I have lots of good advice in stock – first class article but I only give it where it is asked for also.

I am not a good hand at giving news. But I suppose you are kept informed of all the thrilling and important occurrences of Radford.

I hope you will write to me when you can do so without interfering with your work. I did not start out to inflict such a long letter on you.

Your friend and....?

L.W. Irwin [*Presbyterian minister*]
I'll write a note to Mary Gordon K.