

Transcript of a letter to Mrs. L. Adelle Gorton
Tully, New York mailed May 24, 1903,

Charter Oak, May 24, 1903

Dear Dell:

Hardly a day passes but something comes along I think you and Lucy would be interested in. How nice if you could make a ride from here to Pomona and I a wagon and see the flowers by the way. You will stay in Tully a long time before you will see as many .

Jimmie has sold his buggy horse to a fellow at Covina, and has been talking with him on Bible matters; the fellow is a Disciple and for fear he couldn't do justice to his cause himself he brought his minister along to spend the evening with us, the preacher like the most of them wanted to show his advantage by flaunting his knowledge of Green and Hebrew, but this is only a bluff with them you know and when they are honest they will do as Chancilor Day did at the dedication of the Methodist Church in Tully; he said "since he had become conversant with the original languages, he knew less about the Bible than he thought he knew before". I believe all these learned gentlemen, would have to confess to this who try to substantiate a false theology by the greek and Hebrew, nevertheless his attention was drawn to some subjects sufficiently to cause him to preach about them and last Sunday his subject was "the state of he dead," and tomorrow it is to be "the Kingdom". I went down last Sunday to hear him and I think Jimmie will go tomorrow. The preachers as a whole know it is best not to agitate bible subjects while the people are content under them, for they are liable to loose some of them when the subjects are talked up. We will doubtless be able to get a reply in the Covina paper and perhaps some lectures there.

Young sister Brinkerhoff, from Ventura Co. is visiting here now. She is a sensible appearing young lady and seems studiously inclined. She is a music teacher and played the piano at the Pomona meeting last Sunday. She and her brother were immersed while Jimmie was there two months ago so you see, they are but babes in Christ. Jimmie thought her brother was the most intelligent in the bible of any young person he ever met. He is but 15 years of age. Their father has about 300 acres into beans and 75 acres of apricot trees which will have to be replanted. That is that place where they drive 12 horse teams. Jimmie saw there a friend of Geo Mcwilliam whom he knew in Scotland. This man owns 17000 acres, perhaps Will and Art might like it better there than here; but all the cabbage there are beans. I think I could drive 12 horses the way they do there all right, but the trouble would be they make too long days to suit me. Sister B says its after dark every night before they come in and supper to eat after that, and a man has to be up at four o'clock to feed and harness 12 horses before breakfast. How brother B can seek first the Kingdom of God and do all these work I don't know, but these say he talks the truth to every one who comes there.

I have been in the employ of bro. Glen Seago since Jimmie sold the place to him, but have been here a part of the time. We run out of work here and he took me where he now lives, near Claremont. I was working there when President Rosevelt went through, and bro. Silas Seago and I unhitched our mules, tied them to the wagon and went up the Santa Fe tracks about ½ mile to the station. The President made about a 20 minute address. There was a terrible crowd but I was close enough to hear all he said. The Pamona College yell was the most prominent of anything and it seems a sign of he times when such rank heathenism from our places of learning is being so prominently before our rulers, This yell was learned by one of the college men from a tribe of Indians near here. Surely such doings will not characterize the future age when Christ is honored. It was cloudy at that time and I think the President hardly saw the sun shine in this section. It was goodbye Teddy when his train moved off.

I have been at work cutting a cypress hedge, found lots of humming birds nests in it. We will get water for irrigation Tuesday at 10 o'clock. It will run steady till Wednesday night. The orchard work is nice work all, but the irrigating nights. These fellows think a man can work all day, and irrigate all night and keep it up, but I think I will try the sugar beet work at China when the factory opens. That is a 12 hour day and half the time nights, but I can work nights when I can get my rest days.

Homer Tenny lives at Santa Paula where Jimmie went in Ventura Co.

I think Gates is liking it better ere now than at first. This is the case with most everyone. The climate is about perfect if one can only get good employment. Gates has worked on the avg quite steady this Spring at \$1.5 a day. I think he will work in the sugar beet factory, but he thinks that nothing but an electric moter will do for him in this country and if he will tend to business and save his money he can likely afford one before long. I think I wrote a little too discouraging about Art's coming; the Winter time when he wanted to be here is the poorest time of the year for work, but it would be too bad with what money they have if he was out of work a little, if he should stay through the winter and don't get homesick I don't believe he would go back to stay again. If we should have Ernest write him how easy it is to ge a girl here that might be an inducement. He could put up a tent on our lot or live with Gates and I.

We have been having a cold spell and the nights have been as cold this last week as last Winter. A little frost one morning. I see by the Los Angeles Record you have been having a hot spell there with some heat prostrations.

The oranges are at their best now. The longer they stay on the trees the sweeter they get. At the packing house they say the exchange is only getting enough for oranges in the east to pay for shipping so the expense of packing must be paid by members of the exchange. Rosecrans is in the exchange and two or three such years as that and his interest would cramp them. Fruit sold early brought a fair price; conditions may change before the valentias are marketed so that Jimmie thinks he may yet get \$2.00 a box for what he has. Rosecran's are all navals. Jimmie has picked about 3100 boxes of navals and has likely 300 boxes of valentia's yet on the trees. He keeps the crop. He sent a box to Elmer and has just got a reply from Kit. Elmer seems to be prospering hugely. They live at the seaside; he told me he learned as soon as he went into business here that it was "dog eat dog" and so his phenomenal success since that has been due wholely I suppose to his dog diet.

I want to go up on Baldy this Summer when the weather gets hot.

It is Sunday morning now and Jimmie tells me he has concluded to not go to Covina so I will get ready and go. Gates found Ollie Russell in Los Angeles. He came out and staid a week with him. Min has an extra boarder and I think she is working too hard. Rosecrans wanted to buy another orchard but I think he will have his hands full to pay for the one he has.

Hoping to hear from you soon

With love, Henry Willis

It will give me a bicycle ride of about 22 miles today to go to Covina and then to our meeting in Pomona but the roads are good and I won't mind it.