

New York, October 24, 1950

Dear Tochen,

I am so tired and disheartened and confused that I would not write to you except for the fact that you would probably worry more if I didn't write. At the moment, the only thing seems to be to go to bed and hope that things will be better tomorrow.

Sometimes I wonder if the trouble is that I do not really like any of the children that I teach this year (with one or two exceptions) as I liked last year's classes. But to explain my depression that way is simply to ask more questions.

The physical difficulties of teaching are ~~greater~~ greater than I could have imagined in ~~that~~ modern skyscraper. Today the heat came on very hard; the windows could not be opened because of the noise. By the end of two periods I felt quite sick and dizzy. No wonder the children are restless and wild.

Miss Mitchell came and sat down today at lunch with me and the head of my department. We discussed her tentative plans for an ^{occasional} Monday morning current events program instead of the usual Bible reading, hymns and prayers.

Sarah was opposed ~~and~~ but had no reasons. I said that I thought that there should be some time in the school week when the children were quiet and when we were not talking at them. Surprisingly enough, my statement, though badly expressed, seemed to give Miss Mitchell pause.

Morning
October 25

This morning my arm which ached painfully the last two days is much better. You see the effect of talking to you.

The Durer book stands open to two portraits. One is a thin sensitive young man. The other is a maiden whose long wavy hair falls to her waist. She bends her head very slightly, ~~almost~~ half closes her eyes; her hands are laid lightly together in prayer. She is very beautiful and serene. I wish that I could feel this way for more than a few minutes. I am afraid of the destruction of the day. As I walk toward the river I will think of you. Here is the letter you asked to have again. Send me another as soon as you can.

Deine Margaret