

Sept. 25th. 1899.

My Dear Mrs. Kelley;-

Yours of a late date received, also

had the pleasure of reading the letter Miss Addams received yesterday. Doubtless you do not know that your letters, whether directed to me personally, or to some other member of the family are inspirations to me, Such is a fact, and I warn you that you may send them often. This is another case of "living up to blue dishes"

We miss you and Ko very much. The little man left a vacancy which has not been filled. I am having all sorts of troubles? So many that I think it almost unwise even to mention them to an interested listener like your-self, lest the troubles dominate the pleasures. To begin on, the floor except the foundation is not

touched. The strike among the mosaic workers being unsettled, Mr Bagley induced Miss Addams to go before the Building Trades Council and ask for permission to put down a Ceramic floor? which could be done by union workman in Davis' employ. The vote was a tie; Gubbins casting the deciding one and in the affirmative. Then Dr. Voli-ne as representative of the Italian Mosaic Workers come to Miss Addams to protest? saying that it was unfair to the Italian Colony. Of course nothing was said about the Italians deserting the house for Jehny last year. The chief tried "to wiggle", but Bagley would not let go the grip; so as soon as the ceramic comes from New York our floor may (be finished. In the meantime customers are packed like sardines in the present coffee-house, and 40 or more turned

front and not "modèle" where I have no authority. To add to my troubles food has advanced in cost of raw material from 30 -55%.

We had a residents meeting to talk over the price of house meals and the necessity of charging 30 cents. The family decided to for simplicity and 25 ct. meals which means trouble ahead for we are a little spoiled you know. They all admitted that the food was better than three years ago but that does not pay the butchers bills.

The Lake High School is a success in every way nor does it add to my work in the least. As soon as we can get the tables and chairs and other equipment from the present coffee-house we will take them to the Medill School and open our lunch-room there.

You know the Methodists have a record of one new church a year. I think I could rival them with lunch-rooms, were all as easy to manage as the one just opened. The Business Women's Club is going

very satisfactorily. I suggested to Sister Stevens that she and I take the platform and discuss trades unions. The house is divided in opinion as to which would come out ahead, but Mr. DeKnatel allows I have some experience with 'em.

About six months ago I practiced type-writing for a half-hour. Today I took up where I left off. No further apology is necessary.

With much love to both,

Sincerely,

*Ida Foster Crowh.*