

Mrs. Caroline
 Lathrop
 Mrs. Martha
 Aunt Mr.

TREASURY DEPT
 OFFICE OF NAVAL OFFICER
 BOSTON, MASS.
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 RETURN AFTER FIVE DAYS



Miss Mary E. Clough
Camden Street
New Hampshire

Ther Oats. June 23, 1910



My dear Miss Clough:

I have just received a letter from my sister Mrs. Grace Burleigh Chamberlain of Chelsea Mass, asking me if I remember about the graduating class, of 1846, at the Northfield Seminary - and if the Miss Clough was your sister Nutter.

I fail to remember dates - and as I was but twelve years old at that time - did not know much about the Seminary - but think the M. A. Clough must have been

my cousin Martha - as she was
among the earliest students
and graduated in a class of
eight - as I remember, some
of the circumstances at the
time - and how the girls - as they
were then called - were dressed -
The nice rose-color cashmere
gown - and cousin Martha -

up to within one week. had ap-
peared to wear calico - as she
had no means, to buy cashmere,
but fortunately she had written
a story and sent it to the
Concord Democrat - edited by
Geo. Fogg - and to her great delight
he accepted it, and sent her
fifteen dollars - so she had a

govern like the others -
Cousin Martha was deficient in
mathematics but excellent in
language - she could not only
speak Latin & French but Span-
ish and Italian - I was sure
she never lacked an adverb
two - (but I was which one to
use) Martha Plunk was
one of the class - she married
Sullivan Barker and the last
I heard she was still living in
Northville - Cousin Martha's
literary career was somewhat
notable - as soon as she had
graduated she began competing
for a prize that had been offered

by the New York Ledger, for the
best long story - 100,00
the second best 50,00 and
so on down to 50,00

She had but two weeks - before
the contest would be closed
She told the family not to speak
to her or call her to eat, as
she could not be disturbed - when
she had a waiting mood on -
During this period she braided
one palm leaf hat every day -
saying she could think better
when her fingers were moving,
than she wrote - and braided, al-
ternately - She had no time to copy
out script in her story - I saw the



The last one to be awarded -
She anxiously waited, hoping
she might get at least -
one hundred - she liked her story
but to surprise, she was awarded
the second prize of 500.00
Then was unboundedly rejoicing
for her father was in very
straitened circumstances - and
when she got her money, she
saved fifty dollars, for herself -
and gave all other to her father -
while she was in school

She like so many others, "boarded
themselves". She now calls co-
dresses - and a few bonnets, and
all the time braid and a few hats -
to get a little from the store -

Not long thereafter she was
associated with the Boston
Free Bazaar - on the staff, with

J. J. Frobridge - and Louise Cham-
bers Moulton - I do not remem-
ber how long she held this po-
sition. She continued to write
until failing health prevented.
She published one book - I do
not recall the title
Lyceum and its perception

of the same name -

It's a long time since my
first school day at the Sun-
day - since then I have had
children in Ohio College Mich-
and Oberlin Ohio - and there is
no end of calls for help -

I find my memory is not
altogether trustworthy, but I well
remember how cousin Martha
looked in her rose color ma-
sno - or cashmere - I was
a wonderful story at the time
that she had to tell about her
goat luck - and I remember
of my mother - of clammie. Gloy

to God - when they told her
of the fine hundred dollars -
gentle Mrs. - of Canterbury was
in school at the time -

I will write to sister Grace
and get her to ask Elenor Jane
Mertha's daughter to write up
about her mother's literary career -
I hope you will not be so
out with the case as I, all - and
that the finished work will be com-
pensation. I was delighted with
an address - by Mr. Lyford - in the
Southfield History - I may come
to Canterbury once more - but I
am in no way sure - With the
kindest regards to you and all
best - Your truly yours - Corbin S. Chamberlain

number had fallen to ten. Both of these buildings served in their day as halls or meeting places for this locality.

The boys and girls who attended the old red school house and its predecessor for the most part left Canterbury at an early age to seek their fortune elsewhere. In the days of large families it was necessary for the ambitious to find their opportunities away from home. The roll of scholars would be a long one if it could be compiled. Scattering as they did, all trace of many of them is lost beyond recall. There is record of but a few.

Of the natives of this district, Charles H. Ham became one of the most distinguished. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. Going to Chicago, he was for a few years the law partner of Melville W. Fuller, who later became Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. Mr. Ham became editor successively of the Tribune and Inter Ocean. He was appointed Appraiser of Customs at the port of Chicago and held that office under several federal administrations. When the General Board of U. S. Appraisers was formed in 1890, he was appointed a member, a position he held until his death. Both as a writer and as an authority on customs law he was preeminent.

Martha A. Clough, daughter of Jeremiah P. Clough and granddaughter of John Ham who settled near Bean Hill, was a gifted writer. While a school girl at Tilton, she contributed a story to the Independent Democrat of Concord which was so good that the editor sent her his personal check for it. With this remittance she bought her graduating dress. Her inspiration came from the fact that she would have been obliged to graduate in calico unless she could earn money

to buy another gown. Immediately after leaving the seminary, she entered into competition for prizes offered by the New York Ledger for long stories. These prizes ranged from one thousand dollars to fifty dollars. She had then but two weeks before the contest would be closed. With directions to the family that she was not to be disturbed when in the writing mood, she set herself to the task, braiding palm leaf hats, ^{when not writing} as she said she could think better when her fingers were employed. When her story was completed, she had no time to copy it, and it was the last one to be received by the publishers. Then followed an anxious wait to hear the result. Hoping that she might possibly secure one of the minor awards, what was Miss Clough's surprise to receive the second prize of five hundred dollars. The title of her story was "Paolina, the Sybil of the Arno!" All but fifty dollars of the amount she gave to her father to pay off the mortgage on his farm. Not long afterwards, she was an associate on the staff of a Boston magazine with John T. Trowbridge and Louise Chandler Moulton. She continued to write until her health failed her. As a scholar, she mastered four languages in addition to her native tongue, Latin, French, Spanish and Italian.

Of the boys who attended school at Hill's Corner from 1866 to 1869 several attained success in business or in the professions.