



[Ruth Cutler and family papers.](#)

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ST.

OCT 1

Keep
Miss Mary Hale Cutter
Care Miss Porter
The "Elms"
Springfield
Massachusetts.



Dearest Mary:

Your dinky letter was as welcome as we looked for, surprise me that way again. Oh, Mary, "life in this city's awful dull and I wish I was back at the lake." Really and truly there are no excitements at all. Once a week we have original English themes & twice a week French ones and they are the only horrible breaks in the horrible week in this horrible place.

Something exciting did happen tho' when the 18th came home came home last Thursday. I shall never forget it. At five o'clock thirteen shells were fired and all the press whistles blew. Anita & I got

up and dressed & went down town with Mr. Kilbourn (a perfect peach who was staying here with his wife) to see the regiment arrive at the station. We staid on 4th St. to see them parade up to the Auditorium & Jimmy & Cass Durhan joined us. Billy Finch came along & took us up to his father's store where we had a fine view of the men. When I went by we all leaned out of the windows & felt so grand when Clarence Bunker took off his hat. Jennie & I staked up to the Auditorium directly afterwards with Cass & of course lost Rita & Mr. Kilbourn. It was jammed up there & every body was cheering & yelling. There were long tables, one for each

company, all decorated with red, white & blue, & the old barn was fixed up so beautifully that you wouldn't have recognized it.

By this time we were slightly hungry so we went home, ate a little fruit & then went right up to Union of old where the big parade & review by Mac Kinley was to be. We had to let half a dozen interior fans, all crowded, pass us before we got one on which we could barely ~~stand~~ & in fact I had to hang out of the back window between two Swedes. Just this side of Minneapolis a car ran off the track & stuck about twenty, of which we were at least the twentieth, & our car stopped right before a huge fuddle that no one could cross.

We waited there for half an hour & one of the Swedes said to me, "I think we wait here too some long, wot you tank?" Finally a very officious man told the conductor it was outrageous & that if he were conductor he'd have had a board across by this time. The conductor grinned but didn't stir, so a long, lean man crawled out and got a long plank & laid one end on the car steps & the other on the sidewalk & we walked across this wavy, unsteady board while this officious man told told the lanky one, that "he was a gentleman sir, a gentleman & that he'd say anyone to help him."

It was about half a mile to the next car line which took us quite far in the city. When we got off four or five fire engines were past and we hurried to the fire for it was then

twelve o'clock & not yet time for the [6]
parade. We watched this big brick
building from a bridge &
had a fine view of it. An other
Swede told us it was a "hotel" but
we found later that wasn't so. After
waiting & standing two weary hours
the parade went by - the 15th; Univer-
sity corps with Charlie, Soldiers Home,
Louaves, G. A. R., Knights of Pythias,
lots of High Schools & Grammar schools
in uniforms & dozens of brass bands,
the 13th; the governor & staff & the
President and some of the cabinet.
It was awfully long but Mac Kinley
made up for any discomforts.
After it was over we threaded our
way over to the Guaranty Loan for
dinner where we had to wait half
an hour before a waiter would
listen to us. It is an awfully

[6]

high building - the highest in
Minneapolis & we went up on top.
There is a turret up there fifty
feet above the rest & you get up by a
fine disk spiral stair case that
goes around fifty times at least.
Way across the river was - & I guess
still is, the Exposition building
where the soldiers had lunch & where
and where Mac Bailey spoke. The
crowd around it was awfully big
& we could see it awfully well from
the top.

The electric cars were so crowded
that we had to come down by the
train, which was full of Red Wing
people talking about "their boys".
By the time we got home it was
five o'clock but we dressed, had
dinner & went down to the President's
reception at the Auditorium.

The presidential party came
 over in Mr. Lowry's private trolley
 car and it is a beauty - all righ-
 t-hand & decorated with red, white
 and blue electric lights. It got
 there just as we did & of course
 John couldn't get any where near
 the door & Grandpa insisted on
 getting out. It was an awful jam,
 the people were very good natured
 but they pushed to beat the band
 & when once you got wedged in
 there was no use trying to get out.
 Grandpa never minded it in the
 least & at last we got hold of a
 police man who pulled first
 one & then the other through. We
 were all inches taller after it
 & my tie reached my feet.

There was a little space in

front of the flat form where the President & Cabinet & Commercial Club reception committee received. Grandpa introduced us (Mita & I) to Mrs. Kinley & Mary, he is a perfect peach. We only spoke a few words to him but all the time he was shaking hands with his 5 or 6 people I stood opposite him & he was so nice & didn't look at all bored. Every child that walked by he stopped & shook hands with & patted on its head.

They all went up on the platform later & made speeches Mita & I felt as foolish for we were up there with — Mrs. Senator Harris! Never mind, we heard the speeches beautifully & the

President spoke as beautifully
 as one would expect. But the
 grandest speech of all was Attor-
 ney General Briggs'. He is another
 speech & the best one of the cabinet.
 He looks as tho' he could be very
 sarcastic if he wanted & very funny
 too. Gage is ~~a~~ very distinguished look-
 ing with curly white hair while
 Long has only about two years
 but he looked so nice & had such
 a broad New England accent that
 it was very funny to hear him
 after Briggs & Gage. Wilson & Kilb-
 eck got up and whispered but
 we managed to make out that
 they had spoken as much out of doors
 let us. When they all left the
 band played the "Star-Spangled
 Banner" & every body cheered.

I suppose that excitement will
have to last until Halloween when
we are all going up to Barge's for
some sort of a shindig. Everybody
says Billy Cochran looks awfully
well but I haven't seen him yet.

I am so glad Evelyn likes
Miss Fenn. Senn., has she seen more
at all? or any of the boys? Tell
her to look out for Orrin's horseman,
and give her my love.

Orrin and I are awfully
busy now for Miss Peck gives us
lots to read, exciting books like
"The Life & Letters of Erasmus". We
always give our essay giddy readers
like our last. Orrin's was "The Impos-
sible Dream" & "The Serpent's Egg" mine.
The other day while we were
taking an examination I looked

up for an inspiration & there
before me was that big picture of
the "Skala"! Oh, but it was sad to
think of a time when we were gay
& careless & had no sorrows. Will that
ever happen again?

Katherine is getting on finely
and doesn't seem to be a bit home-
sick. She says Mary Jane has been
simply fine to her & that she has
a dandy room-mate. Arnold
Helen is enjoying life & seems
to be doing nothing but writing
letters for I got a letter from her
yesterday.

Give my love to Margaret &
keep lots for yourself & write
and tell me again all about
yourself. Ever and always
Laura.

P.S. Alice
but she says
looks at 25
contains 25 or more
was to wait
about.

Letter to Mary Hale Cutler
from Laura Farness

Re - Pres. McKimley's visit
+ parade to St. Paul -