

State Normal School,

at

Winona, Minnesota.

President's Office.

Winona, Minn., Aug. 5, 1898.

Dr. George Kennedy,
Readville, Mass.

My dear Mr. Kennedy:

I returned a few days ago from my collecting trip to N. W. Montana, and will now answer more in extenso your cordial letter of July 6, last.

Your letter came while preparations for my western trip were about completed, and my companion, a student friend, and I were ready to start. In the rush of preparations - we were to camp, and were getting ready camp equipments, tent, packsacks, clothing suitable, provisions for a month - I could not answer your letter from Winona. I sent you a postal from our camp in Montana. But that may not have reached you. So I now wish to tell you by letter the reasons why I am not able to accept your very kind and cordial invitation.

In the first place, one good vacation outing, my good wife says, is enough for one summer,

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and it is all I can really afford to take. When your invitation came, preparations for my western trip had so far progressed - we were on the eve of departure - that the exercise of a choice was out of question. Of course, the natural human greed, of the small boy grown large, made me wish very much that I could both eat my cake and keep it, too. But - this is not the age of Fairies.

In the second place, a most delightful expectation made it almost imperative that I take my outing, if at all, in July, so as to be around home in August and September, the two remaining months of my vacation. You have kindly asked me about my family. So I take the liberty to tell you a few things, that you may surmise our spirit. My wife and I are one since 1884. In 1889 we adopted a child, to break the loneliness, He is a boy 12 years old now, Roy, a dear fellow. In 1890 we removed to Washington, D. C., where I was an assistant botanist for 3 years. Climatic conditions seemed to favor our family happiness: our son Karl was born to us there. He will be six

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years old on August 9. After our return to Winona, to my old position at a much better salary, a second son, Paul, was born to us. He would have been two years old on April 10, last. But at Christmas time 1896, in his ninth month, he was taken from us - pneumonia. The mother was insane with grief, and for months could not be comforted. Her maternal instinct is very strong. And now, that we are living in a sweet, new hope, she is straightening up, and is putting into the background, somewhat, her devotion to our little Paul. We expect our new treasure in 4 to 8 weeks. And it is not possible for me to leave her side in these last weeks. This is my "secondly".

Thirdly, I have learned, only today, that I may have to do some school work the second half of my vacation, after August 15! This, of course, will prevent absolutely.

You shall have your share of my Montana mosses, which will doubtless include interesting things.

Wishing you a successful meeting of the N. S. N. S., I remain, with best greetings to yourself and family, your
cordial John M. Holzinger.



Holzinger, J. M. 1898. "Holzinger, John M. 5 Aug 1898." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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