

The Havens Inn
NORTH HAVEN. - MAINE

Ans'd July 13

July 10, 1924.

Dear Mr. Francis:

Thank you for your letter of the eighth, which I received this morning. I shall be glad to have the sketch of Dr. Coolidge; I have just got to Dr. Lowell's time, and what you send will be welcome for the next task, which I can see is one of the most important ones I shall have.

By the way, though I have a good many facts about Dr. Lowell, I have few comments from his St. Mark's contemporaries, & these I suspect to be rather superficial, as boys' memories may well be. From them I gather that he was austere, apparently not sympathetic with the boys' sports, etc. My own consideration of his "life & works",

taken with these boyish comments, lead me almost inevitably to the conclusion that he was a sensitive man, in all meanings of the word, - one of those who are apt to guard their sensitiveness by a forbidding exterior. He must have had a strong sense of humor, & he was certainly a scholar. The fact of his writing "Autony Brade" throws a good deal of light, though the question of taste in doing so may be debatable: it was not published of course until after he left the school. Now, there must have been another side, and a very valuable one, as there always is in the case of a sensitive nature, & it is this that I am very eager to get. Do your memories serve to help me? If they do, - and if they can correct any of the above impressions I have received, - my debt to you will be very large.

Also - I know I am too im.

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considerate of other people's time in this matter - can you let me have a photograph of Dr. Coolidge? Any time in the next three or four months will do for that. You may be sure that anything you will write me touching on any of the men & times & occupations you knew will be invaluable. One man I must use great care about is Mr. Peck. I know little of his career before he became Head, but after that my personal debt to him was so incalculable that I must be somewhat "modified" by others. Of course in all these things, & in help I get from you & others, I shall be very careful to be discreet & impersonal: be sure of that.

I am glad you have so agreeable

an outdoor hobby as plants. I am
sorry to say that I should not
know Wordsworth's "yellow primrose"
by name, - but can claim that it
would be much more than a "yel-
low primrose" to me! I arrived in
North Haven so fagged out that I
have had to proceed cautiously; but
now, with a little golf thrown in,
I have been spending most of my
time in the woods & on the water,
& once more the load seems to
have dropped from my shoulders for
a time.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. Emerson Benson.



Benson, Albert Emerson. 1924. "Benson, A. Emerson Jul. 10, 1924." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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