

Chamberlain Institute

Randolph, N. H.

March 9, 1889.

Judge Abner W. Tompkins,

Manville, N. H.

Dear Sir,

Altho' I have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with you, I have read with great interest several of your books, and heard you speak at Chanton you, while my husband was at me ^{the} me your guest.

As genius is always amenable to appreciation, I thought it might be of interest to you to read what follows.

Mr. S. H. Ote of Confield, with whom you are doubtless acquainted,

more than twenty five years
since established the "Utah
Prize Contest", in which two
prizes each are awarded for excel-
lence in composition and declam-
ation. There is no public expense
connected with our school, that
awakens the interest that is felt
in this, not even our commence-
ment exercises; and a large audience
is always in attendance.

In connection therewith I had
charge of the work of preparing the stud-
ents for their kind of work, and
have often found it quite diffi-
cult to supply such interesting
pieces for the declamation.

Several years since while reading
the "Falls around", I was struck
by the dramatic power in the side
of city horror, and have read

it once or twice in our literary
society, connected with the school.
The selection piece for our recent
Prize Contest, I concluded to adapt
the Arde, so that it could be given
by one of the young ladies.

It required considerable cutting down
to bring it within the necessary limits
of time, but I think lost little of its
meaning and effectiveness.

I gave the young ladies to whom
it was assigned, a very careful
training - the program an apt trial
and when the award of the judges
was made, Miss Parsons received the
first prize, while the "Christ Piece"
from Ben Han, was awarded the
second prize, a fraction of only
one fifth being between the two.

The decision of the judges
met the almost unanimous approval

of the audience, who followed the
Nan. girl in her ride, with almost
unwearied interest.

I enclose program. The contestants
show for their places.

To show you the grade of the
work done, I may repeat with all
modesty, the remark of an educa-
tor who was present, a stranger
to the school, that he had "never
heard, in Academy or college,
any exercise more interesting or cre-
dible".

I consider the Ride of Lily Ker-
vose as one of the most thrilling
descriptions I am familiar with,
and your delineation of five
hours, as given in the *Fort's* *Evening*
are unexcelled.

My husband wishes me to remem-
ber him most cordially to you,

Wishing to have sometime the
pleasure of a personal acqum-
tance with yourself and family
allow me to subscribe myself

Yours respectfully
Emmal A. Edwards

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013