

E. C. Means.

Esbland, Ky. June 6th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Your letter to Ruby came this morning and she asks me to return the sample and to state that she is very well pleased with the silk and will take six yards of it.

Mrs. Sheldon is still here and is not fully decided when to go East. Tom appears to be quietly keeping her here by advising her to postpone her preparations. She talks of going the last of the month and really wants to do so. but Tom will endeavor to find many reasons why there should be longer delay. Just now he is so busy with the new ice plant at Cattletsburg that he does not find time to talk about Mrs. S. going away. From present indications he will give up the children only when Mrs. S. says she must get home again. It is very sad to think of his parting with his children and no one can blame him for keeping them here as long as he can.

Charley, Ruby, A. E. & I were up at Clyffesyde this afternoon and the young one had her first skiff-ride. She liked it, but wanted a "fish very much," so we will take her up some day and try our luck a fishing. There are many small ones there.

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Col Putnam says that I can select the time for my vacation — He expects to remain at home, Mrs. P. does not want to go away — Such being the case we will probably leave here the last of July or first week in August — going to some point on Lake George or thereabouts. We can

● go direct to New York and then up the Hudson by day steamer to Albany — from A to L. G.

Do you think that will be a good place for Ruby & H. E. ? We can return by N. Y. for the Aug. Low Moor directors meeting or skip the meeting if it interferes with our plans —

● We are anxious to be with you and if you prefer to go elsewhere, we can change our ideas as it would be new to us and might be more agreeable to you than to go to L. G. again —

Harry has gone to Hot Springs for the advice of Dr. Pole and the baths — He contemplates a trip to Montreal in July. He needs the change but am afraid he will do so much travelling that he will not be benefitted as he might be by going where he would get more exercise and less fatigue —

Fathers plans are unknown and he has not announced when he will return home —

E. C. Means.

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Asbland, Ky. _____ 189

Have received a notice that a fire occurred in one of your Covington houses and that the damages have been adjusted by the insurance company as \$199.50. It will be repaired at once - Fire occurred at noon May 29th and was from a gasoline stove - I presume the insurance will cover all of the damage -

Will Seaton has secured the franchise for the Dronton telephone exchange after long delay -

We hear that Miss Eads leaves Tuesday or Wednesday and feel sure that you will enjoy her visit - While I am not well acquainted with her, others speak so highly of her that I feel sure she will be very agreeable - The trip will be beneficial to her no doubt and her health is not the best -

I wish you could eat some of Ruby's strawberry short cake, it is very good and will do to commend her skill -

This is not intended for a business letter but is written at home -

With much love from Ruby & I
and your affectionate nephews:

E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. June 26th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret;

Will, Bessie, Hilda & Ruby returned yesterday from Detroit whither they had gone six days before. Will attended The Telephone Companies Convention and the others were sight seeing and shopping.

● I went as far as Cincinnati with them, closing up the collection of the insurance on #300 Main St \$199⁵⁰ and arranging to pay for the repairs of like amount to Mr. J. A. Hyne. The fire and water damage caused the rebuilding of the wooden portion of the house and some new paper & paint, glass etc. Mr. Hyne is the tenant and the Insurance Agent had contracted with him to make the necessary repairs for \$199⁵⁰

I arranged with Mr. Hyne to paint the building repair the brick work where needed, especially the chimneys, and to put on new shutters. I told him that you would be willing to put all the rents this year, not required for taxes & insurance into repairs. In order to get the property into a better condition for tenants. It is badly in need of repairs & paint.

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Ashland, Ky. _____ 189

Alynes lost heavily in household furniture by not having any insurance upon his goods. Am afraid he is unlucky, last winter he had a sick wife, then he broke his leg and now he has a girl 7 years old who has been sick. She appears honest and willing and I am not disposed to change him, at any rate until he has had a chance to rent the houses, while they are in better condition.

Harry returned from the Hot Springs, Wednesday on the same train as Miss Helen Spaulding. He appears better and is taking more exercise.

Father keeps close at home and goes out only in the evening. Mildred & Aunt Mary have sold out the chickens and are cleaning and improving the place.

Mrs Sheldon & the Adams children went away Wednesday. Tom is getting his meals at the hotel and is trying to do too much work in connection with his little ice-plants. I am afraid he will overdo his strength this summer and am advising him to let some one else take charge for a while.

We have made an application to the Supreme

E. C. Means.

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Court to hear our case and while it is very doubtful that it will do so, we will not know before October. Meantime we are uncertain how far the lower court will compel us to account. We have asked that nothing be done until we hear from Washington and Judge Barr has not ruled upon the request but will do so soon.

We are invited by Miss Belle Coles to play cards at their home tonight.

The Ohio River is in good stage for boats and it has rained more than ordinary during past month. Weather warm.

With regards to Miss Eads and love to yourself

Your affectionate nephew,

E. C. Means

CONDITION

—OF THE—

Ashland National Bank

AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS

June 30, 1897.

RESOURCES:

Loans and Discounts,	\$ 156,983 54
U. S. 4 per cent. Bonds for Circulation, .	100,000 00
U. S. 4 per cent. Bonds on Hand,	80,000 00
Other Bonds,	17,032 53
Due from Banks,	120,444 67
Cash on Hand,	35,687 84
Banking House and Fixtures,	9,750 00
Redemption Fund,	4,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 524,398 48

LIABILITIES:

Capital Stock,	\$ 105,000 00
Surplus Fund,	21,000 00
Undivided Profits,	8,667 06
Circulation,	90,000 00
Individual Deposits,	250,860 05
Due to Banks,	3,621 37
U. S. Bond Account,	40,000 00
Dividend No. 48, 5 per cent.,	5,250 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 524,398 48

W. C. RICHARDSON, Cashier.

T. D. DALE, Prest.
W. J. CRAM, Mgr. and Treas.

H. G. CHAMBERLAIN, Sec'y.
J. E. HALL, Gen'l Sales Agent.



The Argand Refining Company,

MANUFACTURERS OF

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

WORKS:
WEST MARIETTA.

Marietta, Ohio, July 1st, 27.

John Means, Esq.
Ashland, Ky.

Dear Sir:--

I hand you our check for \$125.00 in payment of a 2-1/2% cash dividend declared this day on the stock you hold in our Company.

Our quarterly statement for July 1st will be mailed you on or about July 15th.

Yours truly,

H. G. Chamberlain

QUARTERLY STATEMENT

OF

THE ARCAD REFINING COMPANY.

MARIETTA, O.

JULY 1ST, 1897.

DR.

CR.

Refinery Buildings, Machry. & Real Estate	\$92,042.21	Capital Stock	\$200,000.00
Construction since Jany. 1st, 1897	777.01	Accounts Payable	5,985.42
Stock on hand	14,170.11	Profit & Loss	217,601.17
Cash in Bank and Accts. Receivable	44,251.28		
Cash Dividends	122,340.00		
Stock Dividends	150,000.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$423,586.59		\$423,586.59

Net profit from April 1st 1897 to July 1st 1897,	\$ 7,179.92
Net profit for corresponding three month of 1896,	7,150.37
Net profit for year ending Dec. 31st, 1893,	22,559.37
Net profit for year ending Dec. 31st, 1894,	22,764.93
Net profit for year ending Dec. 31st, 1895,	29,044.31
Net profit for year ending Dec. 31st, 1896,	29,123.63

There are no unadjusted accounts or indefinite claims against the Company of any kind and all salaries are paid to date. The stock on hand is invoiced at its true value in its present position and no profit is calculated upon that. It will bring \$14,170.11 if sold to day to close out business. The Accounts Receivable are all good accounts and are being paid as fast as matured. Under our system, we discount no paper and make no time drafts. When accounts mature we draw at sight. We buy supplies for cash and get the discounts allowed in each case.

Reference is made to itemized accounts of stock on hand, Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable and to the Books of the Company at the Office at Marietta.

E. C. Means.

Elshland, Ky. July 8th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Today J. M. Adams and myself as Administrators with the will annexed etc have sent checks to an attorney Mr. Lawrence Maxwell Jr to pay court costs of \$2,258³¹ in suit of Cowen et als Trustees of Wm Means etc and \$3,000⁰⁰ to pay to the Trustees or plaintiffs in the suit.

We will also have to pay \$1,250⁰⁰ for additional costs inside of 30 days.

By agreement of attorneys on both sides no further payments will be required before October. When it will be determined whether or not the Supreme Court will hear the case.

When you were here ^{last} you told me that as soon as any payments were made to the Trustees, Cowen, Williams & Frazier or their attorneys, that you desired that thereupon I should cease remitting from your funds to William Means; acting then upon your instructions I shall not remit any funds to him upon his request to you.

E. C. Means.

#2 M. A. M.

Asbland, Ky. July 8th 1897

unless I have instructions from you to do so—

My last remittance to Mr Means from your funds was \$85⁰⁰ July 1st in response to his request to you dated June 26th

● Rain today prevents a picnic at Clyffside Park by the Means & Seatons for which all preparations are made—

We have been having intensely warm weather for two weeks—

Our coal miners are still at work but may strike at any time—

● We are all well and send much love to you. With regards to Miss Eada

Your affectionate nephew:

E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Asbland, Ky. July 23^d 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Herewith letter to you
from Tom Means 22nd inst -

Your letters to Ruby & myself from Seabright
were duly received -

As I may be detained here by miners strike
and Harriet Evelyn has suffered so much
from her experiences with last hot weather,
I have proposed to Ruby that she shall
not wait for me but leave here about
the 2nd of Aug for New York and go
either near or where you are and I will
leave as soon after as the conditions of
affairs here will warrant -

We are anxious to accomplish two things,
among others, (1) to have Father go away
with our party (2) to be with you -

As both Father & you suggest that
Lake George is a warm place in summer
why should we not abandon that idea
and seek a cooler place? Can accommo-
dations be secured where you are now? and
would it suit you to have all stay there
for a time? - Or would you prefer to have

E. C. Means.

#2 M. A. M.

Asbland, Ky. _____ 189

a change and all go to some other place?
I have a well & stud guide but have not
investigated it very extensively and only
selected Lake George because of its noted scenery.

If you will be so kind as to write and
let me know how Ruby, Mary & the baby
shall go from Jersey City or New York
to reach your place, it may assist
them and be so simple a journey that
Father could be induced to undertake it.

He suffered from the extreme ^{heat} and I
feel very anxious to get him away.

Our miners are all working now but
affairs are uncertain and I do not feel
like leaving here until some settlement
of the general strike occurs.

Aunt Mary is arranging another picnic
this afternoon in honor of her visitors
Miss Flora Seaton & Miss Richard of Greensburg

With love and hopes of seeing you soon

Your affectionate nephews

E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Asbland, Ky. July 31st 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Enclosed find a letter from William Means for you which came in envelope addressed to me. I have written him as follows:

"Your letter 28th inst to Miss Margaret
● A. Means enclosed in envelope addressed
"to me, will be forwarded to her.

"At present I have no instructions
"as her Agent to make the remittance
"requested -

As I understand your wishes in this matter, my authority to remit from your funds to William Means upon his request, in limited amounts, ceased when there was paid \$3,000⁰⁰ to the attorneys of Cowen et als Trustees of William Means et als from the funds of the Estate of Thos W. Means.

While I am not positive about the matter, I presume the attorneys managed to get all or nearly all of the \$3,000⁰⁰ although it was paid, to be considered part of William Means one-fifth interest in his fathers estate in case the Trustees finally won the

E. C. Means.

#2.

Fishland, Ky. 7/31 1897

suit now in U. S. Court. Trustee Coven, I am told by our attorneys, consented to the arrangement whereby the judgement against the Administrators of the estate was suspended until October. If the payment of costs and the \$3,000 had not been made the Administrators would have been called upon for the full one-fifth interest of William Means. and while we are trying to get the U. S. Supreme court to hear the case on appeal. It is not by matter of right on our part that we can demand it but only as a matter of courtesy. Or in other words, the law presumes we have had all the justice we can of right demand of the courts and the Supreme court is under no obligations to hear our case, unless it chooses to do so.

So the \$3000- is paid to the Trustees to keep them from demanding, at this time, all of the $\frac{1}{5}$ interest of William Means and if in October the Supreme court will not hear the case, we will have that much less to pay to the Trustees.

E. C. Means.

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Elshland, Ky. _____ 7/31 1897

Ruby, Mary & H. E. will leave here Tuesday
Aunt Mary will not be with them but
we have succeeded in putting Father on
the doubtful list - and he may go -

It now looks as if I will have to go
later, as the miners near by are beginning
to strike and may try to get our men
to abandon work -

Charley left for Asheville yesterday -
With much love

Your affectionate nephew
E. C. Means

New York, August 11, 1897.

The Treasurer of the Low Moor Iron Co., of Virginia, begs to submit to the Board of Directors a balance sheet, and other statements, showing the condition of the Company on the 30th of June.

The showing is not a satisfactory one, owing to the unprecedented depression in the iron market, with a production largely exceeding the consumption, a light demand making a very active competition for the little business offering, and causing the falling off in prices to a point below the cost of making. At the present time there seems little prospect of any improvement in prices; but the General Manager is confident that the cost of our product can be reduced so as to gain a reasonable profit on the business even at the present market value.

It may be well to state that the increase of our Stock, some 17,000 tons, since December 31st, has been inventoried at less than the cost.

The balance sheet shows a decrease in

Profit and Loss account of	-	\$13,839.35
Sinking Fund increased	\$7,645.71	
Insurance Fund	1,779.42	9,416.13
Loss for the six months	-	\$4,423.22

There has been added to the Furnace Repair Fund \$9,566.77, which is more than offset by the amount expended on Ore Trestle, \$5,885.94, and part of the cost of new locomotive, \$4,149.38.

On the 1st of May the stock of iron at the two furnaces, and in transit, was nearly 40,000 tons, while the deliveries were far below the make of one furnace. To carry this large and constantly increasing stock, and pay the current expenses, it was necessary for your Treasurer to borrow money monthly. As the low prices ruling at the West, (where a large proportion of our Covington Iron had been sold) made it impossible to dispose of much of our product there, except at prices far below the cost, it was deemed advisable to blow out the Covington Furnace. This was done on the 15th of May; since then the stock has been reduced some 6,000 tons.

The finances have been in better condition, and the Treasurer has been able to pay off some 40,000 dollars of borrowed money.

Herewith you will find the General Manager's report, showing the condition of the plant and advising that we may be called on at any time to face a large expenditure for re-lining furnace and stoves.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD A. LOW,

Treasurer.

*Edward A. Low
August 11, 1897*

E. C. Means.

Esbland, Ky. Aug 15 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

It is a pleasure to know that Ruby + H. E. are enjoying their visit by the sea in such happy company and I hope they have not annoyed you or the little one caused impatience as some times she does at home -

They should both have as many dips in the ^{surf} waves as the weather permits -

I have packed and tomorrow expect to be on my way eastward happy in the thought of a vacation -

Tell Father that I have Harry's field glasses, which are the ones I presume he referred to, as I found them in his closet -

We are having rain and cool weather today, in fact have had cool weather ever since our people left home.

There is so little to write about that when one writes almost every day it is difficult to find news - Perhaps I will learn some in New York to talk about - For past few days it has been all politics here with no success in our attempt to ~~down~~ Mr Harper for sheriff.

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky.

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Still the delegates selected from Ashland give hopes that good ones will be selected to attend the city convention next month and the present gang can be kept out of office -

The steamboats are running as usual and it now looks like a prosperous year for them.

Bessie's family are well and the boys are up to all sorts of tricks. Have a good time and eat like boys only can -

Hoping to be with you soon and with much love to yourself and the others

Your affectionate nephew
E. C. Means -

P.S. Mr Anderson has written to Mrs M. explaining why his last request was declined.

THE LOW MOOR IRON COMPANY OF VIRGINIA,

Office of Treasurer, 31 Burling Slip.

EDWD. A. LOW, Treas. }
A. AUG. LOW, Ass't Treas. }

New York, 8/16 1897

	1895 Last 6 mos	1896 1st 6 mos	1896 2 ^d 6 mos	1897 1 st 6 mos
Cast Ore Allen's	,37½	,39	,56	,52
Daley's run	,00	,06	,07	,01
Iron mtn.	,18	,75	,02	,60
Stacks	,44	,66	,49	2 04
Limestone	4 5½	.53	.54	.52
Cast Iron Low Moor	8 43	8 55	8 79	8 72
" Gornington	8 05	9 35	8 02	8 56
Cast Iron mtn		,26		,58½
Ore to iron "		2 27½		364 2

E. C. Means.

Elshland, Ky. Sept 12th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

We came home to warm ourselves, judging from present conditions, as the temperature is 90° today and no indications of rain. It is very dusty. The Ohio River is getting too low for packets and steamboating is uncertain.

Mary fell off a chair and broke two ribs, she is over in Trouton recuperating.

Ruby thanks you for the magazine and we both believe it is a beautiful place where you now are, judging from the pictures of it.

Tom Culbertson has returned from a visit to Old Point with his wife. Mrs. Wm Culbertson expects to go to Florida about 1st November.

The Baptist Association met here two days last week and we had four extra for dinner each day but none were willing to trust themselves overnight under our roof.

Harry & Tom, & Bessie's family are all well with much love from Ruby, Harriet E and myself to you & Father & regards to Miss Eads
Your affectionate nephew:

E. C. Means

BOYD CIRCUIT COURT.

The Metropolitan National Bank of Cincinnati Ohio Plaintiff,

AGAINST

William Means and others Defendant(s)

Order of Attachment.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky,

To the Sheriff of Boyd County:

You are hereby commanded to attach and safely keep the property of the Defendant

William Means

in your county, not exempt from execution, or so much thereof as will be sufficient to satisfy

the claim of the Plaintiff, in this action about \$4500 ^{which was paid in addition to the sums formerly attached for this action} for the sum of \$15,944.74 with 6% interest thereon from the 1st day of May 1893, Dollars

and Twenty Dollars for the cost thereof; and you will summons the Garnishees to answer herein on the first day of the next January term of said Court, and make due return of this order on that day.

Witness, G. H. MEADE, Clerk of said Court, this 18th day of September 1897

G. H. Meade Clerk.

By D. C.

NOTICE: The person or corporation to whom this order of attachment is delivered is hereby summoned to answer as garnishee in this action on or before the first day of the next January Term, 1898, of the Boyd Circuit Court.

Pogue & Mow & Mow
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

Wm Kline, B. C.
By And Becker, S.

No.
vs. } Order of Attachment,
To Term, 189
Came to hand day of at
..... minutes
..... o'clock, M.
THE BRADLEY & GILBERT CO., LOUISVILLE, KY.

E. C. Means.

Elshland, Ky. Sept 21st 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Your letter of 17th inst at hand and the questions therein I shall answer as best I can—

"How do you suppose that Will or his family are in need of money for current expenses?"

I judge that there is no real want or need but that could be relieved by the use of property in control of himself or his family.

From what Mr. Anderson says has been written to him by your brother William, it appears that he would not agree to the simplest method to give you what protection he can to secure the repayment of any future loans.

Mr. Anderson suggested that William give you his notes and orders on the trustees, properly accepted by them ^{and the family} to pay the notes from any money coming into their hands. Such a simple method was promptly declined—

Why? Because William never expects to repay any money he gets from you but thinks he can work the sympathy racket (excuse slang) for money and all the time keep out of promise to repay you—

He probably reasons in his own mind, that his success in getting his debts paid by Grant father and later come in for one fifth of the estate was very smart. So he begins by asking you if the Administrators had paid you ~~and~~ the orders given to them in 1891, probably well aware that they had not and could not without an order of court and the latter only obtainable after a law suit with the Trustees, Metropolitan Bank and perhaps others. But the question was asked to show you he wanted it done(?) and then follows a request for money. But when Mr. Anderson asked him if he would secure past loans if you advanced more, William proposed a scheme that Mr. Anderson at once tells you will not do and advises you to keep out of it. Then Mr. A. proposed the plan of notes & orders for future remittances only and it was declined.

Mr. A. suggested to William, that if he could secure you so that you would be safe in giving \$1500⁰⁰ per year for an indefinite period that he might get the money from somebody else on

E. C. Means.

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Elshland, Ky. _____ 189

the same terms & conditions - No reply to that.

Why is he in need if he can secure any one so that they would be safe in advancing \$1200[±] per year indefinitely? \$1200 is 6% annual interest on \$20,000. It is ~~more~~ than interest on \$20,000 when it is given

● Free of taxes and best securities yield but 4%
Where is the property of value more than \$20,000[±] which can be used for security but not for ready money? Why only you can get money out of it? I think Mr. A. did well to warn you to keep clear of entanglements, and if as William, wrote, you could be secured why not some one else and therefore why is he in need with so much security.

● I think it well for you to keep in mind these conclusions and continue under Mr. A. advice if you wish repayment for future advances -

With love

Your affectionate nephew

E. C. Means

Mary was standing on chair when she fell - She is about well again -

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. Sept 27th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Enclosed find a draft of the Ashl Natl Bank on New York bank for One thousand (\$1000⁰⁰) Dollars from your funds as per your request - 23rd

We are having a dusty season and no rain, warm days & cool nights - Navigation suspended upon the Ohio River on account of low water.

We are recovering from our colds in head -

Last week we attended wedding anniversary of Judge & Mrs Houston & Mr. & Mrs James Patton and a card party at Judge Sarago's.

This week we are expecting to entertain Mrs. John Lindsey & her daughter Miss Lillian, from Frankfort - And perhaps Mr. & Mrs. Stargill from Low Moor, a friend of mine -

The iron business is improving and orders are coming in greater number. The same is true of the brick business. We now have hopes for a good winters trade in iron - The strike is settled in most places and coal trade brisk.

With much love from all -

Your affectionate nephew
E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Elshland, Ky. Oct 15th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Have busy lately with a good deal of writing and have delayed answering your last letter as Ruby has written most of the news.

I have followed your instructions and have been paying Mrs. McChesney \$42⁰⁰ per week for your rooms etc since Sept 1st and the last payment was in full to Nov 2nd.

H. E. is well and has a good time going about. On her account we are sorry to have the cold weather which will keep her in doors.

Yesterday I forwarded Miss Thorw's letter to you. We are still doing an extensive coal business; entirely by rail as there is not enough water in river for any business of consequence.

Was in Cincinnati last week but did not find Mr. Sinton in his office when I called. Nor did I see any of your friends.

Ruby goes to Frankfort Monday to attend a wedding. All well

With love

Your affectionate nephew
E. C. Means

THE ARGAND REFINING COMPANY

Marietta, Ohio, Oct. 25th 1897.

Mr John Meaus
Ashland Ky.

Dear Sir :-

You are hereby notified that an adjourned meeting of the meeting of The Stockholders of The Argand Refining Co. held at the Grand Hotel, Cincinnati, O, on Oct. 22nd, 1897, will be held at the Grand Hotel, Cincinnati, O, on Nov. 5th, 1897 at 10.30 o'clock A. M. to consider further the matter of making a lease of The Argand Refining Co. property and business to The Solar Refining Co., and for such other business as may come before the Meeting.

H. J. Saunders
Secretary.

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. Oct 26 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

I know you will be interested to learn that the Supreme Court of the U. S. will pass upon the case of Lower/Als Trustees vs Adams etc - Here we are all pleased to learn, the highest court in the country has found enough from an inspection of the record of the case, to have some doubt as to the correctness of the opinion of the Circuit Court of Appeals. And that perhaps Judge Barr will be sustained.

I enclose letter of Jno F. Hager and a clipping from Cincinnati paper - Father is pleased in the action of the Supreme Court - Mr. Anderson, to whom I telephoned the news last night, said he would sleep 24 hours -

I imagine Mr Blidden will not be so happy -

We are having severe drought and through the country there is a great scarcity of water. At Coalton we put water from Ashland into a cistern for the use of the people -

Ruby is delighted over the ring. A. E. is well and both join in love -

Your aff nephew: E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Asbland, Ky. Oct. 28th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

As per your request
28th inst I enclose herewith from your funds
a New York draft for One thousand (\$1000⁰⁰) Dollars.

I note you wish to sell your Boston
Iron Works Stock, but you do not state
the least you will take for it. The last
sale I know about was \$2,000 par value
for \$600⁰⁰ or on the old basis before the
reduction of Capital 12¢ on the dollar.

Until yesterday I believed the stock was
worth that amount but today I am very
uncertain about it. The Furnace has
been leased to the A. C. & Ry. Co @ \$6,000⁰⁰ per
year, the lease earning nearly 2% on the
total capital of \$311,000⁰⁰ but yesterday
a majority of the directors voted to terminate
the lease next April. And I judge that
J. M. Adams & M. H. Houston believe they can run
the furnace at a profit. It is possible
that they might succeed but I very much
doubt it - and would have much preferred
that the present arrangement with the
A. C. & Ry. Co be continued.

E. C. Means.

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Elshland, Ky. _____ 189

Under the new laws of this state, in case of a failure, the stockholders of the Norton might be called upon to pay their pro rata proportion of any loss - and for that reason, if for no other, I should prefer to continue as at present -

- If I can succeed in getting an offer for your stock I will take pleasure in submitting same for your consideration -

Today it looks as if we might have an end to the drought - and a storm -

- By the way, Charley Means & Kenny Butler favor an effort to exchange on some basis Norton stock for A. C. S. stock and let the A. C. S. have absolute control - The A. C. S. for a number of years has paid 4% annually and there is no liability in case of failure - If a majority of stock of the Norton could be so exchanged it would be in my estimation a good move for both companies -

We are all well and local politics are lively - With love

Yours truly
E. C. Means

THE ARGAND REFINING COMPANY.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 12th, 1897

An adjourned Meeting of the Stockholders of the Argand Refining Company was held at the Grand Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, at 10.30 o'clock A.M. this day in pursuance to resolution for an adjournment adopted at the Meeting held at the same place on Nov. 5th, the total number of shares represented in person or by proxy being 1735 shares.

T. D. Dale was acted as Chairman and in the absence of the Secretary H. G. Chamberlain, W. J. Cram was chosen Secretary.

The matters of the proposed lease of the Works and property of this Company to the Solar Refining Company, and the contract between Chas. Miller, President of the Galena Oil Works and T. D. Dale, and assigned by Dale to this Company, came up for further consideration, in pursuance to the resolution of adjournment adopted at the Meeting of Stockholders held on the 22 of October last and were fully discussed.

Mr. Fraser offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Archer:-

RESOLVED, that the resolution adopted by the Stockholders at their Meeting held on the 22nd of October, 1897, authorizing the Directors of this Company to make the contract with the Solar Refining Co. for the rental of the Works and business of this Company for the period of 10 years from Nov. 15th, 1897, for the sum of \$12,000.00 per year and other considerations (copy of which contract is recorded in the minutes of said Meeting), and a resolution adopted at said Meeting authorizing the Directors of this Company to accept the contract made by T. D. Dale with Chas. Miller and assigned by T. D. Dale to this Company (a copy of which is also entered in the Minutes of said Meeting), are approved and ratified by the Stockholders present at this adjourned Meeting, and a Stock vote being taken upon said resolution, the same resulted as follows :-

Stockholders, voting.		Yea No. Shares	Nay No. Shares
Chas. A. Hill,	By his Proxy, T. D. Dale,	20	
E. B. Dana,	" " " T. D. Dale,	50	
W. W. Peabody, Jr.,	" " " T. D. Dale,	110	
W. W. Peabody,	" " " T. D. Dale,	150	
I. G. Rawn,	" " " T. D. Dale,	150	
S. B. Dale,	" her " T. D. Dale,	125	
W. F. Dana,	" his " T. D. Dale,	10	
D. G. Putnam,	" " " T. D. Dale,	24	
Douglas Putnam,	" " " T. D. Dale,	65	
Annie P. Hall,	" her " T. D. Dale,	50	
D. D. Carothers,	" his " T. D. Dale,	10	
W. T. Schnauffer,	" " " W. J. Cram,	14	
J. M. Squier,	" " " W. J. Cram,	10	
H. G. Chamberlain,	" " " W. J. Cram,	25	
F. C. Tompleton,	" " " W. J. Cram,	20	
Bourne, Scrymser & Co	" " " W. J. Cram,	33	
W. J. Cram,	In person,	175	
	Carried forward	1,032	

Stockholders voting.		Yea No. Shares	Nay. No. Shares
	Brought Forward	1,022	
T.D.Dale,	In person,	573	
A.D.Martin,	" "	55	
R.M.Fraser,	" "	100	
Wm. Archer,	" "	20	
S.G.Cargill,	By his Proxy, W.J.Cram,		5
Jno. Means,	" " " W.J.Cram,		50
H.G.Merry,	" " " W.J.Cram,		20
E.C.Means,	" " " W.J.Cram,		20
E.A. Poore,	" " " T.J.Morgan,		10
C.B.Weakley,	" " " T.J.Morgan,		10
T.J.Morgan,	In person,		50
	Total	<u>1,570</u>	<u>165</u>

Whole number of shares represented at the Meeting 1735.

Whereupon it appearing that 1570 votes were cast in favor of the said resolution and 165 votes against the same, the said resolution offered by Mr. Fraser aforesaid, was declared to be duly adopted.

A motion was made by R. M. Fraser, and seconded by Mr. A. D. Martin that copies of the proceedings of these Stockholders' Meetings be sent by mail to all the Stockholders, which was passed unanimously.

On motion of Mr. R. M. Fraser and seconded by Wm. Archer, the Meeting adjourned.

W.J.Cram.
Acting Secretary

T.D.Dale,
Chairman,

DIRECTORS MEETING.

Marietta, Ohio, Nov. 15th, 1897.

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Argand Refining Co. was held at the Office of the Company this day on call of the President Present T.D.Dale, W.J.Cram, and H.G.Chamberlain, Directors, being the majority of the Board.

The following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Stockholders of this Company at their Meetings held at the Grand Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 22nd day of October and the 12th day of November, 1897, adopted resolutions authorizing the Board of Directors to make the contract with the Solar Refining Co. for the rental of the Works and business of this Company for the period of 10 years from Nov. 15th, 1897 for the sum of \$12,000.00 per year and other considerations, - as set forth in a copy of said contract bearing date of October 14th, 1897, and entered upon the minutes of the said Stockholders Meetings in these Records, and also authorizing the Directors to accept the contract made by T.D.Dale, with Chas Miller and assigned by T.D.Dale to this Company, - which also appears upon said Record under date of Oct. 15th, 1897, -

Therefore be it resolved, that this Company will and does hereby enter into said Contract of Lease with the Solar Refining Company and will and does hereby accept said contract made by T.D.Dale with Chas Miller and assigned by T.D.Dale, to this Company, in all respects as set forth in said written agreements and that the President and

Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver said instruments and agreement accordingly.

There being no further business before the Board, on motion adjourned.

H.C. Chamberlain,
Secretary.

T. D. Dale,
President.

E. C. Means.

Asbland, Ky. Nov 13th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Your letter returning one from Mrs. Means duly received.

Hereafter I will follow your instructions and submit same to Mr. Anderson instead of forwarding to you. I have mailed the one referred to above to Mr. Anderson and expect to see him soon.

It was simply a matter of thoughtlessness on my part in forwarding the letter to you instead of to Mr. Anderson. It occurred to me that you would send it to him for reply - and for the moment I lost sight of the fact that you preferred Mr. A. should read the letters first.

Herewith Low Moor proxy which please sign and mail to me at Low Moor Va as I shall leave here Tuesday. Am in hopes Father will go with me to meeting. He has a bad cold and looks miserable. If he stays at home as now, I agree with you, that his life is liable to be short, much shorter I fear than we realize. His wife should take him South for the winter.

E. C. Means.

#2

Asbland, Ky. _____ 189—

It appears that none here can get him out of doors for proper exercise -

We have had rain sufficient to raise the river to light packet stage and the Pomeroy boats are running. The Pittsburgh boats start today.

● The Iron business is not so good owing to usual slackness at this time of year for new business. However all furnaces hereabouts have sold out ~~fast~~ since July 1st but have not made great reductions in stock.

● Parties from Pittsburgh have two gas wells about 2 miles from Catlettsburg which appear capable of supplying all the houses with gas for domestic use.

Fire Brick business continues good and we have prospects for a good output all winter -

With much love

Your affectionate nephew

E. C. Means

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

November 23, 1907.

[1897]

Mrs. E. C. Means,

Ashland, Ky.

My dear Mrs. Means:-

There was some little delay in forwarding your letter from TABLE TALK office and when it did reach here two days ago it found me ~~with~~ laid up with an unusually severe attack of sick headache - a rather unusual thing but one which, when it does appear, comes in such form as to completely prostrate me. I regret it the more on account of the previous delay and take the first opportunity of answering your questions.

First, with regard to the decorations. As it is in the holidays why not make them, as you suggest, largely of holly and other greens, ~~as you suggest~~ but having the color scheme wholly green and scarlet and in wreath form. The holly usually has a good display of scarlet berries and where they are lacking, scarlet carnations may be substituted. Follow the wreath idea as fully as possible making not only large wreaths for the curtains, walls, etc., but smaller ones to encircle the various dishes on the table, base of candelabra~~etc.~~, and tiny ones for those who assist - if the holly is too stubborn to be used for these last the little running vine with red berries which we call here partridge- or squaw-berry vine would answer nicely, or smilax with small scarlet carnations. Heavy portieres can be bordered with the holly and it might also be twined down the balustrades, tying it with very narrow scarlet ribbon. It is rather difficult to go into detailed directions in this line without knowing something more of the plan of the house, but if this is too vague or you have any special corner you want fixed I will be only too happy to make further suggestions if you will write again.

So far I do not feel that I have gone far beyond your plan

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

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but for the refreshments I shall venture to propose a radically different line from yours. An afternoon reception allows much greater latitude than one in the evening in that direction and refreshments are usually of a somewhat lighter and more fancy character. The "swellest" thing here is to invite a number of young girls to "pour tea" - in other words, to assist with the refreshments. You say that your diningroom is large - a blessing which we city people do not possess. So what do you say to setting several small tables and having one young lady preside at each. She should be in light or evening dress and, if you can, arrange with her before hand to wear the same color (or, if in white, colored ribbons) as the decorations of the table at which she is to preside. There might be four tables - two scarlet one green and one white or two white. At one serve café frappé, fancy cakes and bonbons: at a second bouillon and sandwiches: at a third a choice of two salads, also sandwiches, if you think best and at the fourth ice cream and fancy cakes. For the decoration of these tables there is nothing prettier than the beautiful crape papers which may now be procured in so many shades and at the moderate price of ten cents a roll. If you have candelabra or small fancy lamps, distribute them among the tables, using shades of the crape paper over the ordinary shade or globe, and a wreath of holly at the base of each (and by the way, the gas or lamp globes in all the rooms may be similarly covered with this paper: for ordinary globes cut a straight piece long enough to encircle the globe, paste the ends together, slip it over the globe and tie it round the base with baby ribbon or, if too high to be noticed, with sewing twist.) On the tables put a covering of the paper to simulate the usual cloth, pulling out the edges on either side so as to give a waved effect and pin the widths together. I have sometimes, if the table happened to be mahogany, first laid a square of muslin

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

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then the paper, so as to better show off the color of the latter. Over this, if you have any suitable, spread any pretty lace doileys you want to display. If you have never used any of the paper get a roll or two and experiment ~~with~~ with it - I am sure you will be greatly pleased with the result.

The best shape for these tables is that of a moderate sized square as it is most adaptable for decorating: if you have not four alike do the next best thing - take one or more oblong ones: but a round table is much harder to manage and accidents are more likely to occur.

Should you have café frappe you would need a large punch bowl from which to serve it. It is usually served in glass cups, similar to those used for lemonade but lately I saw colored ^{china} cups used at a pink reception. These glasses or cups should be placed in small piles to the right of the lady who serves and as they are used they are set down at the left hand, from there they are removed by the maid. Beyond the bowl may be several fancy plates holding small cakes and bonbons. No plates are necessary here.

At the bouillon table there should be cups of a small size - rather small tea-cups will do and small plates. The silver urn of bouillon (a coffee urn may be properly used) stands in front of the server and the arrangement of cups is the same as for the frappe: the plates may be just back of the cups and beyond them a number of plates with the sandwiches. An English style which is just being introduced here is, where there are a number of different kinds of sandwiches, to have a tiny white ribbon flag on each plate with the kind of sandwich indicated by letters of the prevailing color. Napkins may be placed here or on the table containing the salads.

While suggesting a table for ice cream I would not, personally, serve it but in its stead would have one or two sweet dishes such as royal diplomatic pudding, Bavarian cream or other preparation

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

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made with whipped cream and gelatin. In that case the two last tables might each have one salad and one sweet dish which might be served on the same plate. That is not at all uncommon at receptions here and would simplify the service. Should any guest desire only one of these at a time it is very easy to say so and later on he could be served with a second plate. For these two last tables there would then be on each one dish of salad and one sweet dish, a pile of plates and a fancy dish containing small cakes.

It would be well to have a ^mmaid detailed to attend to the taking out and replacing soiled china with clean dishes; to do it with comfort I should advise having one maid to look after not more than two of the tables.

Now if you think it best to adhere to your original plan and have the room, it will do nicely to serve your guests, seating them at small tables, providing you can range these tables at irregular intervals through the room and so avoid the appearance of any suggestion of a public dining room - that is the only objection I can see to it. Of course you would need more waiters and they must be persons trained to such work. In that case it would be very pretty to run a narrow strip - say one half of the width - of the crepe paper down the centre of each table and, if possible, to use individual lamps - one or more to each table according to size. I would not, however, serve peas with the croquettes, as it gives it too much the appearance of a meal which, after all, is the fact you wish to avoid. Serve bouillon, the croquettes with a small spoonful of very thick cream sauce on each plate and the salad on the same plate (passing sandwiches at the same time) and lastly the ice cream and coffee. If seated at tables the coffee may be brought on when the ice cream is partly consumed and should be served in an after-
^{dinner}~~noon~~ cup with saucer.

T. D. DALE, President.
W. J. CRAM, Manager.

H. G. CHAMBERLAIN, Sec'y and Treas.
J. E. HALL, Gen'l Sales Agent.



The Argand Refining Company,

MANUFACTURERS OF

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

WORKS:
WEST MARIETTA.

Marietta, Ohio, Nov. 23rd, 1897

John Means, Esq.,
Ashland, Ky.,

Dear Sir :-

We are informed by our Salesmen that the Stockholders of the Argand Refining Co. at Ashland and in that vicinity are so dissatisfied with the arrangement which has been made with the Solar Refining Co., that they have declined to continue to give the Argand Refining Co. their orders for oils.

The transaction above referred to was made at the urgent request of more than three-fourths of the Stockholders of the Company and every effort has been made to induce all the Stockholders to attend the Stockholders' meetings for the final consideration of the matter. The Directors of the Company have been unanimous in their opinion that under all the circumstances this was the best thing for the Argand Refining Co. to do. The Directors of the Company have acted entirely in the interest of the Stockholders and have devoted considerable time to this matter without receiving any compensation except their actual traveling expenses. They believe that under the present arrangement the Stockholders will finally receive more money for their Stock than could possibly have been secured in other way, taking into consideration the present situation of the Oil business. The Directors propose to continue their efforts to procure the best result possible for the Stockholders. It is evident, however, that in doing this we should have the co-operation and assistance as far as possible of all the Stockholders. If they will do this and will be patient until the Directors have worked the transaction through to its conclusion, the Stockholders will undoubtedly receive a much better return on their Stock than by assuming an attitude of hostility and giving their business to other Companies in which they can have no possible interest.

We shall be glad to hear from you on this subject and also pleased to answer any questions which you may desire to ask with reference to this transaction and as to our prospect for future business. There is absolutely nothing to conceal from the Stockholders and our Books and Records and all correspondence relating to this business will be shown without the slightest hesitation.

Hoping to hear from you that you will continue to give us your business and support, I remain,

Very respectfully,

Agard Co.

23 Nov 1897

Dear Sir: -
Virginia, Va.

Hoping to hear from you first you will continue to give us your
 without the slightest hesitation.
 people and all correspondence relating to this program will be given
 personally hoping to connect with the stockholders and our people and
 this transaction and as to our interest for future business. There is
 to answer any questions which you may desire to ask with reference to
 companies in which you can have no personal interest.
 wanting an article of legislation and giving their business to other
 will undoubtedly receive a much better return on their stock than we
 have asked the transaction through to the corporation. The stockholders
 holders. It may all be true and will be better than the directors
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 the present situation of the oil business. The directors propose to
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 otherwise. They believe that under the present arrangement the stock-
 holder without receiving any commission except their salary paying
 interest of the stockholders and have devoted considerable time to this
 Co. & Co. The directors of the company have acted entirely in the
 all the circumstances this was the best thing for the Agard holding
 business of the company have been mentioned in their opinion that under
 higher, meeting for the first consideration of the matter. The
 of how this transaction will be effected. The directors and every
 of how this transaction will be effected to see made at the present moment
 holding Co. I hope they have decided to continue to give the Agard
 holding Co. at Virginia and in that Virginia are so dis-
 are are interested in our opinion that the stockholders of

Nov. 23rd, 1897

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. Dec 1st 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret;

Your letter 29th inst at hand -
Herewith find enclosed a draft from the
Ashland Natl Bank upon the National City
Bank for One thousand (\$1000⁰⁰) Dollars as
per your request -

I have forwarded to Mrs. McChesney
a draft for \$210⁰⁰ paying for your room etc
in full to Jan'y 4th 98 -

Have placed an order for \$5000⁰⁰ par
value Old Colony RR. Stock for you
It will cost over \$9000⁰⁰ probably \$9200⁰⁰
and will appear in the annual statement

Will do what I can about the photographs
but am afraid it will be slow.

H. E. wants Santa to bring her a horse & buggy
she is considerably disturbed over the loss
of her rubber "Patsy" who appears to have
wandered away from the rest of her toys.
For a time she said "she did not want anything
she had enough" but now she thinks she
would like Santa to bring something -

There is a good boating stage in the
Ohio and all boats are running -

E. C. Means.

#2 M.A.M

Ashland, Ky. 12/1 1897

Ruby is getting up an Art Exhibition and Fair for the Baptist Church and has managed to get a large share of the work upon herself. She has dressed a number of dolls to be sold -

The Ashland Improvement Co made an assignment today owing to suits by the Ash. Natl Bank, Father & others - Mr. Ruigo still has charge as assignee -

Mr. Maxwell writes that our case may be tried in Washington in March and if not then, not until next winter -

Mr. Anderson has had some correspondence with Tom Means and will inform you about it in due time -

We regret to learn from Bessie that there is some doubt of your coming to Ky during the holidays and hope you may decide to come -

With love from all

Your affectionate nephew

E. C. Means

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

Dec. 8, 1897.

My dear Mrs. Means:-

Friday was too stormy to go out and, before answering you, I wanted to make an enquiry or two at "the" stationers about the card. As I suspected, the newest way is as follows:

Mrs. Ellison Cooke Means,

December thirtieth
from two until five.

Ashland, Ky.

The words "At Home" which were used last year are now omitted. Of course that is so very late that if you have already ordered them I would not go to any extra expense to have others engraved as but few would be likely to notice it.

With regard to the crane paper there are two tones of greens used - the yellow and the blue greens. Holly is a blue green so have the shade or rather, the tone, to correspond. I think I would ask your dealer to send you two medium shades and one dark one for samples and then try them some evening and select whichever one looks best. Tell him the paper is for evening use as artificial light and a white cover (if used) tend to lighten all the colors.

The best canned soups that I know of are made in this city by the Franco-American Food Co. I have been through their place repeatedly - without previous notice - and really it is so clean that you would not object to eating off the floor, if that were needful. Add to this that they are French and that one of the sons superintends the soup making himself and that nothing but the best grades of meat, etc., are used and you will understand that the product ought to be good. They are dearer than some other brands but they are well worth the difference I will write to Mr. Biardot and ask him to let you know the nearest point and from whom you can get their goods.

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

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Dec. 8, 1897.

If you use after dinner coffee cups for serving the bouillon I think you might allow one can for ten people and while it might be best to order a dozen cans I do not think you will need more than eight or nine as not every one would be likely to take a cup. The eight cans might be opened during the forenoon and the contents poured into large pitchers or other suitable vessels: the bouillon should not be boiled. consequently it would be better to heat it in a large double boiler. I would only heat a part at first, so that it can be served in relays during the three hours and a portion will always be hot.

I should have the dining room open at half past two and from that time on until five. Beside the young ladies whom you have asked to "pour tea" ask four or six more to assist you. Have them dressed in the same general way - evening or light dresses; when your guests have presented themselves and have been introduced to the ladies who are your special guests these young girls should be on the lookout and, so soon as they have the opportunity, approach them and ask if they cannot take them to the supper room. No introduction is necessary for this, as they virtually act as ushers for you to see that your guests are properly entertained.

I have never had the pleasure of a trip in the Southern states but they are proverbial for their hospitality. More than likely they have their own way of introduction to a supper room and one cannot go very far astray in following any local customs. In a general way, were I one of the young ladies, I should say to the lady whom I have approached "You will find a variety of refreshments here distributed among these tables. Won't you look around and make a choice? You will find bouillon here, salads over there, coffee or tea on this side and some sweet dishes in that corner." The lady will

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

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make some selection. I would then take her to the proper table, introduce her to the the young lady in charge and leave her. After ~~he~~ she has been served the table hostess would remind her that there are other tables at her disposal if she wishes more; and, unless, she is disposed to be ultra-fastidious she will know that this is the proper thing and ~~that~~ will act accordingly, taking more or less as she may desire. At least, that is the way the thing is done here. Without having a very large number of assistants it is impossible to devote more than two or three minutes to each person.

Your idea for the door without portieres is most appropriate. I think that holly would perhaps be better than smilax - for the upper part, any how: if too much were used lower down it might catch on fluffy dresses - the leaves are so prickly. Why not have a number of ropes of holly ~~from the top~~ hanging in a line from the top of the doors like the Japanese bamboo portieres, gathering them at either side about half way down just as if they were portieres, ^{and} looping them back with scarlet ribbon.

The more lamps you can display the prettier the effect. They always add to a room. Only be sure to so place them that there is no danger of their being overturned.

I am genuinely sorry for you that you have so many irons in the fire. It is very hard to draw the line, especially in church work as I know by experience and I wish you were relieved of that fair. When all is over and you feel that you can draw a full breath I hope you will let me know how all went off. I do not think your questions at all silly - I have been through it all myself, though I am not married. My Mother's health is poor and my youngest Sister has just come out. Beside my work I am practically the mistress here so that I am not what might be termed an idle woman. Two years of doing nothing - the result of one year's overwork and a subsequent attack

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
16 East 131st Street,
New York City.

4.

of nervous prostration - taught me the folly of attempting too much. I have learned the value of a good, firm "NO" if I do not think I ought to undertake this or that: I have clipped off several clubs: there have been times when some rooms have not been as spotlessly immaculate as I would like them: but in the end I find it pays, and mind and body are better fitted to bear the "must be's".

With every wish for a successful termination of the reception, Christmas and fair I am,

Very cordially yours,

Cornelia C. Bedford

MISS C. C. BEDFORD,
Demonstrator of Cookery,
15 East 131st Street,
New York City.

5.

I do not altogether like the idea of marking those who have been in the supper room, as to some it might be suggestive of a desire to guard against repeating! You might have a pretty girl pin a sprig of holly or a scarlet carnation on each one as they pass in, in which case it would appear as a delicate attention but do not defer it until they are passing out.

If you have the little tables it will not be necessary to have one large table from which to pass the dishes; in that case they should be all brought in from outside. If you do not use the little tables but allow guests to sit or stand as they prefer then have the table as you suggest, trimming it with a line of holly running round about three inches from the edge with here and there a bow of scarlet ribbon, flowers, candelabra, etc.

As you say you have to deal with inefficient servants I should think that in the end it would be easiest for you to serve with the four tables ~~and~~ and young lady assistants, as I have outlined. Any maid who looks well, can take out and replace soiled dishes, bringing more and taking out as often as told to do so by the young lady who presides at the table to which she is detailed will do for your purpose while you can probably find some one who can make relays of coffee, keep the bouillon hot and replenish the cafe' frappe'. The salads can be made in advance, unmolded and the dishes decorated. The sandwiches may be made early in the day and each plateful wrapped (plate and all) in a napkin wrung out in cold water; this keeps them fresh and ~~moist~~ moist. The sweet dishes also can be prepared and turned out ready to be sent up, keeping them, as well as the salad, in a cool place until needed.

On a separate sheet I have ~~endeavored to give~~ you a number of recipes which are likely to be of use in connection with what you wish to serve. One thing I forgot to say - that is, that the jelly salad could be molded in a number of round deep bowls or - if you have them - some border molds and when turned out garnished with wreaths. If I can be of further assistance to you do not hesitate to write to me direct.

Sincerely yours,

Cornelia C. Bedford

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. Dec 10th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Your letter of the 8th inst
duly received -

The Old Colony R R Stock was ordered
through the Ash. Nat. Bank and the Nat.
City Bank of New York and the latter in turn
through a Boston bank - Mr. Richardson
has a letter from the New York bank saying
that the Boston bank would try and pick
up the stock a few shares at a time as
a very little was for sale and that it might
be some time in getting the 50 shares -

I notice in the Stock reports from Boston that
\$184⁰⁰ per share is being bid - You can see
same in your morning paper - So far we
have not received any notice of a purchase on
your account and it may take a higher bid to
get the stock you want -

I have not received from you a report of
"donations" for past year to credit your expense
account. Kindly keep it in mind and send a
memorandum of same to me before the end of
this month that I may get in report for year -

The Baptists will be thankful for your kind

E. C. Means.

#2 M.A.M.

Ashland, Ky.

12/10 1897

remembrance. As the church is not able to keep up as well as some others here. And it is a surprise to me that their collections are large enough to pay pastor \$600⁰⁰ per year.

Regarding Mr. George Salte my impressions of the young man's character are these:

● He is one of the kind that while you cannot say he is bad, nor lazy, nor mean yet he appears to accomplish nothing. He is at times ambitious but lacks that something which brings success. He dresses neatly, does not, so far as I know, associate with bad company & appears to seek good society. He has tried to get away from his father, with the idea that his abilities were beyond a life in the tailor shop, but each time finds himself brought home to get his fathers bread and support. I presume he would not impose on a benefactor but I should not advise the loaning of money to him for any purpose. For his own good it would be best that he be compelled to stick to some occupation and depend upon himself for support. To sum up he needs the conceit changed to worthy self esteem

E. C. Means.

#3 M. A. M.

Ashland, Ky.

12/10/1897

It is difficult to convey my impressions by writing but perhaps you have known others with similar dispositions.

I was at the Olive Hill Fire Brick Works last Wednesday and I believe from what I saw there that they can make bricks for less money than we saw at Ashland. And if they increase their plant extensively it may result in less earning capacity for those at Ashland. While I do not feel yet that it is best to sell my own stock in the Clinton Fire Brick Works, I am undecided as to the best policy for you. And believe it may be well for you to gradually reduce your holdings. A few weeks ago F. B. Moor would have paid 110 for a few shares and may yet do so. If you will advise me how you feel about this matter I can act accordingly. The stock has paid 9% annually in each the past two years and so far I have considered it a good investment.

All well -

With much love

Your affectionate nephew

E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Ashland, Ky. Dec 17th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Your welcome letter of 14th inst duly received. I found enclosed your check on the Ashland Natl Bank in my favor for Nine hundred (\$900⁰⁰) Dollars for which please accept many thanks. While I always recognize the right of the employer to advance wages, in his or her judgement as deemed best, it sometimes is surprising when the amount of services is considered. I could not be otherwise than very grateful for your course in so often advancing my compensation for caring for your business affairs when the increased work, care & advice has not been in proportion. I acknowledge payment in full for all services rendered on your account during the year 1897 with thanks and love.

I note the amount you have considered as donations and will enter it upon your books.

Efforts which appear to promise good results are being made to establish a rod mill here. The Steel Co will issue bonds and the Norton Iron Works, Kelly Nail Co & Belfout Iron Works and the

E. C. Means.

M.A. M #2

Ashland, Ky. 12/17 1897

A.C. & S. Ry will each guarantee the payment of one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the total number of bonds. The first three are stockholders and feel the rod mill to be a necessity to preserve their nail business - It will put them in position to manufacture "wire" nails as well as "cut" nails

• Wire nails have become so popular that there is very little market for old style or cut nails.

The A.C. & S. Ry will have the contract to supply all the coal for the Steel Plant & Rod Mill as long as the bonds are unpaid which they have guaranteed - And we believe it will be a valuable contract with great benefit.

• to the A.C. & S. Ry - I do not however intend to buy any of the bonds for your account, as I understand you prefer other lines for investments - It is probable the bonds will be sold in a bunch to city people -

Experiments in coking the coal from the new mine on our lands near Ashland are proving successful - The lands bought from the Means & Russell family

With much love and wishes for a Merry Christmas

Your affectionate nephew

E. C. Means

E. C. Means.

Asbland, Ky. Dec 27th 1897

Dear Aunt Margaret:

Christmas day was a very happy day in the Means' family and your kind remembrances being so much in evidence brought your name and thoughts of you with thankfulness into the minds & hearts of all.

The dress suit case was just what I wanted and I am very much obliged to you for it as well as for the crevats and chocolate cigars -

What a busy time you must have had getting so many presents for so many people -

Ruby has probably written her thanks in addition to those of H. E. and given you some idea of how the Christmas tree was enjoyed by all.

The snow on the ground Friday seemed to please all those who take an interest in Christmas and the cold morning Saturday was welcome too.

We now hear a good deal about Ruby's Reception in honor of Rose & Lily and I presume it will occupy largely the attention of our home the remainder of this week -

Wishing you happy holiday season and with much love

Your affectionate nephew
E. C. Means

CONDITION

—OF THE—

Ashland National Bank,

AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS

December 31, 1897.

RESOURCES:

Loans and Discounts,	\$ 166,399 13
U. S. 4 per cent. Bonds for Circulation	100,000 00
U. S. 4 per cent. Bonds on Hand,	80,000 00
Other Bonds,	19,016 83
Due from Banks,	104,406 56
Cash on Hand	38,984 58
Banking House and Fixtures,	9,750 00
Redemption Fund,	4,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 523,057 10

LIABILITIES:

Capital Stock,	\$ 105,000 00
Surplus Fund,	21,000 00
Undivided Profits,	9,285 73
Circulation,	90,000 00
Individual Deposits,	249,316 75
Due to Banks,	3,204 62
U. S. Bond Account	40,000 00
Dividend No. 49, 5 per cent.,	5,250 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 523,057 10

W. C. RICHARDSON, Cashier.

1895

Mr. Means.

Will you please read this through before you offer me any reply. After asking you for help two or three times, and receiving no reply, we did the next best thing we could do. We got money of the Extra Insurance Co., saving ourselves for a time, but giving the Co. a mortgage on the Farm. I need not tell you that they will get their money with out let or hindrance if not paid when due. As the most of this money you have let us have is invested in the farm, be side much that we have spent for improvements, we cannot with out a last effort allow it to go for what it will bring. We have 130 acres of good land, but if put to sale in these close times will not bring half price. Will you help Mr Edgington out, by taking a Mortgage for the Amount due the Insurance Co. With the note which you have against him included. We'll do our best to pay same in shortest time possible, but give us the advantage of as much time as you can. I have with me the address of this Mortgage and Loan office in Indianapolis, through which we do business with them.

You ~~can~~ can have the address, or I will
answer any questions you may wish to ask.
As I might find you in the presence of
others, I have taken the pen, as the quietest
way of speaking. There is a few words I
would like to say to you verbally if
I will have time to hear me.

I will send this by carrier as I hear
you don't come to your office. If I can
hear from you at once will leave on
afternoon train.

Respectfully

F. M. Edgington

[1897]?

Louisville Ky.
Mr Means

My good fortune was to meet the Co:
Agent at Louisville & St. Depot. and I
asked him what I could do in regard to
the Mortgage. He said if I could raise
him five Hundred he would fix things
for me. so as to avoid a sale. This is not
a large sum, yet it is beyond my ~~my~~
reach. Unless you can let me have it
He wants the money in hand by May 15th
so as to give him five days to fix things
with the company. I don't know, yet I feel
like you might be able to do this for me
Will you let me know at once.

Respectfully

Mrs F. M. Edgington.

[1897?]

Mr. Means

Have been taken suddenly ill
and Dr. Berry thinks I cannot
leave in the morning. This unexpected
experience has run me short of money.
Can you do me a favor, I can
return it when I reach home.

Respectfully

F. M. Edgington

(I ran out of paper)

of John & Lucile as what happened
in the month the girl has her
basket, perhaps during the
month they put and continue
on with funny production
as the first meal, first time
he was late to dinner etc.
I don't think there is much
you can do for entertainment
except reading these off and
on during the meal. I wish
you had religious scraps
against it. There wouldn't
be any time about a bridge
but having Bessie put takes
up some of your finished luncheon
then have some cards and
a puzzle ~~and~~ + toby - you
are not showing twelve girls
are you, just seven and
yourself.
I'm fairer it will be only
and wish I could be there to
see it go well as a help -
where I'd use candles if
you can + perhaps you
can carry out nuts, etc - etc
to fit in with color scheme
I'd have main plates served
in the kitchen, stuffed tomatoes
(in Mrs. Chase's book) or fruit apples
add to it and you can make
prints. Then a drive & put in
my own way to try it, tomato bisque

is pink or perhaps ^{perhaps} ^{at least} ^{some} ^{thing}
in a fruit cocktail. I saw
some pretty salads in the
new Yells book but I've not
tried -

Do any thing else that we
know - Try a little shrimp in some
thing

This will probably be
the last letter to reach
you before Christmas
as much much love to you
all and you know how
much we wish we could
be there - I hope you
miss us almost as much
as we do you + that
some day we can celebrate
together

Our best love
& cheer
B & A

Harily
P.S. Mrs. Embury wanted me to find
out tactfully if she could do
any thing for you + write perhaps
they could help with her in N.Y.