

Two lines of 1. on page 3. you can state, that she confessed
her inability to play even the exercises without practice

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judging from the errors she allowed
her pupil to make, she was not ca-
pable of teaching music to children
as far advanced as the one in question.

Washington, D. C., 189.....

depression & abstraction

~~weeping~~ that characterized her from the
moment she entered the house, was ex-
plained by an acquaintance as the re-
sult of the loss of some valuable ^{jewelry} ~~of~~
~~which had recently been presented to~~
~~her.~~ But whatever the cause Miss Ash-
^{in such a state of mind}
trou could not have remained & done
either the children or herself justice.
I am not sure, though I am under the
impression, that she confessed her in-
ability to teach music; be that as it
may, however, such was the opinion of
judges of music in Washington, & well
founded, because she did not correct
the errors of her pupil. Again, if
she were competent to teach decimal
fractions, she did: her reputation great

violence in the manner in which she turned the child back, And when asked if her pupil had forgotten her authentic reply in substance, that she did not know, but only wanted to review her, the several teachers whom I have asked about this subject, pronounce it a most unusual proceeding, that a prejudice on the part of the little girl existed + can not be denied, & for reasons, it + seems, sufficiently well founded, + Miss Astor recognizing this, resigns the + place of Lee on my free will, which I + believe you even concede."

What an unfortunate faculty women have of tangling up every thing that even smacks of business, I told Mother to let but one factor enter into the matter of Miss Astor's going - Lee incompetency, yet she would have Miss Astor know that she had employed Lee under protest, blaming

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the telegraph co, & that all the while she heartily
ly wished for Bet's return, I knew that this
very point would afford Ashten a loop
hole, & lawyer that he is, he hit improvise
te upon ^{this} the only tenable subterfuge,
Mother allowed her feelings to enter into
this affair to such an extent that she
unwittingly to herself of course, made
Eleanor worse, But her conduct this night
the whole matter is not relieved by a
single extenuating circumstance, It is
a startling & pleasing revelation to hold that
of Annie Buce up in comparison - I have read
that portion of this letter, enclosed by quotation marks,
& a friend, - one well capable of judging - as a copy
of the communication you had already addressed to the
father of the young lady, mentioning no names

of course, & he pronounced it just to
the point, but concerning this I shall
not express an opinion, you must be
judge of that.

hastily & affly
~~Hfr~~

As to the second thing, he I believe I would not
even add that which I have partially erased on
page # 2. I should not indulge in any
recriminations. Your letter will have a decided
advantage without it. It is necessary that he should
know how lame sick the woman was. And I think
that I have referred to in the ancient proverbial way
Every man, under sufficient provocation, is tempted,
at times, to become a blackguard, but the principle
of our education is radically at fault, if its re-
straining influences are not sufficient to allow one
to overcome this impulse. If Ashton is a man of refined
sensibilities, he will feel heartily ashamed of him-
self after reading your very moderate rejoinder. On
the other hand, if he is a man of such congenital
incapacity, that nothing can make a gentleman of him, why
you only lower yourself by bandying words with him. At any
rate you shall soon hold yourself in higher esteem for having
restrained the above mentioned impulse.

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Washington, D. C., Oct. 6 1891.

Dear Father:

At any other time Astor's letter would have annoyed me considerably, but I was so pleased with the information that you had greatly improved, that his little missive did not in the least affect me, I would write him about as follows & then drop the correspondence, Do not allow yourself, under any circumstances, to be drawn into any personal difficulty with him, whatever be the nature of his letters. An excited F. F. V. smarting under the loss of a dollar can say any thing. — "The little girl's conversation with Miss Astor touching another situation was scarcely, as you suggest,

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(~~a method however with which you seem to be familiar~~) "inspired by an older lead," as the older lead at that time, was not aware of her peculiar untidiness for the place, & the child's prejudice was most natural, & consequent upon the following facts. Her deportment in the school room was so decidedly an innovation, as immediately to suggest, even to the child's mind, the only explanation want of experience. Verily, it is an unusual sight, at least with us, to see a teacher during the hours of study indulging her appetite and her inclinations for reading, writing & the like. Even a recumbent position during these hours was not unusual with her. The severe mental strain under which she labored, & which was generally observed & discussed & the incessant ^{fits of} ~~incessant~~

You could say after the expression
on page 4, "which I believe you
even exceed"

"My vocabulary of invective &
vituperation being rather limited
I therefore beg the privilege of
not replying in kind to certain
portions of your letter."

Then close the correspondence &
open even more of his letters.

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CPM

Old Sparta N.C.

Oct 8. 1891.

Judge C. H. Ashton

Alden, Va.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your inquiry
of the 30th.

Your daughter came to us
looking ^{- apparently} under ~~severe~~ mental
strain ~~and~~ which was generally
observed and discussed and
the fits of depression and abstraction
that characterized her from the moment
she entered the house had in a
measure prepared me for her
request to be released from her
contract, my reply to which was
"I am prepared to carry out

The ~~entire~~ ^{proposition} and the ~~request~~
to ~~annul~~ ^{the} must come from
you and then renewed in the
present saying further "one
of ~~the~~ ^{the} girls had taken
a great dislike to her" but
did not specify charges. She
also requested I would re-
fund her expenses to Wroton,
which I did ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~wrap~~ and
~~return~~ ^{also} voluntarily double
the amount. That she was
unkindly treated either by
my wife or myself I most
explicitly deny or that
any ~~other~~ ^{had} inspired the
child to be rude.

However much the matter is to be
regretted - and I do ^{so} most ~~heartily~~
genuinely both for your child
and my own I feel that I have
done what justice requires and
I shall do no more.

Yours Truly
Rep
Eliza Park