

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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S.A. Martha Canfield Autograph Letter Signed

Department of the Interior,

BUREAU OF EDUCATION,

Washington, D. C., May 23^d, 1877.

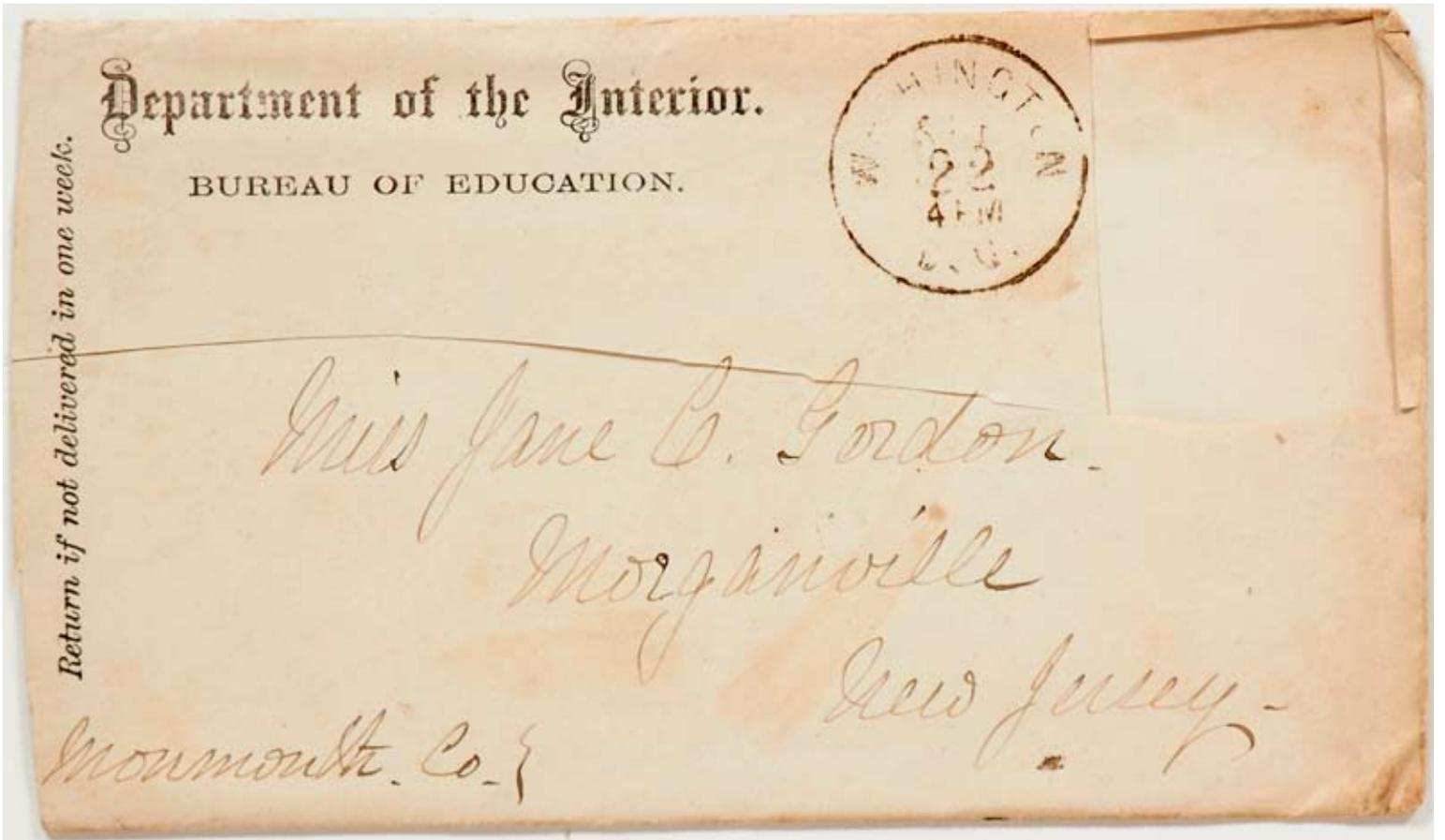
My dear Miss Gordon.

On my desk this morning I found a postal card from Gertrude written on the steamer for New York. She writes me that she has been to make you a visit and that you with your two nieces were there with her. What pleasure it would have given me to have been one of the party - and how much I should like to see you my dear friend, a friend of my happy days - How many pleasant associations the mention of your name recalls, and how many changes have taken place in our families since last we met - Gertrude has told you of my family and I have not time now to speak of them myself - I should like so much to have you see my Herman in New York. I go this afternoon by steamer to Hampton Va, to spend several days and look after my colored children that I have

Two Page Autograph Letter Signed ("S. A. Martha Canfield") to Jane C. Gordon of Morganville, New Jersey on Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education stationery from Washington, D.C., dated on May 23rd, 1877. Old folds from mailing, else fine; original envelope present (the stamp removed).

of mine survey - I should not do much to have you
see my German in New York. I go this after
noon by steamer to Hampton Va, to spend several
days and look after my colored children that I have

An easily readable and friendly letter from a teacher to an old and apparently dear acquaintance who also seems to be a teacher, discussing family matters and details of possible visits, of interest primarily for her mention that "I go this afternoon by steamer to Hampton, Va., to spend several days and look after my colored children that I have there at school." Canfield also says she will send some publications of the Bureau of Education (perhaps in an effort to recruit her friend?). Canfield was active in the Freedman's Burueau, and later in the Department of Education. In 1863, she went to visit her husband, a Lieutenant Colonel in an Ohio Regiment, in Tennessee, but only found his body after he was killed at the Battle of Shiloh. She stayed on in Tennessee to ably ran an "Asylum" for freed black children in Memphis, and later wrote several publications for the Bureau of Education including *Statements relating to Reformatory, Charitable, and Industrial Schools for the Young* (1875), *Training Schools of Cooking* (1879), and *The Inception, Organization, and Management of Training Schools for Nurses* (1882). Her service is detailed in *Grant, Lincoln, and the Freedmen: Reminiscences of the Civil War*. (Eaton and Mason; 1907) and also in *Woman's Work in the Civil War: A Record of Heroism, Patriotism, and Patience* (Brockett and Vaughn; 2007). A modest but interesting letter with a mention of the attempt to educate black children in the South. [BTC#402097]



there at school. Canst you come to Washington,
you would find much to interest you here, and
I should be so happy to see you.

As Linda suggests I send you some of the
publications of the Bureau of Education.

To write one of yourself and your family, I know
but little of them these days. I used to mail Mrs Dean
here quite often but poor woman she has gone, and I was
out of the city when she passed away. Three years ago
I met Mrs Gordon and Georgie, and Charlie and his sweet
family in Cleaveland for an hour or two and rode
out to the Park home.

I must not write more my dear friend, as other
duties press upon me.

Believe me as ever your sincerely attached friend
I. A. Martha Canfield.