

Letter From Frank Benson To Lillie Eames

#4

Sept. 5, 1907
Momence, Illinois

Miss Lillie Eames
Preston, Idaho

Dear Lillie,

As I am alone tonight, a stranger in a strange land, I am going to talk to you on paper. I am going to ask you a few questions. I hope you will take them in the spirit they are written in and answer them just as you feel you should and above all I hope and pray you will answer them to the point and truthfully. The first question is this. Do you think you have been treating me right of late? Do you think you have been as prompt in answering my letters as you should be? Have you become weary of corresponding with me? Have you been so busy of late that you can't find a few minutes to let me know you are still living? Have you become weary of my love? Do you wish me to cease bothering you with my letters? Have you lost all the love you ever had for me?

Since the middle of June, I have received but two letters from you and the last was received four weeks ago. Now if you think that is right, I don't see where it comes from. When you told me several years ago that you love me and when you promised two years ago to be my wife, I had no idea that you would ever treat me as you have the last few months and I can't for the life of me see why you should do so. When you said that you loved me I had no idea but that you were speaking the truth. I believed you and have done ever since. I will ask you to put yourself in my place. Just imagine yourself out here away from home and loved ones, among strangers all the time and then only getting a letter from the one you love with all your heart and the one that has told you that (he or she as the case might be) loved you and promised to become your companion for life. Then I say hearing from her once in four weeks and maybe not that often., "How would you feel?" Don't you think you would feel a little doubtful as to her loving you? Does it look as though she really has the love that she should have for one that she has promised to marry. When you promised to be my wife, I looked at that as almost sacred as if we were married and I felt you were almost as near and dear to me as a wife could be and I should feel very sad if I had a wife that didn't think enough of me to write me oftener than once in four weeks. I remember the night I asked you to be my wife and I also remember the day we both fasted and prayed before you gave me your answer. I have always felt that that prayer was heard and answered when you gave me your answer. Had our engagement been a spur of the moment or had you been a young and fickle minded girl, I would not have wondered at your actions so much. But it was not either so I can't for the life of me account for it. Now I will expect an answer to this and hope you will tell me just how you feel.

Answer these questions and tell me what you intend to do and how often I can expect a letter. If you think once a month is enough, I will try to be content with that. I would prefer letters every two weeks at least and if you can write every week, I shall try to do the same.

I am now laboring in Northern Illinois. I was transferred and just got here today. I haven't found any companion yet. I don;t know when I will get my release don't expect it until December and I may not get it then. It is just 23 years ago tonight since I spent the last evening with you and I have been longing ever since to be with you again. May the blessings of heaven ever attend you is the prayer of the missionary boy that loves you.

Frank

Add.

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