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Wednesday's Letter

A Letter From Paris.

[The letter from which the following
extracts are made was not originally
written for publication; but the edi-
tor having been permitted to read it,
and finding in it much of interest to
Nebraskan readers, prevailed upon its
receiver to permit the use of as much
of it as follows.]

Paris, March 18, 1903.

My Dear _____:
In looking at your letter I see that
I have had it in my possession for six
weeks without answering it. Paris is
not the place for hard work. There are
too many distractions. The time does
not seem to go rapidly, but from the
point of view of accomplishing some
definite work it certainly does fly. The
only thing that consoles me is that
here and now is the time for seeing
things, and that back in America is the
place for hard study.

* * *
A man is a different being at Paris
than elsewhere. He cannot judge the
people by a Lincoln standard. A self-
conscious man does not go far until
he finds himself philosophizing. There
is very much that may be said against
Paris, but many things are also to be
noted to its credit. A man cannot
look in a cold-blooded way upon the
things he sees in Paris. He is greatly
influenced by his surroundings—phys-
ical, mental, and moral. I cannot
criticize Parisians very severely when
I see Americans, English, Scotch, and
Germans falling to the same level dur-
ing their stay here.

* * *
I am much engrossed with present
conditions in France. The Chambres
recently, by a vote of 300 against 257,
settled the doom of five "congregation
schools." This solution of the difficult
question means a decided advance in
French free thought. I am sorry I did
not go to hear the debate, when some
of the big men, such as Jaures, Buis-
son, and Combs spoke.

* * *
M. Jaures, a socialist and vice-pres-
ident of the Chambre, delivered a short
time ago a speech before that body,
explaining that the primary principle
during the French Revolution had been
a pacific one. He is considered the
greatest orator of France, and is cer-
tainly very original. No man ever
said anything that pleased the French-
men more than this speech. I don't
know but that he is the first man who
during these hundred years has
thought of this happy idea. But the
Frenchmen at once, after Jaures had
explained the matter, threw themselves
back in their easy chairs, folded their
arms, and felt relieved, throwing all
the blame for the cruelties of the Revolu-
tion upon the absolute monarchy and
the foreigners. He explained that this
pacific policy was pursued not only
before 1789, but afterwards. Mon
Dieu! Pacific principle of a revolution
—of the French Revolution!

* * *
Do you follow American politics very
much? Roosevelt is here considered
quite a man—a second issue (in minia-
ture, of course) of the almighty Wil-
liam—the fear of Europe.

* * *
I am thinking of going to Heidel-
berg next month. While there I can do
justice to the Rhine. I can, I suppose,
do more or less like most of the young-
sters there; but probably I shall spend
the most of my time in occasional
sight-seeing trips, instead of in the
usual revels. Your friend,
C. H. W. C., ('00).

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