

rec'd June 10th
and June 12th
- Springside -

Middlebury, Vt., June 11, 1920

My dear Mr. Deane:

I am much pleased to get your letter of June 7th. Yes, since the warm weather has appeared I seem to be gaining in strength daily. But I find that I need to be careful not to overdo, as there was so much during the last two years that had to be left undone.

Our Commencement occurs also on June 21. You say it will be the ^{semi-}centennial of your graduation & that you are now 72 years old. Our class had its semi-centennial six years ago, & I am now 75. This indicates that you graduated at the age of 22 & I at the age of 19. In fact I was the youngest in a class of 31.

Some years ago at a meeting of the N.E. College Presidents in Cambridge Port Buckham of the Univ. of Vt. and myself were entertained by Dr. & Mrs.

Eliot. While we four were at lunch, Prof. Eliot told us of the origin of the Harvard crimson color, & incidentally remarked that he was only 19 when he graduated. Prof. Buckham chimed in that he, too, graduated at nineteen. After something of a pause I summoned up courage to say that I also graduated at 19. Mrs. Eliot courteously added: "then it seems that a man who graduates at 19 is destined to be a college President." — Send on Miss Sheppard's violets & ^I shall be glad to study them. I once spent several days at Tryon N.C.

The tragic death of Prof. Collins is most distressing & mysterious. I am so sorry!

I wish you & Miss Brown a delightful summer at Shelburne. I hope you may yet find V. Flanda with mature fruit. I have collected it twice this season in flower.

With kind regards, Yours faithfully,
Ezra Brainerd



Brainerd, Ezra. 1920. "Brainerd, Ezra Jun. 11, 1920." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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