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PAPIERY JANA KARŁOWICZA

10. Korespondencja Jana Karłowicza. Listy od F. A. Blackburna 1876-1877.

***STRONY NIEZAPISANE NIE ZOSTAŁY ZDIGITALIZOWANE***



Блекбурн Ф. А.  
(Blackburn)

Листи  
до Карловича Яна.

1876-77

Понтіак (Мічиган)

4 ш. гарк.  
+ 1 арк. (візитка)

м. арх.

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# University of Michigan,



Ann Arbor, Mich June 29/87

My dear Friend,

Your Postal Card came a day or two since. By the same mail with this, I send you a Catalogue of the Univ. and various little documents which illustrate our way of doing things. "Commencement" is, I believe, an American Institution; it is the name we give to the day when <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ class of ~~students~~ students, ~~too~~ leaves the University and "commences" life in earnest. The same word is used also to denote the various exercises and ceremonies which accompany the granting of degrees.

I reached Ann Arbor safely, and have a place in view which I expect to secure in two or three days. It is in Pontiac, only a few miles from Detroit. The matter is

not yet settled. It is dreadfully hot  
here, and I have not been very well,  
the result of heat, I think.

I was glad to hear from  
you, especially as you express yourself  
so well pleased with America. I feel  
prouder daily of my American birth  
and of the capabilities of my Fatherland.  
I should be pleased if you become  
enough pleased with it to make it  
your home also. When we shall have  
added those advantages which only  
time can add, our oft-repeated boast  
of superiority will be true, I think,  
for our people have learned the lesson  
which a nation learns so slowly, to  
reconcile liberty and order.

I hope to hear from you  
again. A letter addressed to me at  
Ann Arbor will be forwarded to me,  
if I should leave here.

Very sincerely,

Your Friend



F. A. Blackburn.

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Pontiac, Michigan, Sept 3, 1876.



My dear Friend;

Your letter reached me in due time, but there was no time to answer before your departure from New York. By this time you have probably reached your home, and are entertaining your friends with the account of what you have seen in America.

I am settled for the coming year in Pontiac, a town of about 5000 inhabitants, 26 miles from Detroit by railway. I am Principal of the High School, and teach Latin and Greek, six classes daily, each 45 minutes long. In addition to my teaching, I shall have the oversight of the school, which will not give me very much work. I shall not find much time, of fear,

to carry on my studies in Philology at present, but I hope to do a little, and find more time, by-and-by when I have become more familiar with my work. The authors read in the school are Caesar, Cicero, Virgil and Xenophon. With all of these I am already familiar, but I shall have to spend some time in looking up points in the grammar, anomalous forms, &c, in order to be always ready in the recitation. In a few weeks, however, I shall recover what I have forgotten, and shall be able to give more time to my private studies.

I am glad that America has made so good an impression on you, but you have not yet seen the best side of American life. A traveller can only see the surface; the real life of the people in families and in private does

not come under his notice. I wish it had been possible for you to spend a week or two with me in Michigan. I could have shown you more of the real character and goodness of the American people than you could see in a month of travel. The sort of people that you meet at hotels and on railway-cars are not always the ~~the~~ best representatives of American life and character.

One thing in America I am especially proud, viz; the chastity of our young man. The contrast between America and Germany in this respect is very strong. A young man may be impure in life here, but he cannot ~~be so~~ and retain the respect of the better class of people, or a connection with the Christian church.

My address for the coming year, is Pontiac, Michigan. I do not expect to stay more than a year here, for my salary is only \$1100. and I can easily get a place, I think, at \$1500 or more. I shall be able to save about half of my salary, I think. Board costs me four dollars a week, and other expenses will be small.

Write to me again. I shall always be glad to hear from you, and will answer promptly. If I return to Germany in two or three years as I hope to do, it is at least possible that we may meet again.

Very truly,

Your friend  
F. A. Blackburn.





Pontiac, Mich.

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Dec. 10. 1876-

My dear Friend;

I received your letter yesterday, and the grammar a day or two before. You have my hearty thanks for it, though I shall not be able to do any work on it at present, for lack of time. My school work keeps me busy the greater part of the day, and I find myself tired enough, when evening comes, to prefer sleep to study. I have set myself a fixed task for every day, in order not to get altogether out of the habit of study. At present my task is twenty verses of Anglo-saxon, and two "slokas" in Sanscrit. I am reading Beowulf in Anglo-saxon, an old heroic poem, probably older than the Saxon invasion of England, since the scene is laid among the Danes.



and futes, while the hero of the poem comes from the Scandinavian coast opposite. It has been worked over, however, since the introduction of Christianity, and Christian sentiments inserted in the story along with the description of pagan customs. The single manuscript, now in the British Museum dates from the tenth century. The poem contains about 3000 verses, and I am now about half way through it.

In Sanscrit I am reading the *Sītāharanam* in Benfey's Chrestomathie. I don't make very rapid progress, as you can see, since I read only two couplets daily. I am only a beginner in Sanscrit, and I write out a transcription of the text in Latin letters "mit Aufhebung der Sandhivogeln", also a translation into English, and notes, grammatical, philological, &c. I find this amount of work about as much as I can well do, in addition to

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my daily classes.

My daily work is rather monotonous, as teaching always is in our schools here. This session of the school begins at 8 A.M. and lasts to 12:15 P.M., begins again at 1:50 and closes at 3:10. I have six classes, one each in Latin and Greek Grammar, two in Virgil, one in Xenophon, and one in Caesar. The teaching is quite elementary, mainly Grammar. The school is one of the Grade called High Schools, and carries the pupils only far enough to fit them to enter the University. In our school system here in Michigan, we have four grades of schools, Primary, Grammar, High Schools, and the University, each of which requires four years for its completion.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any very definite advice in regard to books on history. I have

given too little attention to History to be able to help you much. We have no publications like the "Almanac de Gotha" and works of that class. Several of the magazines have a monthly historical summary; Harper's Magazine quite a full one. "The first Century of the Republic" is a collection of essays originally published in Harper's Magazine, reviewing the progress of the last century, the improvements in manufactures, machinery, &c. They are written by excellent authorities, but are not exactly historical, and I am inclined to think that you would not find them of much use. They are very entertaining reading for those who wish to learn how ~~our~~ grandfathers lived and performed their daily tasks.

I have seen the history of the Comte de Paris highly praised by the critics, but must confess that I have read nothing of it.

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I do not think that any work has been written ~~to~~ which comprises much of the events since 1865. Almost the only sources for the history of the last ten years are the daily Press and official documents. In fact no one but a foreigner could write the history since 1865, for it has been the period of the fiercest party-struggles over political questions, many of which are still unsettled, and many more, apparently closed at last, cannot yet be called settled, until a longer lapse of time helps us to decide whether the decision has been wisely made, or not. The era through which this country is now passing is the most important in its history since the Revolution, and its history cannot be written until all the questions now pending are finally decided.



I can hardly express an

opinion on the present political situation here, as all is so uncertain, but it seems to grow clearer every day that Hayes has a majority of one in the Electoral college, and will be duly declared elected. There is some bluster and talk of war on the part of the Democrats, but we who remember how much of that kind of talk they gave us during the war, will not be scared. I am sure that Hayes will be peacefully inaugurated, and that the country will be quiet and prosperous.


Now, my dear friend, I am going to add a few corrections of your English which I am sure you will take in good part, if I can draw conclusions from my own experience and feeling when I was learning a foreign language.

Nearly all your errors are Germanisms. In English we say "on

- my part", not "from my part".
- "become" = werden, Lat. fi, (not becommen)  
[we "receive" a letter, news, etc]
- "the duty as to answer" should be "the duty of answering". You can almost always use the Eng. noun in "-ing", where the Latin would use the Gerund.
- "before some days", should be "some days ago". abhinc paucos die.
- "the alone newspaper" should be "the only newspaper". alone is always a predicative or an adverb, never an attributive.
- "mean" = bedeuten. Was meinen ~~is~~ Sie, is "what do you think of -" or "what is your opinion of -"

I am much obliged to you for the specimen of your mother-tongue. It looks to me as if it would be a hard language to learn. You have no conception of the difficulty which beginners in our school have in learning the

elements of an inflected language, even one with so few inflections as the German. I am now giving my sister lessons in German. She is a teacher, and a very bright pupil, but makes perpetual mistakes between those forms which are the same in English, e.g. the Nom. & Acc. cases, or the Praeterite and Participles of weak verbs. It is just as natural for her to say, "Ich geliebt ihn", as "Ich liebt ihn", for ~~the~~ each word is in Eng. "loved". You who are familiar with inflection from childhood, cannot understand the difficulty it gives us, who have practically none at all in our language.

 I send hearty greetings to all the friends of America and of American ideas, and shall always be glad to hear of your prosperity.

Very heartily,  
Your friend,  
F. A. Blackburn.



Pontiac, Mich. May 13. 1877.

My dear Karłowicz;

Yours of Apr. 8. reached me two or three days since. Since I wrote to you last, nothing of importance has occurred here. My school will close in six weeks more, and open again after a vacation of something more than three months. I shall have time, therefore, for a good rest, and hope to gain amusement and health from it. If I remain in my present place another year, which seems likely now, I expect to spend the summer in a hunting and fishing trip on the great Lakes, with my brother-in-law and his two brothers.



If you will look at a map of Michigan, you will see that the state is made up of two peninsulas, the upper lying along the south shore of Lake Superior, the lower between Lakes Michigan and Huron. All of the upper

peninsula, and a large part of the northern half of the lower one, is still unsettled, and an unbroken forest. The woods are full of wild game and the streams abound in fish, and furnish delightful sport for a summer trip. On the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, near the strait that joins it to Lake Huron you will see a large bay, called by its original French name, Grand Traverse Bay. In the neighborhood of this along the shore are many small lakes from one to twenty miles in diameter, where the finest fishing is to be found.

I am sorry that you could not extend your trip a little further toward the West, when you were here, so as to see more of the new parts of the country and something of its natural scenery, where Art and Cultivation

have not yet had time to change it. If you could be with us this summer we could give you a taste of true back-woods life. We have a small sail-boat and shall take a tent and blankets, cooking utensils, guns and fishing tackle. We shall camp out, and live in the manner of our nomadic forefathers, except that we shall have provisions enough to be sure of food, if game should be lacking at any time

I return your last letter with corrections, most of which, you will see, are very slight. When in English is always used of time, = Lat. quom. Will and would are used as auxiliary verbs of mood, and the corresponding independent verb is wish, or like. "I should like", "I should wish" = "Ich möchte", "Ich wollte gern", e.g. "I should like to go, but cannot". which means "Vellem ire", or "volo ire", while "I would go" =

"iram", or "eam". The almost total loss of the Subj Mode in English, compels us to express hypothetical ideas thus. The German idiom "in the last time" which you use two or three times, is not English. We use the word "lately", or such a phrase as "Within a few days", "a short time ago", &c.

I do not know that I understand exactly what you wish for in regard to the studies of the school, but I send you the printed Curriculum of study, from which you can learn the different studies pursued, their order, and the time given to each. The first term is 16 weeks long, the second and third each 12.

I hope to hear from you soon. How does the War affect you personally? Are you liable to be called into service? The sympathies of all Americans are with Russia, and against Turkey.

Your Friend

F. A. Blackburn.

F. A. Blackburn

Ann Arbor

Mich.

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