Reed, Margaret [unto #1]

Peed, Miss [ive mother: unto #2]

[Lake Placid, Ny]

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[Morgant +] Juic 29, 1901

TA rather rambling letter following a michap in ming for the Chapman's baty.)

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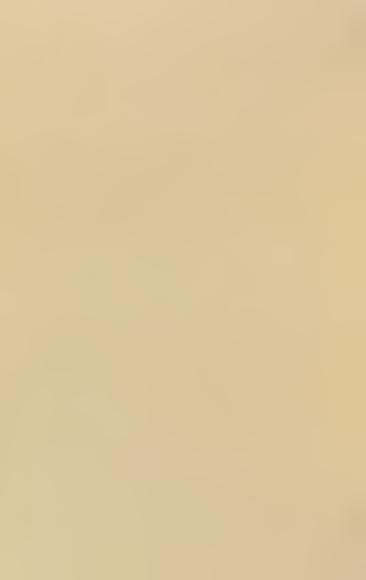
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Letter #1 is from Margaret Reed, who was hired to look after the Chapman's baby:

Page 1 Lake Placid

June 29, 1901

Mr. Harry Chapman,

I know that you have heard all about me by this time and a great deal worse than the whole thing was. I am more than sorry and feel very much heartbroken over it, and I know if you had of been there Mrs. Chapman would of given me another chance, but Miss Lara was only to[o] glad to lie...

Page 2

---[I] love the baby, fond of her. Mr. Harry I will now tell you how it all happened. I felt all sore and achy, my bones ached. It was twenty minutes to eleven o'clock when the baby woke up. Mrs. Chapman said I should not give the baby a bottle before two o'clock. At ten or after I had taken three Phenacitin(?) tablets, one more than I should of taken. After rocking the baby until ten minutes of twelve o'clock in my night dress and bare...

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...feet I then put him in bed and heated his bottle. It was then a few minutes of twelve o'clock. I then took a little whiskey and cold water and rubbed my feet with alcohol. I was then going to heat some water when I felt myself getting numb and sat down on the chair and I suppose went into a deep sleep. In the meantime the baby woke up and screamed which you know was nothing new. Mrs. Chapman, being nervous, thought he was crying...

...a long time and knocked on the door and called me. Of course I did not hear at the time and Mrs. Hudson Cooke broke the door in. I did not hear the noise. The baby was on my knee(?) when I felt myself getting conscious. I heard Mrs. Chapman talking to the baby. Mrs. Chapman said I started to pat(?) the baby. She said that Miss Laura said I got in bed and started to poke the bottle in the pillow, thinking it was the baby's mouth. That is...

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...because they had just taken the baby out and come in for his bottle and I took(e) it from under the pillow and handed it to Miss Laura. They all thought then I was drunk and left me to sleep it off. Miss Laura said that she went out on the roof and all the windows was locked down. That is another lie. The window towards the woodshed was open quite a little bit, but at the time hills(?) were mountains and nothing could...

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... of been worse at the time. I went and sat on the chair at five minutes of twelve. At five after the baby was taken out of the room. The reason I did not go in, I was mad because they bursted open the door. I did not know until morning that that they had left me to sleep of(f) a drink...Mr. Harry I loved Mrs. Chapman and was commencing to love the baby and was trying to do my very best in every way to make you all happy and I am very...

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...sorry it happened as it did, and if Mrs. Chapman would of forgiven me I would promise her faithfully it never would of happened. But I blame Miss Laura for her enco(u)r(a)ging her not to keep me. Mr. Harry perhaps you can get Mrs. Chapman to forgive and take me back, because I feel awful about it. The reason I took a fall(?) was when I got to the station, I found I could not go very far with socks... Page 8

[At top of page]----Please do not tell my mother---

...I then came back to the drug store and told them all about what had happened. Mr. Balcheri(?) and Mr. Forbes sent me to a lady in a hotel (for work?) until I get a better place. I don't like to work in a hotel and when I get some money I will pay you back what you once lo(a)ned me. I hope you will forgive me and get Mrs. Chapman to also. It was not any crime and it did no one any harm but myself.

Letter #2 is (most likely) from Margaret Reed's mother:

Phila., August 7th, [1901]

Mr. Harry Chapman,

I went to Magistrate Pullinger and stated the case to him, and he tells me that you have no right to hold Margaret's clothes. You cannot expect to get back the fare for you took her out of the city. The magistrate says if you do not give up her clothes, he will send the constable and demand the clothes. If he don't get them, you will be under arrest. If you are willing to give them up without any trouble send word to Mrs. Reed, 1921 Fairmont Ave.

The magistrate wants an answer right away.

Letter #3, from Harry Chapman, is in shorthand, which could not be read.



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