

February 20, 1919.

Miss I. L. Pratt, Recorder,
Teachers College, Columbia University,
New York City.

My dear Miss Pratt:

I am somewhat surprised at your letter of the seventeenth instant relative to Miss S. Frances Sale. I am under the impression that I made myself rather clear in the note in reply to your request for information concerning her. You may recall that I stated in the note that plans were in process of forming which I believed would adjust the whole matter to the satisfaction of Miss Sale and others concerned. The note was written but recently and a sufficient time has not elapsed to bring the matter to a conclusion. Miss Sale, moreover, is in St. Louis, at my request, attending an important meeting of home economics instructors, and will be away a week or more. I think I may say that the very fact that I am paying her expenses to this meeting, which will be of far more value to her personally than to the school, is one indication that I am interested in Miss Sale's welfare.

It is but fair to refer to your statement that Miss Sale last year considered it her duty to "stand by", merely to inform you that Miss Sale was, last year on a leave of absence, which was granted with part pay on the distinct understanding that she would return this year. Everyone would have been greatly disappointed in her had she failed to keep her part of the contract, and I cannot believe that you would have had her do otherwise. Perhaps she did decline several offers of positions more attractive than the one she holds here but she could not afford to otherwise and thus violate a clearly understood contract with us. I presume, of course, you have been unaware of this fact, otherwise you would not have called my attention to this phase of the matter.

I have had several talks with Miss Sale recently. I am not at all sure that Miss Sale should make a change at the end of this year, and I am inclined to think she feels that way also. If you will pardon me for any seeming boldness I think perhaps I might suggest that if left alone to work out this matter Miss Sale and I can adjust to the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned. I have worked here with her ten years and appreciate fully her worth and work in our institution, and I can say most positively that I am as genuinely interested in her welfare as anyone who knows her, in fact I believe by reason of my long friendship and association with her here I am a little better able to advise her and assist her than most of her friends.

If, after we have had time to work out our plans, it should develop that it is best for Miss Sale to change positions next year, I shall most heartily aid her in any way in my power; but, and I trust you will pardon my frankness, I am decidedly of the opinion it would be well not to press the matter further from the outside.

Very respectfully yours,