

(B. C 294-00)

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT  
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NEW YORK

My dear Doctor:- I certainly am a greenie. It never occurred to me that I should wear a cap and gown. Even now I wonder if I should wear it before the degree or <sup>only</sup> after. I have never seen an honorary degree gown. Indeed I've never seen a cap and gown at commencement. In England the Faculty seem to wear them all the time and in many Eastern colleges students wear them, but I never knew the titles of scholastic fashions and am as ignorant of which way the tassels should point as an orang from Borneo. However, I've written at once to the Albany firm to make a preliminary inquiry into the fitting of a Doctor's cap and I've inquired into the make-up of a Doctor's gown. I remember Dr. Shaw had some shimmering red trimming which showed off well in a suffrage parade. I'd hate to have them do me up in the wrong paraphernalia, but I'll get something unless the commencement

rush prevents. I must let you know how I get on.  
As bulletins go forth daily from the bedside  
of the great, so I shall issue a few at state-  
ments from time to time as to the progress  
of my cap and gown. My, but things are getting  
exciting!

If I remember aright you took a course  
at Cornell. Perhaps you know that there is a set  
of feed there between "the town and the gown"  
All right about Cheyenne. I'll be awake and  
on the look out for friends.

Better than to bring that high blood pressure  
down to a lower altitude and to come home  
with me.

Lovingly,  
Carrie C. Catt

May 16, 1921

My dear Doctor:

I certainly am a greenie. It never occurred to me that I should wear a cap and gown. Even now I wonder if I should wear it before the degree or only after. I have never seen an honorary degree given. Indeed I've never seen a cap and gown commencement. In England the Faculty seems to wear them all the time and in many Eastern colleges students wear them, but I never knew the ethics of scholastic fashions and am as ignorant of which way the tassel should point as an orang from Borneo. However, I've written at once to the [Albany?] firm to make a preliminary inquiry into the fitting of a Doctor's cap and I've inquired into the making of a Doctor's gown. I remember Dr. Shaw had some slimming red linings which showed off well in a suffrage parade. I'd hate to have them do me up in the wrong paraphernalia, but I'll get something unless the commencement rush prevents. I will let you know how I get on. As bulletins go forth daily from the bedside of the great, so I shall issue official statements from time to time as to the progress of my cap and gown. My, but things are getting exciting!

If I remember aright you took a course at Cornell. Perhaps you you [sic] that here is sort of feud there between "the town and the gown."

All right about Cheyenne. I'll be awake and on the lookout for friends.

Better plan to bring that high blood pressure down to a lower altitude and to come home with me.

Lovingly,  
Carrie C. Catt

May 16, 1921

Notes:

- Catt was invited by Hebard to provide the Baccalaureate address at University of Wyoming, which Catt did on June 12, 1921. On the same day, Catt received the first honorary degree from UW.