

Vassar College.

Poughkeepsie Oct 7 /65

Dear Carrie & Abbie.

I write according to my promise to tell where you must direct my letters and do write me soon I have not had any letter from home yet and I look forward to one eagerly although I know it will make me cry and I have not done that yet. It is raining hard tonight; the wind has that moaning wail peculiar to fall and I feel a little blue but I have got real well acquainted with eight or nine very pleasant young ladies that I like ever so much. Three of them are cousins to each other and all are neices of the founder Matthew Vassar. There are over three hundred in the school -they are from all parts of the country some even from California & Bermuda. I think I shall like most of them very much indeed. The buildings and grounds are beautiful and in the most perfect order. Water is carried through the building we have gas in our rooms, our fare is very good and very plenty. We sit at table one half hour at breakfast and tea and an hour at dinner and as there are only twelve at each table and we have a servant to every table and are permitted to help ourselves to any thing within our reach we are far from suffering. We stuff our pockets too. We have real nice bread and I never ate nicer butter in my life and besides we have just as much fresh sweet milk as we want to drink. There are a dozen cows belonging to the College but besides that they have 300 quarts of milk brought in every day. For breakfast today we had a beefsteak roasted and fried potatoes, corncake & coffee. For dinner we had veal pie, roast beef potatoes tomatoes pickles for dessert custard pie and those who desire have tea. For supper brown bread white bread crackers prunes and halibut and tea. I have a delightful room which I share with an old pokey called Helen Honors Jones who I cordially detest. I don't want to give up the room for it is so very pleasant so I'll just exert myself to make the atmosphere of it too hot for her If she don't behave herself better. I for one don't see any use in people's making themselves disagreeable so eagerly especially when they would be so when doing the best they can. The classes are not fully organised yet for all the scholars have not arrived and we have the gayest times playing croquet, walking & robbing orchards. Oh I do so wish you would decide to come back with me Christmas if only to stay till June. I know you would like it very much. There is a splendid Art Gallery containing over three hundred beautiful pictures, one of the finest Mineral Cabinets in the United States and a splendid library with more books of engravings than you could look through in the six months. And finally it is all perfectly splendid & I like ever so much. And oh if you could only stand a moment at my window and see the view you would exclaim with me "It is perfect. I can see the Catskill mounts. the houses and spires of Poughkeepsie["] the college is about a mile and a half out of the city and with the woods which are now just beginning to be variegated with scarlet and gold It Is perfection itself. But I'll tell you more next time I write. Do please answer soon, you can't imagine how nice a letter would seem and how gladly received by your distant but loving friend Laura

Do write soon

[Laura Earl Arnzen, spec, '65-66,]