

Poughkeepsie, N.Y.,
Monday. Sept. 24, 186- [1866?]

Dear Kate,

I received your dear good letter last Wednesday, and you may be sure that I was glad to get it, for I had just commenced to think that the girls, and you especially, had forgotten that there was such a person in existence. With your picture I was perfectly delighted, and think it is very good. As for my being initiated in my studies you are quite mistaken, for although I have been here a week and a half, I do not know yet what I am going to study, but expect to be settled before many days more have gone by. I am so glad that you have a pleasant class in French, but I hope that you will not get the start of me. It was almost too bad that Mary Hadley could not go on with the class. The Senior class is not so very large after all, but I should think that the girls had their hands about full. It seems so strange to do everything so at the sounding of the bell, we have to be up at six o'clock in the morning and in the bed with the light put out at ten. I expect the bell to sound every minute for dinner, one thing, we have as much as we wish to eat, and I have got so that I have to have some bread and syrup for supper, every night you better try it, we girls think it splendid. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Coming came up from Poughkeepsie and preached for us, it seemed very pleasant to hear him. Last night we had corridor prayer meeting, there were about thirty of us there, it made me think of our little prayer meeting at home. I took the letter, which Mrs. Dana so kindly wrote for me, to Miss Wiley and she came down to my room and called, it seemed very pleasant to see any one, who had ever been in Milwaukee, and she knew so many persons that I did, that I enjoyed telling her about them very much. I have just seen Alice and Kate while we were together, Alice received a letter in which it spoke of the death of Col. Walker, is it not sad? You say that you think that I have had the best of the bargain, I think that perhaps if you had seen me once or twice when I have received letters, and also a week ago Sunday morning you might change your mind. I should not object to stop in and see you now for a little while. Kate, Alice and I went out to walk a little while this morning and I told the girls then, that if you were only here and rooming with me I should be as nicely situated as possible. Mamma writes that Flora Matson is going to be married in a few weeks.

I should not send such a looking letter, but I do not know when I should get another one written. Though of course you will write before the wedding yet after it I shall expect a nice long letter, giving me a full account of it. After I reached here I found that I should be obliged to have a gymnastic suit, accordingly I obtained permission to go down street, there were six of us went under the charge of one teacher, and it was perfectly comical, no matter what we wanted we had to all seven of us go into the store after it. I got me waterproof cloth for my suit, and trimmed it with red braid, one of the girls cut it out for me, and another plaited it, and is going to make the button holes, so you see that there are some kind girls here. Just think Kate I have only been examined in Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Grammar, Rhetoric, Geography, and Latin, and handed in one composition. There my sheet is filled and I must stop with a great deal of love to your mother and sister, I am as ever

Your affectionate friend,

Mary.

Go and see Mamma as often as you can.

Mary.