

Vassar College, Oct. 15, 18/66.

Dear Kate,

I received your dear good letter the early part of last week, and my first impulse was to sit right down and answer it, but there were other things to be done, and for one reason and another have put it off until now, and have now only a few minutes before the warning bell will sound, and I shall have to leave my letter in order to get our lights out by ten o'clock, but we girls have got so expert that we can make almost all our preparations for retiring in the dark. I trust to you almost entirely for news of all that is going on among the girls, as Mamma of course does not know about everything an the idea of you speaking of your letter as a gossiping one, I should not have been at all satisfied if you had not written Just what you did. If you were only here with me it seems to me that I should be quite satisfied, the college and the grounds around it are beautiful and what it seems to lack for me is your not being here, to be sure it is very pleasant to have Alice and Kate here, but they are on the fourth floor and I am on the first, and consequently do not see them a great deal to have any long visit with them. Dear one! The bell has rung and I must stop to take it up and finish it when I can. Goodnight  
Mary.

Tuesday morn.

Here I am writing before breakfast, it is a most beautiful morning, but I should think by the feeling of the air that it is quite cold. I hope that you will not forget to write all about Flora Matson's wedding, and also send me some pieces of her dresses, and if you wish to please me write what you wore and how you fixed your hair. I am glad to think that you do not forget me in our little prayer meetings, we have prayer meetings here every Sunday evening, under the charge of Miss Miner, our corrider teacher, who is Just as sweet as she can be; there are from twenty five to thirty attend of course all from our corrider, as the others have meetings in different rooms, I enjoy them very much it reminds me very forcibly of our own little meetings at home. Then there is a prayer meeting held on Thursday evening for the whole college, but I have not attended one of these. Then on Monday evening we have corrider meeting for giving the sermon of the preceding Sabbath, that you may know is not very easy, but yet I think it a very good plan. You have been a splendid girl about going to see Mamma, she has written me about it nearly every time you have been I think, and I hope that you will continue to go as often as you can.

Tuesday eve.

Dear Kate,

You see from the number of times my letter is dated that I have to write when I can get a few minutes, the warning bell is sounding now and I shall have to stop again in a few minutes, but I am determed to write as much as I can now. One of the girls with whom I have become acquainted Is Laura Bartlett from Binghamton, a cousin of Rev. Wm. Bartlett's one evening when I was calling her she very innocently asked if I was acquainted with Mr. Flanders family, I told her how intimate you and I are, we at once decided to be friends on your account, she is a very pleasant girl and I like her very much. She has been in to see your photograph, and says she wishes very much that she could see you, it seemed quite as if we were old friends because she had heard so much of you.

I commenced English Literature today and think that I shall like it, it is Spauldings. I presume that Mamma has told you that I have commenced German – it is splendid so far; in our French class there are about forty now, but it is to be made smaller before long. Some of the girls have a great time here in dressing up. Saturday evening I believe that there were about forty dressed up, one as a negro woman, and another as a ghost and others as nuns but it did not entirely please President Raymond, and I expected that some of the girls would suffer for it, but they have not as yet. Some of the girls say that one of the teachers here (who is not very well liked) was heard to exclaim when she saw the negro woman "What horrible thing is this, wherefore is this outrage perpetrated" and the girls say that one of them one night passed her ginger bread and she said "No, I thank you I have no praediliction for ginger bread, "and this same teacher has charge of our Literature class, what do you think I shall be when I come from under her charge?

Wednesday eve.

I have not succeeded in finishing my letter yet. One of the girls just brought us a little jelly cake, and candy, which was a great treat she succeeded by writing to a merchant for them and having him send them up. It being against the rules to purchase either.

Received Flora Matson's wedding cards today. My letter is blotted and looks dreadful but I have no time to copy it. Give my love to Kittie and tell her I wish that she would write. Write me a good long letter as soon as you can. With love to your mother and sister and with a great deal to yourself, I am as ever, your

loving friend

Mary.